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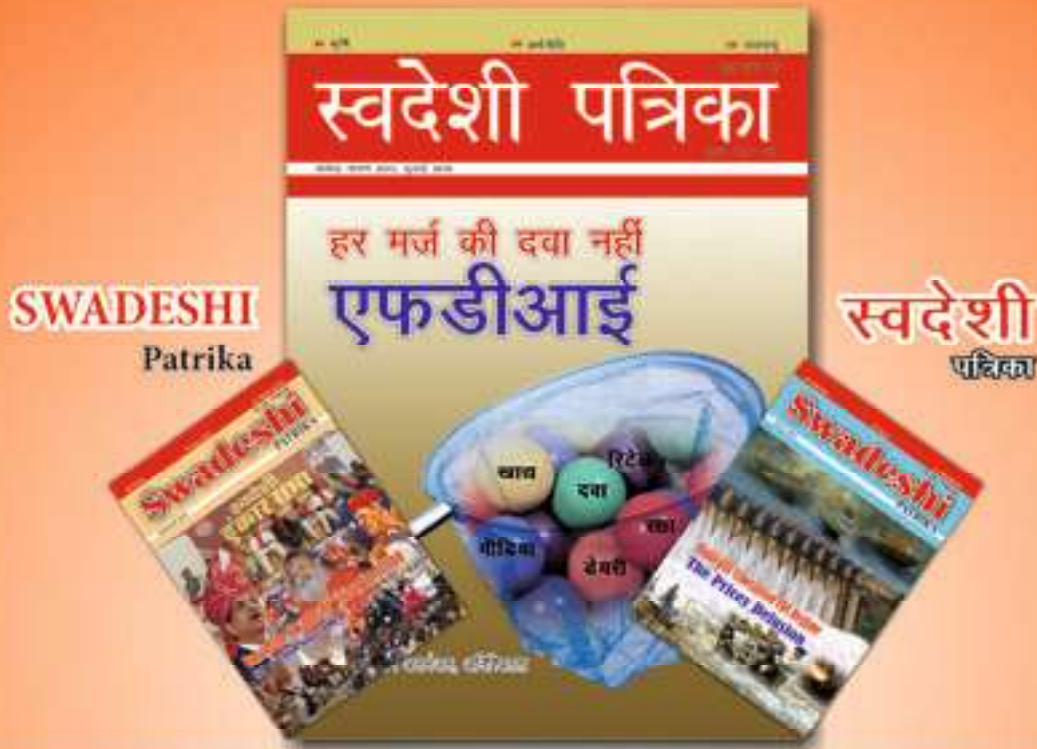
JULY 2019



**Indian Laws are above
GMO vigilantism**

Stop illegal BT Brinjal & HT BT Cotton

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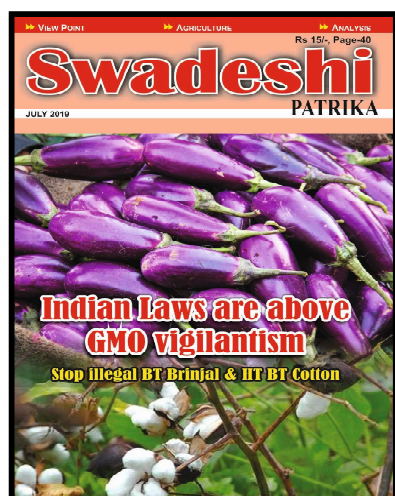
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Key Challenges for Budget

In making India a \$5trillion-dollar economy, the budget holds a key for achieving the set goal by 2024. The Union budget of India is the Annual Financial Statement which presents the expenditure and income outlay of the whole nation. Budgetary allocation therefore holds a major importance in deciding the nation's growth trajectory. A good Budget has to keep in check fiscal deficit, introduce necessary reforms, increase the consumption expenditure and try to decrease the non-planned government expenditure.

Currently there are a host of problems which India economy is facing. The GDP figures have been decelerating and stand at 6.8% in 2018-19 from highest 8.1% in 2016-17. Also, the unemployment figures which have so far been released have not been encouraging. At the trade front, merchandise exports and import as well as service exports and imports have been decelerating. The investments figures have also been at 15 years low for the quarter ending March 2019.

The Budget has challenges in the form of increasing employment, lowering ease of doing business, lower income tax, better health and affordable education, nurturing the agriculture and spurring investments. Also, the expenditure outlay should cater to all the schemes started by NDA-2 government which amount to \$12.6 billion. The fiscal deficit currently stands at 3.4%. Experts are also of view fiscal deficit can be stretched to further induce more funds to welfare schemes. Given the trade related figures decelerating, special emphasis is required to spur the exports. Farm related measures is certain challenge which the budget needs to address to meet the target of doubling of farm income by 2022.

— Anand, Hyderabad, Telengana

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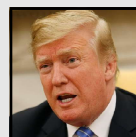
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Quote-Unquote



Democracy is not merely a system of governance for us. Democracy is in India's ethos for centuries. A democratic temperament is a part of our culture.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, Bharat



Indo-US ties have never been better than this.

Donald Trump
President, USA



Forgetting the 370-odd times in Jammu & Kashmir, they forget that there is a temporary word in front of 370 also. 370 is a temporary issue of our constitution.

Amit Shah
Home Affairs Minister, Bharat



I am an active member of Swadeshi Jagran Manch and I am very proud to say that they have played an important role to protect Indian Industries, particularly Indian small industry, artisans & handicraft makers.

Piyush Goyal
Railway & Commerce Minister, Bharat

Indian's formidable foreign policy

In recently concluded G20 Conference, India has made it clear that we are not going to allow free flow of data and concede to the demands of US and Japan. This is a clear message to the developed world that India is not going to compromise interests of its economy, especially small scale industry, small traders and workers, under any kind of pressure. Just a few days before the G-20 conference, when US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo came to India, it was believed that it was a step of the American government to put pressure on India. It was believed that he came to pressurise India on free flow of data, and issues related to American companies Amazon and Wal-Mart, Oil imports from Iran, S-400 missile from Russia. On the contrary, Mike Pompeo went back without talking bitterly, praising India and highlighting intense relations between America and India.

On March 4, 2019, American President Donald Trump in a letter to the American Congress, expressed his willingness to withdraw Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from India, which allows India to export some types of goods at zero or very low tariff. President Trump has said "I have determined that India has not assured the US that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets. Accordingly, it is appropriate to terminate India's designation as a beneficiary, developing country effective June 5, 2019." Similarly, President Trump decided to withdraw this facility from Turkey, which was implemented from May 17, 2019. USA offers GSP, that is, Generalised System of Preferences to many developing countries. It is worth noting that under this provision many Indian goods were allowed to be imported without or nominal tariff in the US. Though only US\$5.6 billion worth of exports from India are covered by GSP, it's said India is the biggest beneficiary of GSP.

US have been trying to discourage imports from India for sometime through various means. However, latest step is withdrawal GSP. While US have been raising tariffs for nearly a year, India's response has been more or less soft, perhaps under the impression that US may change its stand. It is notable that whenever a foreign country raises tariffs on imports from other country, the affected country generally retaliates by raising tariffs on imports from the other country. But ultimately India decided to retaliate and imposed retaliating import duties on many items coming from US. It's known to all that the United States always strives to serve the interests of its companies and accordingly pressure the governments of other countries. There are many US companies working in India whose activities are not in tune with Indian interests. Some time ago, the United States pressured the Indian government to change its patent law and allow American companies re-patenting of their medicines even after the expiry of the patent period. Pressure was also made to tweak our patent laws to favour their companies. After this, when the Indian government cracked down on the e-commerce company Amazon and strictly enforced e-commerce policy, the US government again demanded to change this policy. It is amazing because the US President Trump himself is strongly opposed to the Amazon Company.

America should not forget that India is very important country for economic and strategic interests of the United States. Fast developing Indian economy is an auspicious sign for the American economy. America shouldn't forget that Petroleum Oil and Gas is a major export item of US exports to India, which is equivalent to \$ 4.5 billion and it is likely to grow further. India will also be buying 300 Boeing aircraft from US in the next seven years, with a total cost of \$ 39 billion. Apart from this, a large amount of defence deals with US are also in pipeline. Therefore, in the coming years, the US deficit with India could turn into surplus.

The US must understand that while it is pressurizing India to protect its interests, it shouldn't forget that India also needs to fulfil its needs. But in collaboration with India, it can better protect its interests. For Indian Government, protection and promotion of employment in India, protection of public health and protecting its industries is the first priority. So whether it is a matter of tightening the screws on Amazon and Wal-Mart, or increasing the import duty for the protection of India's electronic and telecom industry, US needs to understand the concerns of India, and change its attitude. If it does not happen then India will have to protect its interests, however, the wrong attitude of the United States may prove to be more harmful to them.

History shows that when the US imposed sanctions on India at the time of the Pokhran blast (during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's prime ministership) India did not even care about US sanctions. Similarly, even today, India is not going to come under any threats of trade war or sanctions. If US goes ahead with its actions to intensify trade war, initiate special investigations or impose unilateral sanctions in the event of India buying oil from Iran, Purchasing S-400 missile from Russia, India is not going to budge; and US is not going to benefit. It can only lead to soaring of relations between two countries, which can go against the interests of US.

Indian Laws are above GMO vigilantism



A very serious legal and environmental hazard is looming over India. It is the illegal and hazardous planting of herbicide tolerance (HT) Bt Cotton in the fields of Akola, Maharashtra. The alarmed central government, Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), and state government have issued notifications and inquiry, meanwhile a well funded "NGO" is using farmers as scapegoats to push an unapproved genetically modified (GM) variety of cotton on India's farms and biodiversity.

The NGO unabashedly calls this planting "Civil Disobedience- Satyagraha" against the government. Their satyagraha is a euphemism for illegality and irreversible toxic contamination which threatens to un-

dermine thousands of years of farmers hard work. Like a tyrant, they believe they know what is right for the farmers. Not only are they infringing upon a number of rules they are threatening the sovereignty of the government and are sabotaging livelihoods of thousands involved in the Indian cotton seed sector.

BT HT Mystery history

Our HT Bt story begins in 2008, when trait developer Monsanto (now Bayer) through its Indian subsidiary Mahyco imported GM-Bollgard 2 cotton seeds with HT trait (known as event MON 88913) called Roundup Ready Flex (RRF). Roundup is a glyphosate-based herbicide (glyphosate formulants) is also a known carcinogenic. WHO along with independent scientists and courts confirmed its toxicity and along with presence of banned heavy metals such as arsenic, etc. The RRF varieties are tolerant to Round-up Herbicide, which means once Round-up is sprayed in the field all other plants will die except the RRF varieties.

The GEAC gave Mahyco approvals to conduct large scale field trials in Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Within 3 months of the approvals, GEAC confirmed that HT trait had escaped into our environment. Reports of illegal HT Cotton seeds were being sold under the trade name of Weed Gard in Gujarat were also confirmed.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has specific instruction for prevention of contamination, but these limits were discarded by Mahyco and their seed breeders around their seed production area.

Once the trait escaped, it began contaminating seeds in the cotton belts. HT traits have not been approved for cultivation by India. Once enough time had passed on July 5th 2016, Mahyco withdrew its application from the GEAC of the ongoing HT-BG2 Cotton bio-safety trials after 8 years of open field cultivation. In 2017 September, we heard that HT Cotton was being planted illegally and about 5-10% of the cotton was of this illegal variety. The National Seed



India has to be very careful, before our mega cotton seed sector crumbles because of pro-GM vigilantism of a few bad apples.

Indra Shekhar Singh

association of India (NSAI), wrote to government alerting them of the situation and various committees were formed on the instruction of the PMO. With the growing demand for cottonseed oil in India, this toxin is entering India's bloodstream. The government was quick to act and conducted raids to prevent this illegal bio-hazard to undermine our laws.

What next?

This grave environmental threat needs to be jointly addressed by all stakeholders and illegal cultivation of HT cotton should be immediately stopped. There ought to be complete ban on Round-Up and all glyphosate-based herbicides. The motivation to use RRF-BG2 Cotton is for killing weeds in cotton crops by Roundup (a Monsanto/Bayer patent product) as RRF-BG2 trait will produce herbicide tolerant plants. This is directly increases the profits of Monsanto/Bayer while the toxic residues from the herbicide will make Indian cotton belts a toxic wasteland, plagued by deformed Indian children and cancer.

This illegal introduction will also contaminate the breeding material and parent lines of the seeds companies and will result in complete disruption of the cotton seed economy. All Indian companies who are selling GEAC approved BG2 cotton seeds are the first victims and under the Seed Act will be penalized for the trait contamination. Instead of the polluter, the polluted have to pay. By 2019, Andhra Pradesh government had suspended the license of 13 seed companies in the alleged presence of HT gene and Maharashtra government issued show cause notices too. In both states FIR were

This grave environmental threat needs to be jointly addressed by all stakeholders & illegal cultivation of HT cotton should be immediately stopped.

lodged and all these actions are being taken against licensed seed companies. It is important to know that only 1 or 2 lots, out of the several lots tested, were found contaminated with HT gene. While illegal HT seed breeders continue to contaminate and sell HT Bt cotton, licensed Indian companies are made scapegoat and harassed. They were victims, not the culprits.

Report of the Field Inspection and Scientific Evaluation Committee (FISEC) found that, "that the 14 illegal hybrids collected can be grouped into two major groups, indicating very narrow genetic bases reflecting organized base activity by couple of companies." Further it stated that studies have also ruled out involvement of smuggling of seeds... as genotypes found were native in India", this proves the innocence of Indian seed sector while clearly points towards the "couple of companies" involved in this.

It is responsibility of the applicant Mahyco, trait developer Monsanto/Bayer and GEAC to prevent any escape of HT Gene into the environment and hence cases against Indian seed companies for HT contamination should

be redirected towards the real culprits, which stand to profit from this. In fact, any deliberate plant breeding activities with unapproved HT trait by fly-by-night operators and unscrupulous players needs to be investigated and strict penal actions should be taken. There should be strict inquire on how this trait has leaked into India. And to take this further the sampling procedures, testing protocols and tolerance limits for interpretation of test results needs to be published by GEAC and other departments of the government to prevent any wrong test results, and if there are any false positive results they should be dealt sternly.

When it comes to the illegal planting of RRF BG2 Cotton the issue is of violation of Indian law, and not about technology. The India's laws should be upheld at all cost and all legal processes should be respected by even behemoth Agricultural MNCs. There are strict scientific procedures, which no NGO should override because of their opinion. The timing of this transgression is intentionally done to challenge government and I hope Prime Minister Modi will give a befitting reply to the people who don't respect India's laws and put corporate profits before India. This is the age of New India, and if Monsanto/Bayer (BigAg MNCs) respect the laws the US, France and Britain, why not here? We stand with the farmers of Akola, the Indian government and for technology, not for illegality and crime that exposes millions of Indians for a profit of a few. India has to be very careful, before our mega cotton seed sector crumbles because of pro-GM vigilantism of a few bad apples. □□

Lack of science is the basis of claims that bt brinjal is 100% safe

This is a response to two blog pieces that Sanjeev Sabhlok has written here (Part-1) and here, (Part II) in response to my article which was a rebuttal to his misinformed first article.

Let us begin with Sabhlok's over-simplistic and unreasoned calculations of Bt brinjal production in Bangladesh – he first says that Bt brinjal is being grown on 17% of brinjal cultivation area of Bangladesh. This is incorrect and is grown on just about 3% of Bangladesh's brinjal area. There are reports of government agencies' seed stocks lying without any takers. Sabhlok then assumes that yield has doubled and therefore, consumption of Bt brinjal by Bangladeshis would be 35% of production from "double productivity"! If this is "science" from Sabhlok's stable, then science be better protected from him.

Bangladesh Government's official data on Brinjal in the country

| | Area (in Acres) | Production (in Tons) | Yield (in Kgs per Acre) |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2013-14 Rabi Brinjal | 73000 | 310,000 | 4246 |
| 2013-14 Kharif Brinjal | 27000 | 69,000 | 2055 |
| 2014-15 Rabi Brinjal | 76000 | 310,000 | 4064 |
| 2014-15 Kharif Brinjal | 46000 | 140,000 | 3063 |
| 2015-16 Rabi Brinjal | 78000 | 310,000 | 4335 |
| 2015-16 Kharif Brinjal | 46000 | 165,000 | 3574 |
| 2016-17 Rabi Brinjal | 80195 | 347,541 | 4334 |
| 2016-17 Kharif Brinjal | 45665 | 159,891 | 3501 |
| 2017-18 Rabi Brinjal | 80168 | 355,862 | 4414 |
| 2017-18 Kharif Brinjal | 45760 | 160,145 | 3500 |



The article is in response to Sanjeev Sabhlok's misinformed article on BT brinjal production in Bangladesh.

**Kavitha
Kuruganti**



Sabhlok should know, if he is really keen on educating himself, that the Bt brinjal seeds of BARI are grown mainly in Rabi season, given that they are more suitable for Rabi cultivation. The official picture of yields is clear enough from the above table. Where is the double productivity that he is talking about? Like they say these days, “matlab, kuch bhi...”, eh?

Sabhlok then goes on to explain how he concluded, all by himself even though IFPRI did not set about to prove anything of this sort, that IFPRI study has conclusively proven that Bt brinjal is perfectly safe!! His unacceptable reasoning is that a Minister gave a quote after an IFPRI presentation somewhere, and that is how he referred to the perfect safety proven by IFPRI!! *“The IFPRI’s data on pesticide use led their Minister to say that the Bangladesh government has ensured that the improved GM varieties do not harm human or environmental health. That’s the “perfect” safety I referred to.”* Sorry, Sabhlok, I am supposed to trust this devious genius of yours? No, thank you.

Sabhlok, out of great kindness of course, warned me against becoming a “useful idiot” for pesticide companies. Alas, if only he would do his homework properly before ranting like this. He should know that people like me were opposing pesticides as a deadly technology long before he picked up the cause now. He should also know that we have a public interest litigation going on in the Supreme Court for getting many pesticides banned. He should know that the companies which are peddling GM seeds are the same ‘saviours’ which continue to make money on pesticides too. He

should also know that when it comes to pest management, it is the same obsolete S&T in both pesticides and transgenics, and post-modern pest management science has moved on quite far away from this. He should certainly not become a useful idiot himself. Meanwhile, it is the civil society groups which are able to take real pest management solutions to farmers which don’t have to rely on either of these toxic technologies.

He also did not educate himself about the Supreme Court’s Technical Expert Committee and thinks that Monsanto-sponsored Paroda is to be listened to, and while five other INDEPENDENT scientists, including ones nominated by the Union of India, lacked scientific scrutiny on their report. He should go through the TEC reports to realise that they have indeed done an analysis of the raw data from the biosafety dossiers of Bt cotton and Bt brinjal and pointed to lack of safety of these GMOs. I certainly trust the independent scientists who have no stake in this, than the conflict-of-interest laden Paroda, and his one dissenting voice.

Coming back to the question of Safety, Sabhlok assumes for me, and says for himself, that safety for the consumer is paramount. No, for me, safety, autonomy and sustainability for the farmer is equally paramount for any technology. So, safety to environmental resources is also a major concern other than health safety for consumer. On these counts, GM certainly is toxic to the environment (including because of increased chemical use with pesticides and herbicides that go hand in hand with GM seeds) and restrictive of farmers’ choices

(surely Sabhlok is aware of Monsanto suing and jailing farmers in North America?), and Sabhlok knows this, I am sure.

About food safety – Sabhlok once again claims that no human illness has been reported from GM food consumption. This is a limited view of health impacts, which presumes that somebody will have acute poisoning from a toxic food and immediately rush to a hospital or whatever. No, chronic impacts will not be reported by someone rushing to Sabhlok and connecting it back to what they have eaten. This, I am sure he knows too. He says that life expectancy increasing is his evidence that GM foods are not causing anything. Ridiculous. With modern day medical science, you can prolong the life of someone, but let us not forget all the diseases around us. Life expectancy increases at an average level (including by addressing communicable diseases) do not nullify increase in non-communicable diseases. Having said that, there is this study on GE crops, glyphosate and the deterioration of health in the USA whose data analysis shows very strong and highly significant correlations between the increasing use of glyphosate, GE crop growth and the increase in a multitude of diseases (in the USA).

The Science Academies stamp or the EPA stamp (apparently the most favourite agency of Sabhlok) does not matter, since they have been proven to be biased and ridden with conflict of interest time and again, in India as well as elsewhere. Entire books have been written about it. The ongoing cases about Glyphosate, which was passed off as Safe for decades, are a great proof about these regula-

tory agencies' functioning. May be Sabhlok needs a reminder about the plagiarised and less than scientific report that the Indian science academies came up with in 2010. If he wants to believe their report as the last word on the subject, good luck to him!

About Bt in particular – we do know that external Bt sprays are also known to have harmful impacts, and when the protein is inside a plant, with a different mode of function, they have greater impacts. A recent study points out the additional dangers with GM insecticidal proteins as opposed to naturally occurring Bt proteins. It is argued that Bt protein does not bind to gut receptors other than the target insect species. There is a body of evidence that Bt toxin can have sub-lethal effects on non-target insects and other invertebrates. That is where the environmental impacts of Bt crops come into the picture.

However, there are also studies that have provided evidence that Cry proteins can bind to mammalian intestinal epithelial cells (here, here and here). There are still a number of gaps in our knowledge of the mechanism of Bt toxin action. There is also evidence that the toxin may operate through more than one mechanism depending upon the conditions. The real picture is that scientists cannot say for sure whether they have mapped all the membranous and non-membranous receptors, oligomerization mechanisms of the Cry proteins or even all the susceptible cell types.

That is where the precautionary approach comes in, which is a fairly well-accepted scientific and regulatory principle. It is in con-

trast to the approach that Sabhlok is advocating unwisely, that 'harm needs to be proven conclusively'. With the pesticide industry's help and such similar toxic industries' help, I am sure he will wait endlessly for harm to be proven conclusively. We, meanwhile, know that certain technologies are unneeded and unwanted....we do not have to wait for safety to be proven conclusively, before erring on the side of caution.

I found it very funny that Sabhlok rushed to Ananda Kumar to vouch for the safety of Bt brinjal. Ananda Kumar is caught squarely, along with some other public sector scientists in India, in the controversy of a non-existent Bikaneri Bt Narma event which in fact turned out to be an event that Monsanto claims to be its technology or genetic material. He is a GM crop developer himself, and Sabhlok wants to have his last word on the subject from Ananda Kumar?? The ECI and ECII (Expert Committee I and II) of Bt brinjal became ignominious for such scientists (including Pental) giving a green signal to Bt brinjal safety, knowing fully well that their own product will come up next for a clearance. Jairam Ramesh rightly pointed this out in his moratorium decision note. Once again, Sabhlok is proving that he will rely on GM crop developers with their conflict of interest for vouching for the safety of a GM product than independent scientists like in the Supreme Court's TEC. I wonder why?

About safety studies on GM crops, Sabhlok chose to ignore two compilations of studies which were pointing to adverse effects. In fact, our compilation is dated

(2013) and dozens of studies have been published subsequently pointing to adverse impacts. If Sabhlok wants his questions answered, he can refer to this excellent publication: <https://www.amazon.com/GMO-Myths-Truths-Citizens-Genetically/dp/0993436706>. However, he wants to cite only some other studies and say that 95% of papers in best peer-reviewed journals are pointing to safety, and that there are only 5% studies pointing to adverse effects. A literature review on the safety assessment of GM crops rightly pointed out that most of these studies have been conducted by biotechnology companies responsible of commercialising these GM plants.

The most important aspect of Sabhlok's lack of knowledge and wisdom about the complexity of Indian agriculture stems from his techno-centrism and thinking that there are silver bullet answers in technologies, that too seed technologies, that too only at the molecular level. Nothing can be more unwise and blinkered than this.

Sabhlok claims that organic is unproductive and uneconomic and once again ignores a vast body of evidence that is proving this to be untrue. Organic has been shown to be more profitable, and the ICAR network project has some impressive results to point to. Further, no organic farmer has ever reached such a distress level that s/he had to commit suicide, whereas the farmers who are committing suicides are ones who have been trapped into corporate toxic treadmill technologies, including Bt cotton. Yes, this is indeed a matter of life and death, and not just slogan-shouting around "technology freedom". □□

This is the rebuttal sent to The Times of India on their editorial dated 26 June 2019 favouring illegal plantation of BT Brinjal & HTBT Cotton, on June 27th 2019.

To

**The Editor
The Times of India
New Delhi**

Subject: REGULATORY DECISIONS & IMPLEMENTATION CANNOT BE HIJACKED BY UNSCIENTIFIC, FALSE & FAULTY HYPE – ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD SAFETY OF ALL CITIZENS AT STAKE HERE!

Dear Sir,

Times of India has published an editorial on GM crops on June 26th 2019, which is quite dangerous in its arguments and implications. It is unacceptable that a national newspaper in its editorial stand is asking for a legally laid down regulatory regime to be evacuated, to encourage a fringe group of farmers to get what they are asking for – dangerous, untested and unapproved GM crops.

It is indeed true that the group of farmers who are talking about defying regulation to plant unapproved GM seeds is a fringe group. A vast majority of farmer unions in this country, including the largest organised ones, are against the approval of GM crops, without thorough scientific scrutiny. They have time and again written to the government and protested on the streets, against GM crops and ToI would have covered many news stories on the same! The Times of India is just exhibiting its own biases by taking the side of “some farmers” who want GM crops.

Farmers asking for GM crops, even as a fringe group, cannot be the reason why they should be approved. Farmers have also used, out of desperation and misadventure, deadly cocktails of pesticides. Do we approve that, just because farmers are using or demanding? This blind faith in “technology” irrespective of ramifications, is in fact unscientific! The blind faith in hazardous technologies, to the exclusion of post modern science of agro-ecology, is more unscientific!

There is nothing “political” in the usual sense of the word, for the fact that no GM crop has been found to be safe to be approved by governments. There is also the matter of assessing whether a controversial technology is needed in the first instance, apart from safety. Time and again, over the years, irrespective of which party is in the government, transgenic crops have failed this test. It is not surprising that it is not just Congress I or BJP which rejected a GM crop or the technology – it is BJD, TMC, TDP, CPI, CPI(M), JD(S), JD(U), AIADMK, DMK and so on. How can this be termed politics, then? There is a good reason for this view by nearly all political parties – the fact that science is backing precaution when it comes to transgenics. This is reflected in all-party Parliamentary Committees coming out with reports against the approval of GM crops. And this is not just in India. World over, only a handful of countries have approved GM crop cultivation decades after the first GM crop was commercialised in the USA. Several have rolled back on cultivation that they have initiated and gone back to a non-GM stage too!

On the other hand, there is clearly MNC lobby politics involved in the push for GMOs in the USA, and by the USA on other countries of the world, and surely ToI cannot be blind to this.

The Times of India has to understand what exactly is the government paralysis it is referring to. Officially, India has a policy of case by case approvals of GMOs rather than take a stand that all GMOs are good or all GMOs are bad. Each application is supposed to be assessed thoroughly for that GMO's safety to environment and human health, apart from a few more parameters. If a GMO fails to pass the test of rigorous



independent scientific scrutiny, how does that become policy paralysis? Because that was exactly the case with both Bt brinjal and GM mustard. Policy in fact upheld science in both cases, while regulators compromised on the same. The shortcomings in the regulatory regime have been pointed out time and time again, and this is showcased in the ongoing Public Interest Litigations in the Supreme Court too.

Ironically, in the case of HT cotton, there is in fact no applicant asking for it to be approved! There is no scientific proof of safety of this GMO, whereas much material has been uncovered in the recent past about suppressed data with regard to lack of safety of glyphosate, a key driver of Herbicide Tolerant crops. The use of glyphosate in illegal HT cotton in India is illegal too.

Is Times of India advocating that government should approve untested, unapplied-for seeds and unsafe herbicides, flouting all regulation that exists today, for a fringe group's demand? What about all other citizens and their concerns, including other farmers saying No, consumers who are unaware or deciding to reject GM food? What about environmental ramifications? In this day and age, can we afford to remain blind to these other considerations?

The diagnosis of the problem in Indian agriculture by ToI reflects the lack of understanding by the newspaper about what ails our farming sector. It is a problem of plenty and surplus. It is not the "need for technological infusion".

Responsible and ethical media coverage demands that a national media house like Times of India does not abet unscientific and illegal push for GMOs. By doing so, you would vindicate what activists have been pointing to – that this illegal leakage of GM seeds is in fact a biotech industry's well-tried-out strategy of getting approvals for unwanted, unneeded and unsafe GMOs.

There is no policy decision to be taken here, except for the political will to be exhibited, of implementing the existing regulations even though these are weak on many aspects. In this case, Maharashtra government needs to be congratulated for the patient but firm dealing of the instigators of the illegal planting of unapproved GM seeds. Maharashtra government should in fact be told that most farmers and consumers in the country reject GM crops, and it need not buckle under pressure from anti-farmer, industry-supported fringe elements.

Regards

Swadeshi Jagran Manch

Multi-billionaire debtors be given loans at commercial market rates

The first budget, after a massive election victory, is neither an easy process for the government nor it has compulsion to be soft. It may tend to maintain a balance but with revenue crunch there are likely to be efforts to raise it.

Except for Haryana and Maharashtra, which are going to polls in October no other state is going to poll this year. Elections in Delhi would be in January 2020. This gives further leeway.

The budget certainly would not be populist. The income tax has been taken care of in the interim budget. The limit has been increased to Rs 5 lakh. This was not made the base of exemption limit. Now for those above earning Rs 5 lakh may have this as the base. There can be some surprises and government may propose moves which may continue to pinch taxpayers.

Not many remember that the 2017-18 budget had increased the cess to 4 percent from 3 percent though standard deduction was raised. This raised liability on higher tax slabs. They may remain the target again.

There remain serious concerns. The GDP data controversy is on. These are questions on book keeping. The debate on growth also does not show unanimity. Stress is seen in manufacturing, industrial index, skewed GST on petro prices and less than expected show by the economy.

The annual growth rate in car sales in May 2019, as per society of Indian automobile manufacturers (SIAM), was -26 percent, the lowest since the -31 percent in September 2001. The trend started in November 2018.

The sales have shown falling since the NGT ordered junking for operational ten-year old cars on false environmental concern. Cars contribute less than 2 per-



*Budget not to be
soft candy
Make diesel main
fuel for faster
growth, boost
savings, give more
to Kisan.
Shivaji Sarkar*



cent of total pollution. Cars are family properties and mostly a life-time buy. Quixotic policy decisions have seen diesel car sales going to a critical low forcing Maruti to abandon production. This is crisis of confidence. It is not a benign issue. It can lead to a deceleration in economic activity through a negative multiplier effect. Besides, it is unwise for the government to fall into the trap of the US and western oil sellers propaganda of junking diesel. With latest technology, diesel is not that pollutant.

The policy makers have to see it from an economic viewpoint. Every day 12 billion litres of petrol and 27 billion litres of diesel is consumed. Entire transport fleet operates on diesel. It is a refining byproduct, cheaper and effective fuel.

Refining capacity has increased to 230 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) and as per petroleum ministry imports in value terms have come down to Rs 4.16 lakh crore for 202 MMT import in 2015-16 from Rs 6.87 lakh crore for 189 MMT in 2014-15 due to fall in crude prices.

International oil sellers do not want India to have this benefit. Now if India stops using diesel vehicles, about 10,000 billion litres of diesel refined a year in the country would go waste, increase international crude prices as India would import more and prop up profits of the western giants.

The budget has to address this critical issue. Next year for preparation of BS 6 (Euro VI) fuel, Indian Oil and would shut down 11 refineries for roughly a month. During that time processed fuel has to be imported.

Instead of falling into the trap of oil-industry propped environ-

Instead of falling into the trap of oil-industry propped environment lobbies, India must sell diesel at cheaper rates to boost its economy.

ment lobbies, India must sell diesel at cheaper rates to give boost to its economy. New auto tech has made diesel more efficient with BS 6 as good as petrol. Policy glitches have caused many uncertainties.

The country must change its diesel policy ignoring international lobbyists. This would bring down operational costs of farms and industry that both are clamouring for and overall economy. It would slash even government's own fleet cost.

The decision would take the industry to fast lane. The government also should accept that despite our space mission progress of going to mars and moon, it is yet a developing nation. Its finances are critical though we may be a \$ 5 trillion economy in a few years.

Disparity is growing and so is inflation. Food prices are inching ahead but farmers still have to wait for doles. While PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKSN) has provided necessary cash to lubricate the rural economy, the nation has not yet streamlined the agro-product sales. Kisan is forced to sell at distress prices despite now higher MSPs.

The corporate and middle men still rule the farm market. The government can consider giving higher relief to I-T payee farmers considering often they get paid less than their production cost. They

pay I-T as their volumes are large. There is no harm in extending them the PMKSN benefit too. Tax losses if at all would be notional as their numbers are very few.

A key issue is domestic savings. Savings of India's poor have sustained Indian economy for decades buoyed by reasonable interest that they were getting. The government needs to bolster the National Savings Scheme, which even collected 25 paise from children, to launch new campaigns to increase savings.

It also has to consider giving them higher interest and not cut RBI rates to subsidise the giant multi-billionaire debtors (MBD). The MBDs should be given loans at commercial market rates. They should be forced to use their huge savings. Public money, they must be told, is neither free nor poor savers should subsidise the giants.

Long-term savings has to be incentivised. Savings rate surged from 25.9 percent in 2003 to 36.8 percent in 2008. Since 2012, because of deviant UPA policy, aggregate savings rate declined from 34 percent to 30.5 percent in 2017-18.

Household savings plunged from 22.4 percent in 2012 to 17.6 percent. This has been the mainstay of economy from 1950s to 1980s. Provisions of Section 80C has to be widened and limit must be increase to Rs 3 lakh at the least. This would bring in more funds to the government programmes, a necessity as deficit is increasing.

There are many critical areas like re-skilling workforce, strengthening defence, integrate neighbourhood, Jal -water- mission, good education and health. Each needs investment. The budget would not be a soft candy but has to be an agent for growth. □□

Lurching from crisis to crisis

Although Sonia Gandhi's formidable personality holds the Congress together, the party is beginning to flounder in the absence of clarity on whether Rahul Gandhi's resignation has been withdrawn or accepted. The Wayanad MP offered to quit at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on May 25, taking full responsibility for the failure to dislodge the Modi Government, and for the miniscule increase of eight seats from 2014 (44 to 52); top party leaders rejected the resignation.

Over two weeks after the CWC meeting, the Congress remains clueless about the reasons for its debacle. While an aggrieved Rahul Gandhi felt that it was because other leaders did not pick up his refrain of 'Chowkidar chor hai' to publicly indict the Prime Minister, the fact is that the Rafale deal failed to excite voters even in States like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan where the party had seized power only months ago. Unlike the Bofors kickbacks scandal, Rafale lacks a money trail leading to foreign bank accounts of people close to those in power, and seemed a desperate ploy to attract voter attention. The Congress flopped because of this negative campaign; the rout could have been more severe if other leaders had picked up this dud slogan. Gandhi's basic income scheme (Nyunatam Aay Yojana) was too obtuse to be understood by party workers, who simply omitted to mention it in their grassroots campaigns.

The Congress' woes have been aggravated by Priyanka Vadra's failure to deliver in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The party won only Rae Bareilly and lost Amethi, even as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) triumphed with 62 seats and enhanced its vote share from 42.63 per cent to 49.55 per cent. Clearly, Priyanka Vadra cannot be deputed to succeed Rahul Gandhi. Whispers in the party question her failure to resign after the debacle; her arrogance in mooted a challenge to Prime Minister



The immediate task for the Congress is to ward off the challenge to its numbers in Rajya Sabha where the BJP will try to make gains by coordinating with other Opposition parties.

Sandhya Jain



Modi in Varanasi has boomeranged badly.

The Congress is in crisis. Its recent victories in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are now being attributed to strong and focussed local leaders who carried conviction with voters. With Rahul Gandhi refusing to meet senior leaders, the leadership vacuum is causing problems in the State units, and even at party headquarters in Delhi.

In Punjab, the Chief Minister has chastised the loud-mouthed Navjot Singh Sidhu whom he holds responsible for the party's average performance, but Capt Amarinder Singh does not owe his status to the backing of the Congress high command. In Rajasthan, the party is in the throes of a meltdown, with supporters of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and State unit chief Sachin Pilot in a blame game. Dodging Rahul Gandhi's accusation that obsession with his son (Vaibhav) cost the party in Rajasthan, Gehlot is asking Pilot to take responsibility for Vaibhav's defeat.

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath managed to ensure the victory of his son, Nakul, but that is the party's sole victory. Understandably, supporters of Jyotiraditya Scindia are snapping at his heels, demanding that Scindia be made Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief in place of Kamal Nath. Growing demands for the stringent application of the 'one-man-one-post' norm in States ruled by the Congress will intensify the infighting.

As of now, even office bearers at the central headquarters are at sea in the absence of clarity vis-à-vis Rahul Gandhi's status. If the directive of the Congress' core

committee to all PCC presidents to submit reports detailing the reasons for the debacle is honestly answered, it will only put further question marks on Rahul Gandhi's political acumen.

Meanwhile, family loyalist and former Union Minister, M Veerappa Moily, has warned that the prevailing impasse will cost the party dearly. Urging Rahul Gandhi to "quell" the current indiscipline, Moily said that if the Congress president is adamant about quitting, he should hand over the reins "to the right person, right hands". But who could that be? With Mallikarjun Kharge defeated in Gulbarga (Karnataka), Congress' cup of sorrows is full.

Pointing out that the Congress has not split in the two decades since Sonia Gandhi ousted Sitar- am Kesri in 1998, Moily stresses the importance of showing leadership at this stage, otherwise, the party could fragment. Aware of the stakes, the party quickly elected Sonia Gandhi as leader of the Congress parliamentary party on June 1 this year. Observers say this provides some space in which Rahul Gandhi can be persuaded to continue as president, to stave off a challenge to the Gandhi family's preeminence. As expected, the parliamentary party authorised Sonia Gandhi to nominate the leaders of the party in both Houses. Ghulam Nabi Azad will likely continue to hold the post in the Rajya Sabha.

However, to look ahead with continuity, the Congress needs Rahul Gandhi to lead in the Lok Sabha, possibly also be Leader of Opposition, should the Speaker extend this courtesy to the Congress, as it is only two seats short. At this critical juncture, party workers are not enthused at the idea of

being led by uncharismatic leaders like AK Antony or Ahmed Patel.

More seriously, realisation is dawning in many quarters that Sonia Gandhi is too unwell to campaign again (she went to Rae Bareilly only to file her nomination), while Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra are indifferent vote-catchers. This is why the mother-daughter duo is totally averse to letting the reins of the party slip from family hands. Many aspirational leaders would have done the math; unsurprisingly Kamal Nath took his son along when he paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister.

To infuse morale in the rank and file, Sonia Gandhi put on her fighting face and attributed the defeat to the BJP's "unlimited resources, ability to manipulate public opinion and the spread of mischievous propaganda". Batting fiercely for Rahul Gandhi, she lavished praise on him for rejuvenating the Congress organisation in many States and leading it to victory in the Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan Assembly elections. She asserted that the Congress president had highlighted injustices against farmers, workers, traders and small businesses, youth, women and marginalised sections of society and exposed many misdeeds of the Government.

Now, however, the immediate task for the Congress is to ward off the challenge to its numbers in the Rajya Sabha where the BJP will try to make gains in the coming months by coordinating with non-BJP Opposition parties. But it cannot do anything without first resolving the Rahul Gandhi deadlock. □□

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)
<https://www.dailyhindi.com/2019/columnists/lurching-from-crisis-to-crisis.html>

Need protection for small industries, not MNC-led monopoly

In an interview with THE WEEK, Dr. Ashwani Mahajan (Co-convenor, SJM) shared his views on economic policies of Modi 2.0 government, voicing the swadeshi aspirations. Edited excerpts:

What are your impressions about Narendra Modi government's economic policies?

You see, earlier the talk was that this government was pro-FDI, pro-big business, pro-technology, an impression very similar to the previous Congress government. There were hints there would be corruption and MNC-control prevailing over the policies. That was the initial picture. From then, there has been a lot of change. Some of which you may have already seen.

Doubling of farmers' income is a major challenge for this government. But the SJM resists multinationals selling high-yield crop seeds. Is that productive?

This government, too, was pro-GM (genetically modified) crops, in the initial two to three years. But then, with time, there has been a lot of changes. GM was initially thought as a symbol of new agriculture technology. Then the government realised that it was monopolisation over one technology; that the benefits can be never reaped this way. The multinational's argument about higher yields and benefits have failed.

We held several interventions with the prime minister on this, from the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. As a result, you would have noticed that the bio-technology regulator GEAC (Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee) of the government that was thought to be toothless, as it did not meet (even) once in first three years of the previous government, suddenly met six times over the next two.

The SJM has often come out against MNCs, be it on FDI or price controls. What are your thoughts.

Earlier when there was no stand against MNCs, the government took a stand and imposed price control on seeds. In pharma, MNCs again had the monopoly. We intervened in this and we asked the gov-

ernment to impose price control on stents and recently on drugs. This is a clear departure from no action on earlier profiteering by MNCs. We are not against FDI. But every FDI is not good, like say, in e-commerce. We had to step up for protection of our small shopkeepers and domestic producers.

There was a huge pressure on the prime minister during his visits to the US for reversing price controls. But we took a stand and told him about it.

You have often voiced against foreign-based Indian economists on their views for land, labour or banking reforms of the Modi government. Why so?

Yes, we have. Arvind Panagariya was in favour of land and labour reforms in India, which is what most western multilateral organisations say. His was not much different. I found them to be a just narrative on the need for these reforms. The government initially agreed with these views. They, in fact, went ahead with these land and labour reforms. Ordinances were brought in, but then they were allowed to lapse. In our view, these are not reforms of the labour or land acquisition rules. These are aspects that would become detrimental for workers and farmers, so we resisted.

Labour reforms is not an issue in this country. There should be different labour rules for small sector and there we are in agreement with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). Rajan ordered to reduce government's stake in bank ownership. We were of the opinion that public sector banks should not be handed over by the government. We are happy that the government listened to these views and adopted them in its policies.

All these economists, their overall development philosophy is totally based on the GDP growth. That is the Jagdish Bhagwati and Panagariya model of trickle down effect. This was no different from what the Manmohan Singh government believed and this has failed time and again after 1991. Then there was the Amartya Sen model where employment, education, health and everything was getting guaranteed. We have



seen that this also does not work.

In this environment of economic recession and trade wars, what economic model would you prescribe?

The Sangh has a definite economic philosophy based on thousands of years of this country's history. All this while, there were no instances of recession or depression. Our approach is swadeshi. The meaning of swadeshi keeps on changing, but we are for what Gandhiji said on swadeshi; what Deendayal Upadhyay said on swadeshi. Our view for long was that the WTO-led free trade narrative led to lower tariffs. Multilateral platform approach in trade is not beneficial for the economy. Sangh never supported free trade. Deendayalji said that when framing economic policies, we must think twice of the person standing last in the queue. Not Tata or Birla.

Some economists are of the view that a number of populist measures were adopted under the Modi government for votebank politics.

See, as the chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi had opposed the Congress's Aadhaar bill. But after he became the prime minister, he realised the other advantages of JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity. Therefore, you will see that the Aadhaar 2015 Amendment Bill was much different from the 2010 bill. Policies like skills programmes, housing for poor, toilets in every house, Kisan Nidhi, Ujjwala, MSP hike... none of these were aimed at attaining votes.

Same way, GST (implementation) and notebandi (demonetisation) were also not for votes. These were non-populist measures pushing a certain economic philosophy. We need our own development philosophy to drive policy-making. The subsidy model of the past has never been successful in giving us the desired development.

After the huge mandate in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, what should be the government's top economic priorities?

The government should prioritise more schemes like Mudra for the protection of the small-scale sector and minor traders. Employment data is not available and they should make efforts for better economic data dissemination. Extending the benefits of Make in India schemes to small-scale sector is important. A good domestic investment environment is what is needed.

Small traders like chemists, e-commerce suppliers all have to be brought under this development umbrella. Some changes are needed in GST, too. What do you mean by equalising small and big?

Can a small producer pay the same rate of tax as the big producer? There has to be more exceptions in GST system for the small trader. There is still a large inequality existing between rural and urban incomes. These will have to see some parity and only then good development would be achieved.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/biz-tech/2019/06/21/need-protection-small-industries-not-mnc-led-monopoly-ashwani-mahajan.html>

How BJP Mustered the Historic Mandate: Beginning of Modi 2.0

The victory of BJP led by Prime Minister (OM) Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha elections 2019 after a 'long and thrilling campaign' marks no less significance in India's democratic history. After Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi, PM Modi remains the first non-Congress leader to win such an historic mandate and that too not on any sympathy wave and against a united opposition. The 'convergence of development and leadership' led by PM Modi in 2019 elections made it a different case from earlier electoral battles.

Having passed the age of coalition politics and the dominance of regional parties at Union level, the Indian democracy now stands at a critical juncture where clear mandate by the people reposes faith in the ideology, leadership and governance of the winning combination. For the BJP this mandate certainly is an expression of 'peoples approval' on the several key issues of its political campaigns like as national security and pride, strong and decisive leadership, rejection of dynastic politics and corruption. Before looking into the key policy priorities of Modi 2.0, it is also necessary to look into the rationale for this splendid victory of the BJP.

At the foremost, there was a great aspiration among the people for a more 'visible and assertive leadership' at the national level. As the campaign mode got up in full swing for 2019 Lok Sabha elections, we saw this electoral battle turning into a 'Presidential mode' between PM Modi and who else, especially when there was no other leader from the opposition matching up-to his candidature, appeal and charisma. The integrity, selflessness and humble origins of PM Modi found direct resonance with the masses as he declared himself to be the "chowkidaar" of the country.



The 22 crore beneficiaries of the welfare schemes of Modi government and 12 crore new voters in 2019 remained convinced that under Modi's leadership India's will write its new destiny and aspiration.
Abhishek Pratap Singh



The mandate also expresses a statement against 'privileged elitism' as propagated by Congress and other regional parties for a long-time now. The defeat of many political dynasts across the country point to the fact of very strong anti-establishment flavor against the "naamdaars", or to which PM Modi referred as "Khan market gang" in his speeches.

It also exposes the sheer limits of 'pseudo secularism and political liberalism' as propagated by English speaking urban Indian elite in the name of preaching secularism which often found critique from many for being a kind of political appeasement. Against this, Modi and BJP symbolized in themselves a very strong undercurrent of political Hinduism within the framework of 'Cultural Nationalism'.

They the idea of Indic thought based on India's glorious past, and sought to build, protect and promote our civilizational values rooted in *Bhartiyata*. Notably, dharma not religion has always found resonance with Indian social life. And BJP was successful in aligning it with its ideology of cultural nationalism. Once dismissed as 'Vernacs' by the western educated Indian liberals, Hindi heartland found no reason to shy away from socio-cultural appeal in Hinduism.

The victory also validates the success of 'new and realistic framework for the national security' and as witnessed during the Balakot attacks against Pakistan and resistance to Chinese aggression in Doklam (2017). The narrative of 'nationalism and development' backed by strong leadership was well communicated to the electorate with a sense of emotional appeal to the new aspirational class

of young Indians.

Despite some macro economic challenges on the economic front, the success of 'pro-poor and pro-welfare' centric flagship schemes of Modi government especially, Ujjwala yojana, Ayushman bharat and PM Kisan Yojana were able to convince the rural poor about the "delivery, difference and dispersal" in the governance in India. The 22 crore beneficiaries of the welfare schemes of Modi government and 12 crore new voters in 2019 remained convinced that under Modi's leadership India's will write its new destiny and aspiration. In addition, the success of rural sanitation under "Swaach Bharat" mission was a 'game changer' as it knocked the door of rural poor, which have been at the margins of our developmental process. The rural sanitation crossed 85 percent under Modi regime, mobilizing rural communities to their favor in more than 3 lakh villages in 300 plus district across India.

In addition, carrying his humble background and backward caste origins, Modi was able to defeat the 'arithmetic caste calculus' in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar by cutting across the fault lines of caste, community and regions. The constitutional amendments against the Supreme Court verdict to down play the prevention of SC/ST Act, review petition in the Supreme Court to protect the 200-point roster reservation in higher education and 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) for the higher caste were clear statements to his commitment to promote social justice and consensual development for every community.

By decimating the politics of

patronage and populism, which was synonymous with social justice politics in Northern India, PM Modi was able to carve out a 'new political constituency' for himself as the collective subaltern in Indian voted for him.

Statistically speaking, with Congress being wiped out from 17 states of India and BJP's making big inroads in West Bengal and Orissa, the success also outlines the rising organizational strength; strong ideological conviction and popular leadership of Modi, which remains unmatched for the Indian political opposition.

More importantly, after winning the thumping majority for the second time, PM Modi would have to focus on key issues of governance as he envisions his idea of New India. At the beginning of Modi 2.0, with this historic mandate from the people of India the expectations shall remain high for the government.

By focusing on key issues of increasing employment in formal sector, addressing grey areas in rural sector, addressing sectoral pockets and boasting demand in economy, stimulating private investment and by increasing capital investment up-to 100 trillion in the infrastructure by 2024 as promised in manifesto, Modi 2.0 shall lead the country to the realization of his vision for New India.

As he bows down to our Constitution before his speech to the newly elected members, it must keep on its ruling credentials based on the ideas of "*sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwass*" as envisioned by PM Modi in his winning speech to his supporters. □□

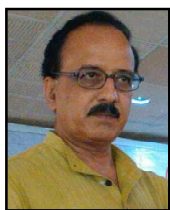
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To spur rural development, India must make agriculture economically viable

Speaking from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 1955, Jawaharlal Nehru had said: “It is very humiliating for any country to import food. So everything else can wait but not agriculture.” As India readies to celebrate 75 years of Independence in 2022, agriculture remains the Achilles heel of an economy poised to be the third largest in the years to come. Considering that nearly 49% of the workforce is engaged in agriculture, and knowing well that real farm incomes have almost stagnated or declined for the past two decades, addressing the acute agrarian distress that prevails remains the biggest challenge.

The Niti Aayog’s own estimates show the growth in real farm incomes at around near-zero in the past two years, and prior to that between 2011-12 and 2015-16, real farm incomes had risen by less than half a percent every year. The Economic Survey 2016 had earlier worked out the average income of a farming family in 17 states of India to be a meagre Rs 20,000 a year, which means farming families in roughly half the country were surviving on less than Rs 1,700 per month. An ICRIER-OECD study has shown conclusively that farmers suffered a cumulative loss of Rs 45-lakh crore in the 17-year period between 2000-01 and 2016-17. This was on account of farmers being denied a rightful price for their produce. As if this is not enough, recent studies show farm incomes plummeting to the lowest level in 15 years, and huge job losses for the rural farm and non-farm workers as well.

Farmers have toiled hard to produce bumper harvests. And yet, with each



It is surely possible provided we change our mindset and let 2022 — the 75th year of India’s Independence — be the milestone to restore the pride in agriculture, make farm distress history, and turn farming into a vibrant economic enterprise

Devinder Sharma



passing year, the plight of a farming family has only worsened. Agriculture in reality has been a victim of macroeconomic policies which aim at keeping food inflation low, providing cheaper raw material for the industry, and meeting the obligations of international trade. While the terms of trade were against agriculture, public sector investment between 2011-12 and 2016-17 declined to 0.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Private sector investment too dipped to 1.8% in the same period. With public and private sector investment on the decline, coming down to a low of 2.2% of the GDP in 2016-17, the neglect of agriculture was all too apparent.

Agriculture has been crying for reforms. But because the policy emphasis has remained on moving people out of agriculture to the urban centres, which are in need of cheap labour, farmers have in reality been penalised to grow food. Prices have been deliberately kept low to keep consumers and industry satisfied. This has to change. Policy makers must treat agriculture as an economic activity, which alone has the capacity to reboot the economy.

An indication to this is provided in the Bharatiya Janata Party manifesto which promises to invest Rs 25 lakh crore in agriculture in the next five years, and provide a higher minimum support price (MSP) to farmers. Coupled with the launch of the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna (PM-Kisan) in February 2019, which provides all landowning farmers with a direct income support of Rs 6,000 a year, the intent to revive agriculture is in sight. Further, addressing the Niti Aayog Prime Min-



Farmers have toiled hard to produce bumper harvests and yet plight of a farming has only worsened.

ister Narendra Modi announced the setting up of a high-level task force for undertaking structural reforms in agriculture.

Telangana launched its innovative Rythu Bandhu scheme, providing Rs 8,000 per acre per year, in 2018. Odisha launched its Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) variant in December 2018. Since then, several states — West Bengal, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Haryana — have started paying farmers directly, some incorporating the allocation available under PM-Kisan. In other words, governments are realising the need to provide direct income support to farmers.

The essential foundational reforms should include setting up a National Commission for Farmers Income and Welfare, with the mandate to assure a monthly income of Rs 18,000 per family by way of a top up approach. This will create a huge demand, thereby reinvigorating the industry and triggering a high economic growth. At the same time, initiating an Ease of Doing Farming programme will go a long way in removing the hurdles and bottlenecks farmers encounter during cultivation, harvesting and market-

ing operations.

Expanding the network of Agricultural Produce Market Committee regulated markets, from the existing 7,600 to a probable target of 42,000 mandis, should be accorded top priority. In addition, strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and encouraging startups in agriculture to draw out entrepreneurship should make agriculture an attractive proposition.

In China, seven million educated youth, including holders of postgraduate degrees, were sent to rural areas in 2018, and reports say 60% have stayed back. To bridge the rural-urban divide, China plans to send millions of educated volunteers to the villages every year and is encouraging young migrants in cities to return. To spur rural development, India, too, needs to draw a lesson to make agriculture economically viable, environmentally sustainable and attractive. It is surely possible provided we change our mindset and let 2022 be the milestone to restore the pride in agriculture, make farm distress history, and turn farming into a vibrant economic enterprise.

(This is part of a series of articles on India's priorities as we head towards 75 years of Independence)
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Influence of Language on Learning



The effect of backward integration in this context is that English language preparation starts right from the first day of school life, it starts from play school in urban civilization irrespective of whether the local language is Tamil or Telugu or Bengali or Punjabi or one among many other forms the diverse inventory of languages.
Alok Singh

The demographic profile of a society has elements like gender, religion, and language; sometimes caste, class, and region intervening conventional concepts of age, education, etc. . These are the micro level binding factors of society; and sometimes these are discounted items on which few politicians rely and use for their convenience. Within these factors, language has emerged as the most powerful weapon. The creation of Bangladesh in the year 1971 is the concrete example of language overpowering religion if compared. Otherwise, there are six items for comparison and when permuted the total possible number of ways of rankings are 720. First position can be obtained in six ways, for second position there are five left items, and so on, the total count is $6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$, which is 720. Rankings depends upon the relevancy of these measures to context, situation and time of comparison. Language has a dominant effect on an individual's entire life-whether education, learning style, aptitude, attitude, culture, civilization, thought process, perception and many other segments.

Once language is accepted as the significant weapon- powerful enough to not be played as wished, influential enough to be respected by policymakers and mighty enough to destruct or damage a civilization. It establishes its critical position in nation building, and has to be treated beyond the eminence of only as medium of communication. The concern is negligence of the local/natural dialect of a population and being bargained in favor of the English language in last few decades. English has emerged as the only medium of instruction in higher education. If the higher education has to be in English then for a good base, its preparation starts right from early childhood i.e. its backward integration. The



effect of backward integration in this context is that English language preparation starts right from the first day of school life, from very play school level in urban civilization irrespective of whether the local language is Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, or Punjabi or one among many other vernacular forms of languages and dialects. This backward integration has led to a focus on English learning at the cost of vernacular.

The supporters of the English language says that the training in engineering and medical science are available in English language only, due to lack of academic resources in other languages. But the truth is that the English language has also intruded deep in literature and humanities or any other sphere of education. English literature captures more audience than other languages in urban areas. English has now become a way of life.

The world ranking of universities is something which academic institutions wish to earn. The universities in Switzerland, China, Germany, France, Japan, Korea- to name a few, where the academic is conducted in their aboriginal language has performed much better than Bharat. ETH Zurich from Switzerland is ranked 11th, Tsinghua University from China is ranked 22nd and National University of Singapore is ranked 23rd as per the Times Higher education global Ranking 2019. The Peking University from China is ranked 31st, LMU Munich from Germany is ranked 32nd, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne from Switzerland is ranked 35th, University of Hong Kong is ranked 36th, Karolinska Institute Sweden is ranked 40th, The Hong Kong Uni-

versity of Science and Technology is ranked 41st, Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University Paris from France is also ranked 41st, The University of Tokyo from Japan is ranked 42nd, Technical University of Munich from Germany is ranked 44th, again Heidelberg University from Germany is ranked 47th, and K U Leuven university from Belgium is ranked 48th. The best place secured by an academic institute from Bharat is of IISc Bangalore which is ranked in the bracket of 251-300. The ranking positions are allotted till 200th Rank and after that, the universities are put in brackets, for example in the bracket of 200-250, there will be fifty universities, and no individual ranking is allotted.

The policymakers have to understand and implement local languages as the first preference in school education firmly and should be strictly regulated by law. The place of the English language can't be changed today, there are many financial and economic reasons confined with other barriers. We are the second largest English speaking population in the world and followed by China. China is also focusing on English as medium to secure its business interests in the services sector of global platform.

China is aiming to snatch English centred businesses from Bharat, Which we are leading due to English proficient workforce. English may continue its dominance in near future, but we have to prepare for the next level. The concern is that the local language is getting diluted and faded year after year. It needs to be saved and conserved. The three language pro-

posal in school education is a good start. It will be good measure if Sanskrit emerges as the common language all over the country, and English be restricted only to professional scenarios and the vernacular language be the main language of training. The hidden treasure which was passed from generation to generation orally is at risk if the proficiency in vernacular language is compromised. The strength of Vernacular languages creates a scope for further research, and documentation of science, technology, medicine, arts and literature which has evolved over thousands of years in any region.

The vernacular language develops a continuous learning process, natural thought process, knowledge transfer and exchange happens from everyone in the society continuously; while the realm of English language restricts such opportunity to society level and most of the energy is wasted in search of English explanation of a phenomenon. It restricts the audience to small participation, for those who speak English, forming small groups among themselves and hence lacking holistic approach and transfer of knowledge in a natural way. It's time for policymakers to create an ambience of continuous learning pattern and knowledge exchange programs for better understanding and awakening. Whether a person is literate or not, vernacular language provides an opportunity for exchange of knowledge among everyone.

Energy needs to be spent in augmenting analytical capability and not on translation skills. Foreign knowledge discards and slows down the learning process of society. □□

Introduction to Upanishads: Aspects of Yoga and Sankhya



Yoga and Sankhya, two of the major and ancient most Upanishads introduce us to the world of Philosophical understanding of nature and its connectivity to human beings for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur

Sankhya and Yoga, two of the major Upanishads mention mind as a beginningless history of emotional and volitional tendencies integrated or woven, as it were, in its very structure as it passes from one cycle of life to another. The determination of the mind in pursuance of its end as desire will, or action is called karma. It is further held that all such determinations create potential energies which must fructify as diverse kinds of pleasurable or painful experiences, environments, conditions, and the periods of particular lives in which these experiences are realized.

The self-determining movement of the mind for the attainment of liberation can only start when one begins to discover that all experiences are painful. As a result thereof the young saint becomes disinclined towards all the so-called

joys of the world and ceases to have any interest in the propagation of the life-cycle. Such a cessation cannot be by death. For death means further rebirth. The cessation of the life-cycles must necessarily be sought in the extinction of the conditions determining the mind-structure. For this, he adopts means by which he can invert the process of operation of the mind – structure, which consists of the integrated content of images, concepts, and their emotional and volitional associates, of various kinds, below the surface. These are immediately absorbed below the conscious level as the subconscious, semiconscious, and unconscious. The various elements of the psychic structure in the different levels are held together to a great extent by ties of emotion and volition referring to the enjoyment of worldly objects. It is these that are continually attracting our minds.

The followers of Yoga should in the first instance practice a definite system of moral and religious restraints, such as non-injury, truthfulness, purity, sincerity, sex-control, self-control, self-contentment, and the like, called yamas and niyamas, for the external purification of mind. Ordinarily all activities associated with mental life are of the nature of continual relationing and movement. The Yogin who wishes to invert the processes underlying the maintenance of psychic structure arrests his mind statically on a particular object to the exclusion of all others, so that on the focal point of consciousness there may be only one state, which does not move, and all processes of the mind is at complete arrest.

Yoga is defined as a partial or complete arrest or cessation of the mental states. As an accessory process the Yogin learns to steady himself in a particular posture (asana) and gradually to arrest the processes of breathing (pranayama). His efforts to exclude other objects and to intensify the selected mental state which is to be kept steady on the focal point are called dharana and dhyana respectively. As a result of his progressive success in arresting the mental states, there arise new types of wisdom (prajna) and the subconscious potencies gradu-

ally wear out; ultimately all the sub-conscious and unconscious potencies of the structural relations are destroyed, and, as a result thereof, the avidya which was determining the nissus of the mind is destroyed, and the whole fabric of the mind is disintegrated, leaving the pure purusha in his transcendent loneliness (kaivalya), which is regarded as the ultimate aspiration of the human mind.

The Sankhya is probably the earliest Indian attempt at systematic philosophy. Its foundation is attributed to kapila, who is said to have written the original textbook of the school, the Shashti-tantra in sixty chapters. This work is now lost, and we know only the names of those chapters. We find elements of Sankhya even in the earliest Upanishads, and we have reason to believe that the system was probably not originally written, but underwent a course of development at different stages and under different influences; though it is possible that at some particular stage kapila may have contributed so much towards its systematization as to be generally regarded as the original expounder of the system. It is generally accepted that the Sankhya has two principal schools the atheistic and the theistic. The theistic Sankhya is now associated with Patanjali and is otherwise called the Yoga system. The oldest surviving text of the atheistic or non-theistic School of Sankhya in its generally accepted form is a compendium of Isvara Krishna (third century A.D.) Patanjali is supposed to have flourished somewhere about the middle of the second century B.C. The Sankhya and Yoga, in their various forms, have profoundly influenced Hindu culture and reli-



The Sankhya is probably the earliest Indian attempt at systematic philosophy. Its foundation is attributed to kapila, who is said to have written the original textbook of the school, the Shashti-tantra in sixty chapters.

gion in all their varied aspects.

According to Sankhya the word prakriti means the original substance, which consists of three classes of neutral entities called gunas-Sattva, representing truth and virtur, Rajas, resent in all that is active, firey, or aggressive, and Tamas, the principle of darkness, dullness, and inactivity. These are continually associating with one another for the fullest expression of their inner potentialities. They form themselves into groups, and not only are the inner constituents of each of the groups working in union with one another for the manifestation of the groups as wholes, but the wholes themselves are also working in union with one another for the self-expression of the individual whole and of the community of wholes for the manifestation of more and more developed forms. Causation thus viewed as the actualization of the potentials. The order of all cosmic operations is deduced from the inherent inner order and relations of the neutral reals. Relations are conceived as the functions of these reals, with which they are metaphysically identical. Prakriti is regarded as the hypothetical state of the pure potential conditions of these reals. It is supposed that this pure potential state breaks up into

a state which may be regarded as the stuff of cosmic mind. This partly individuates itself as individual minds, and partly develops itself into space, from that into potential matter, and later on into actual gross matter as atoms. The individuated minds evolve out of themselves the various sensory and cognitive functions and the synthetic and analytic functions called manas. They also reveal themselves in the psychical planes or personalities of individuals.

It is evident that the complexes formed from the neutral realms derive their meaning and functioning through a reference to the other or the others, for the manifestation of which they are co-operating together. This other references of the reals (gunas) are their inherent teleology. But such other references must have a limit, if an infinite regression is to be avoided. In a general manner it may be said that the two broad groups, the psychical and the physical, are working together in mutual reference. It is therefore assumed that there is an unrelational element, called purusha, a pure consciousness which presides over every individuated mind. By reference to this the non-conscious psychic phenomena attain their final meaning as conscious phenomena. □□

What Should New Water Ministry do?



By 2020, 21 Indian cities are expected to reach groundwater levels of zero, which will affect water access for 100 million people. Nearly half of India is already under drought during the summertime, and the current water crisis in Chennai is the latest example of what could soon happen to the country.

The new government is trying to address water issues in its newest ministry, “Jal Shakti—Water Power.” It promises to bring all the departments on water issues under one minister. (Earlier it was known as Ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation.)

The focus of the new ministry is to expedite its program of linking the rivers of India and to ensure piped water in every Indian household by 2024. This is not a new concept; many state’s government have tried providing running water to households, without much success. That’s because approximately 85 percent of current rural water supply schemes are based on groundwater sources that are not perennial. A drinking-water tank constructed by the Department of Public Health and Engineering is still vacant after five years in my neighboring village Gopalpura in Rajasthan. It is connected to a dried borewell through a pipe-line. Because groundwater levels fall in more than half of the country, millions of people are getting insufficient or poor water quality. As a consequence, communities depend on a single or remote source of drinking water, often leading to conflicts and enhanced discrimination against significant fetchers of water, such as females and girls.

Another omnipresent reality is the wasting of water even in water-stressed region by general masses. For hours, you can see the flowing public pipe lines in the drainages or roads without tapping.

The new ministry needs to think ‘small’ in order to really provide water security for India. It must restore the bodies of water and recharge its groundwater. Only when our drinking water supply is based on perennial surface water sources can our drinking water-security be achieved.

Rural India still has enormous potential for soil and water conservation. Government should encourage CSOs and CSRs to play an active role in managing rainwater at farmer and household level. Panchayat or District authorities should restore water resources at community level.

Currently, water transport from water-rich districts or states is presented as a water crisis solution. I believe that this is a short-term emergency solution, but not a sustainable solution. For a decade, nearly 150 kilometers away, the town of

*Maulik Sisodia,
the executive
director of Tarun
Bharat Sangh, a
water-focused
Indian
development CSO.
He has been
focused on
spreading simple
water-saving steps
such as rain-water
harvesting to local
communities
across the arid
reaches of India’s
dry state.*

Maulik Sisodia

Jaipur imported water from Bisalpur in Tonk. Now, however, the Bisalpur dam itself is not getting filled—and plans are being made by the local govt to bring water from the Brahmani and Chambal Rivers there. Who knows, these rivers will need water from somewhere else after how many days. It's an endless game that will definitely result in disputes between donor district, state or basin, and recipients.

Misuse of this imported water is one of the most serious offenses. Users in cities generally don't know the value of this water and use it in car washing, showers, street cleaning etc. that could have watered many farmer's fields.

The government must concentrate on managing demand. It should be three pronged strategies, first controlled-supply, second demand-control, and third long-term awareness. In the first step, the government must ensure a timely, leak-proof and safe-water supply rather than 24* 7 supply.

Second, government should encourage and assist consumers by subsidizing efficient water-use products such as sensor-tap accessories, automatic motor controller etc. at household level or drips / sprinklers for farmers. Current public subsidy systems are inefficient, require enormous paperwork and a lengthy process that discourages farmers from adopting fresh irrigation techniques. Controlling water usage at irrigation level without affecting the country's food safety, is the most significant consideration as it consumes 85% of groundwater .

I work with more than a thousand farmers in Rajasthan who in the last four years have effectively

The government must concentrate on managing demand through controlled supply, demand-control, long-term awareness and ensure a timely, leak proof safe – water supply.

implemented sprinkler techniques. The findings obtained are a 40 percent decrease in water consumption for irrigation per acre, a 30 percent decrease in water loss during irrigation conveyance, which in turn needs less energy for water pumping, an 80 percent decrease in human labor time needed for irrigation per acre, which indirectly decreases weeding time and fertilizer application and agricultural earnings increased by 20% per acre, as crop yields and quality improved by decreasing soil salinity, fewer pest and disease raids, and less weed competition. Surprisingly, the drudgery of women life has been reduced drastically, as she is the one who devotes her time in agriculture but never credited the title of a farmer.

Third, water-literacy at the national level should be the primary focus, which has not been seriously done so far. It is high time that special modules are introduced in classrooms on water saving, conservation. The government's water-related schemes should be known to higher-secondary and

college-level youth in order to inform and influence their parents and become concerned. Instead of being an annual or monthly occurrence, efficient water literacy should be the component of our education system.

The Government of India should mandate all local authorities to publish within six months maps of water bodies under their jurisdiction. These documents should be demarcated, notified and gazetted by the revenue department. "No-change in land use" for these water bodies, lakes, rivulets, rivers, drains etc. should be permitted at any cost. Government should also limit the use of water-front and water bodies, along with rules for the extraction and recharge of groundwater. It should list all forbidden operations, such as unscientific sand mining, dredging and embellishment, etc. that could endanger a water body, should be recognized as offenses charged with maximum penalties under the appropriate Indian Penal Code.

Rivers are being murdered because of their sand. The government must identify the sand's alternative as a construction material. Imports of sand may be a short-term solution if realistically possible. After all we don't want our rivers last pictures to be hanged on our home walls.

The new government should launch an aggressive program of nature-based solutions, ecological restoration, ideally to build resilience and generate livelihoods. The philosophy of the new Jal Shakti Ministry should be to preserve river catchments, curb pollution load on the river, and establish a balance between aquifer recharge and discharge. □□



National Council Meeting Pune, Maharashtra (8-9 June 2019)

A meeting of the National Council of the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch started at 10:00 am in the auditorium of Shri Maharishi Karve Stree Shikshan Sansthan in Pune (Maharashtra) on June 8, 2019. Prior to this, the central leadership of the forum wreaths the statue of Maharishi Karve, who made an unimaginable contribution in the field of women education.

All India Convener Sh. Arun Ojha, Sanghatak Sh. Kashmiri Lal, Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma, Prof. BM Kumarwamy, Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal, Dr. Ashwini Mahajan, Shri. Sundaram and Shri Ajay Patki were garlanded to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, Babu Genu and Rashtra Rishi Datopant Thengdi ji's photos and lightened the lamps. Pune's activist Ms. Anupama presented the musical national song.

State Convenor of Western Maharashtra Sh. Subhash Yadav recalled the contribution of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to Pune's historic significance and recalled Sant Gnaneshwar ji, Sant Tukaram Ji, Sant Ramdas Ji, and Babu Genu's contribution.

In the initial address, Sh. Arun Ojha appreciated the grand organizing of the National Council meeting held in Pune after 25 years. This is due to the initiative taken by Sh. Subhash Yadav by creating a work to build a SJM Team in Pune. In the meeting, Mr. Ramesh Jai Dilip ji, Sri Mukund Gore, Sh. Anil Paudar was also present on the occasion. Mr. Arun Walmane was introduced.

Sh. Arun Ojha said that the synchronized heat of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune which gives us energy. Maharshi Karve has created a mountainous work with a solo effort. And it is also the place of Shri Babu Genu. There is a huge mandate for the government in the country. The government is congratulated. The Government is going to rely on policies to strengthen the country. It is expected that whenever the need arises, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch will continue to play its constructive role in the conscious and guarded areas of the financial sector.

In other countries, the world trade war is going

CALL BHARAT AS BHARAT, NOT INDIA

*“Uttaram yat samudrasya - Himaadraischaiva dakshinam
Varsham tad Bhaaratam Naama - Bhaarattee yatra santatibi”*

Every individual's, society or nation's name introduces their respective character, behaviour, culture and historical heritage. Every name has its own strength and positive feeling. Therefore, when we say Bharat, it connects the hearts of the people beyond the political boundaries of this country. Bharat integrates the people irrespective of caste, creed, gender and religion across the country as like teerath yatras of this holy nation. The name India does not carry our own brave and prosperous history and eternal cultural entity. Moreover, unfortunately, it has got the name 'India' just before the partition of the Bharat. Therefore, to connect our own richness with people of this country, we should call our country like Bharat, not only for the interest of this country but also to bring the consciousness of the “Vasudaiva Katumbakam” among the neighbouring countries to protect the interests of this country.

Name “Bharat” is derived from great emperor Bharat, son of Shakuntala and Dushyanta. The term ‘Bharat’ refers to the whole Earth as Emperor Bharata who once has ruled the whole Earth. Until the death of Maharaja Parikshit, the last formidable emperor of the Kuru dynasty, the whole world was known as Bharata varsha. According to the Puranas, this country is known as Bharatavarsha after the king Bharata Chakravarti. This also has been mentioned in our holy Puranas.

Prominent freedom fighter Bipin Chander Pal in 1911 in his book “The soul of India” remarked that India stands for ‘You’ (foreigner) and Bharat stands for ‘We’ (native people). According to him, unity of Bharat was not only political, dharmik or administrative, but only cultural.

Swami Vivekananda the great son of Bharat said, “This is the ancient land, where wisdom made its home before it went into any other country... Here is the same Bharat whose soil has been trodden by the feet of the greatest sages that ever lived... Look back, therefore, as far as you can, drink deep of the eternal fountains that are behind, and after that look forward, march forward, and make Bharat brighter, greater, much higher, than she ever was.”

Even today, so many intellectuals, Saadu-sants, and political leaders are appealing to name this country as ‘Bharat’. Constitutionally, this issue came very late in September 1949 when article I of the constitution was debated. So many expressed in Constitutional Assembly that it should be “Bharat, i.e. India” and not vice-versa. Because “when a country is in bondage, it loses its soul. During the struggle of one thousand years, our country too lost its all endeavours such as, we lost our culture, heritage, humanity, sovereignty, we lost our soul, and indeed we lost our name. Thus, to regain our name, we will regain its inner-consciousness and prestige in the world”. When you say India, it brings all particle mind-set or western mind-set in thought process and formulation of economic policies, education and governance policies. India won't bring comprehensiveness in the thought process. Whereas, Bharat invokes holistic nature in all spheres of human life and policies.

Therefore, we should name this country as “Bharat” as suggested by our sages and national leaders like Swami Vivekananda, Bipin Chander Pal and also numerous other scholars in the constitutional assembly who argued for more than once on this issue in favour of “Bharat”.

In the end, Swadeshi Jagran Manch calls to all the heads of the social, religious and political organizations to join hands together to discuss and create awareness among the public and further come forward to spread the message to call this country proudly “Bharat as Bharat, not India” in all over the world.

on. India has to discharge an impressive role.

Reporting by the State Teams

All the State Teams have reported their activities held after the Madurai conference. Most of the States provided information about the activities and programs on three subjects i.e., employment, environ-

ment and Strengthening families. It is a matter of satisfaction that all types of programs have been organized from various universities to the local units throughout the country. In addition to this, campaigners of all the states took part in the campaign of voter awareness, which has a good result.

Resolution-2

Time for change in the Country's Economic Direction

As a result of economic liberalisation policies adopted for the past 28 years, there has been a growing foreign influence in the country's manufacturing industries, trade, commerce and agriculture sector which resulted in a host of serious problems such as rise in unemployment, decline in the quality of employment and decline of real expenditure on defence. In the light of the historic mandate, the change in the country's economic direction is absolutely necessary for the all-round progress of the country.

Economy must promote the production of 'Made by Bharat' products to prevent the growing of foreign products and brands in all consumption products from smart and mobile phones to automatic vehicles and solar panels in the country. These products to be developed in this country essentially and absolutely.

Due to the expansion of foreign e-commerce companies such as Amazon and foreign retail chain stores etc., small business, commercial service providers and manufacturers of the country are unable to sustain their business. The formulation of protectionist policies and conservation of local small units against large foreign corporations operating in the field of retail business and e-commerce is essential. In the light of the decline in the proportion of employment in the country, the creation of policies for employment-oriented development in the country is necessary. Today advanced technology based (Original Equipment manufacturing) OEM is getting wiped off due to screw-driver technology being promoted under 'Make in India' whereas only spare parts imported from outside are being assembled. Today the need is to develop advanced technology based ecosystem of productions.

Due to the ongoing farm crisis it is important to increase farmers income and develop farmer-centric food machinery thereby increasing the production of food products. Cost-based education and profit-based treatment are a cause of concern. Therefore, the expansion of public fund based education and medical institutions should be given first priority. The country's foreign trade deficit is increasing over the years. The country's trade deficit increased from \$2.6 billion in 1991-92 to \$160 billion currently. This has been due to the fact that country has been reliant on progressive foreign investment. India should try to eliminate dependence on the import of high-tech-based products in exchange for export of raw materials by controlling its trade. Similarly, the World Trade Organization (WTO) should rethink on Free Trade Agreement.

In fact, the country should adopt a system of employment oriented, inclusive growth and inclusive economic growth, in which it is possible to adopt innovation on our income and foreign investment. In place of this, instead of the new liberal policies which increase import and foreign investment, it is necessary to initiate policies that increase domestic production, employment, economic and technological self-employment in the country, to establish India as a world-master through all-round progression and to make Bharat as 'Viswaguru' again.

Rashtreeya Vichar Varga

Uttar Kshetra: Northern Region 14, 15, 16 June, Abu Road, Rajasthan. Sh. Satish Acharya presented the information.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand: 28-29th June, 2019, Naimisharanya, Uttar Pradesh Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Kshetra Convener presented the information.

East: 12-13 July 14, 2019 Rourkela Orissa. Shri Bande Shankar Singh, All India Sangarsh Vahini Pramukh presented the information.

West: 10-11 August 12, 2019, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Shri Raghavendra Singh Chandel Kshetra Convener presented the information.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh: 10-11, August, 2019, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana. Shri Sri-nath, State Convener presented the information.

Remaining Dakshin Kshetra: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala 21-22 September, 2019 Bengaluru, Karnataka. Sh. Jagdish Rao Karnataka State Organiser presented the information.

Need to relook at disinvestment policy

BACKGROUND: Over the years, the central government has set up public sector enterprises (CPSEs) which have not only helped the country in creating necessary industrial infrastructure but also generated large employment in the country. At present some of them are performing so well and some are into heavy losses.

Based on their equity size, turnover and profitability and consistent performance, they have been classified as Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna. At present we have 8 Maharatna, 16 Navratna and 75 Miniratna CPSEs. In addition, the country also has 52 loss making CPSEs.

On the one hand, the Governments at Centre, kept on exploring the possibility of disposing off the loss making CPSEs but on the other hand also made plans to disinvest profit making CPSEs for generating revenues to fund their current expenditures.

Department of Disinvestment was created in the Ministry of Finance to carry on disinvestment by strategic sale of CPSEs to reduce the burden of financing the loss making CPSEs. Strategic sale of some of the loss making CPSEs came into lots of controversy on account of their valuation as well as sale to dubious parties in very opaque manner

SJM has had raised its concern at number of such transactions in the past and has strongly suggested not to resort to strategic sale route for disinvestment but adopt minority disinvestment through capital market route which ensures national wealth remaining within India and control of national resources remaining with the Government.

As suggested by SJM, The Government modified the objectives of Department of Disinvestment. Not only the name of the department was changed to Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) but the mission of DIPAM is now to list CPSEs on stock exchanges to promote people's ownership through public participation and improving accountability through its shareholders.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: Based on suggestions made by the NITI Aayog, DIPAM has listed 92 CPSEs for disinvestment this year. In this process, it is proposed to sell some of the companies as 'strategic sale' and in some companies their assets (mostly immovable assets) are planned to be sold.

AIR INDIA, the national carrier, running into losses for the last few years, has substantially high intangible assets in the shape of international parking slots earned over the period due to diplomatic relationship with some of the important countries and very big pool of highly qualified engineers at part of its work force, was attempted to be disinvested by strategic sale but due to public pressure including that of SJM, the deal could not succeed. Three wholly owned subsidiaries of Air India namely, Air India Air Transport Services Ltd (AIATSL), Air India engineering Services Ltd (AIESL) and Alliance Air Services Ltd (AASL) are being put on disinvestment list again.

AIATSL was formed with an aim to provide unified ground handling services (Ramp, Passenger & Baggage and Cargo Handling) at most of the airports in India under the brand name 'Air India Airport Services'. AIATSL is a market leader in India with a market share of 37%, with huge earning and profitability, apart from providing their services to Air India at subsidised prices.

AIESL is the biggest maintenance, repair and operation (MRO) set-up in India that serves as One-Stop-Shop for all engineering requirements of Air India. AIESL has highly sophisticated equipment with technical staff which has hands on experience. AIESL services all of the Air India aircrafts. Also, it has various international and domestic approvals from various bodies such as DGCA, DAA, EASA and ICAO. It has very large off sets provided by international aircraft manufacturing companies which are not reflected in books of the company.

AASL operates air services to 49 destinations with a fleet of 14 ATR 72-600 (70 Seater) and 2 ATR 42-320 (48 Seater) aircrafts. Flights are operated mostly to Tier-2 and Tier-3 Cities or those which link these cities to the metro hubs. Alliance Air is backbone of Government's flagship programme "UDAAN" scheme as it provides last mile connectivity to passengers at cheaper fares.

The survival of Air India, which is on turnaround path at this stage, depends on these three subsidiary companies. The Government has revived its plans to sell these three profit making Wholly Owned Subsidiaries (WOS) of Air India as strategic disinvestment. This move will not only result in creating further and deeper problems for Air India but also result in strategic engineering services, material handling services at air ports and air services to connect remote parts of the country under UDAAN scheme to jeopardy.

Similarly, in the case of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), its profitable activities of broadband services and tower assets are being hived off as separate subsidiaries namely Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited and BSNL Tower Corp. Ltd. and there are plans to sell these under 'strategic sale' mechanism. Sale of these companies may fetch few crores to the Government but make BSNL bleed further.

Similar issues are there in other strategic disinvestment proposals.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) firmly believe that the Government should give a rethink to their recent proposals of disinvestment of 92 CPSEs as suggested by NITI Aayog.

SJM further strongly urges upon the Government not to go ahead with its plan to disinvest these strategically important subsidiaries of Air India and rather support them to further expand their businesses by claiming back their businesses given to private parties earlier for example ground handling business of key airports given to AISATS, a Singapore funded company during UPA regime.

Sh. Satish Kumar (Rashtreeya Vichar Vibhag Pramukh) has given some suggestions regarding the Vichar Varga, ensure the number of delegates, sending letters to the prominent people, book exhibition, selling books. Calling experts from the respective fields of identified and encourage women and youth participation in vichar vargas. Ensure attendance in the brief report of the Varga and sending registration fees to the Central Office of SJM. Also suggested that, it is not necessary to invite the experts from the Central Committee, you can manage in your local experts on respective fields of subjects.

In this regard Sh. Arun Ojha invited suggestions from participant members. Sh. Kamaljeet (Delhi), Sh. Ramesh Dave (Maharashtra), Sh. Pradeep from Karnataka, Sh. Mahesh Navhal, Sh. Rajendra Sharma from Rajasthan, Dr. Ashwini Mahajan from Delhi made their suggestions in this regard.

Special lecture:

1. **Dr. Vinay Singh**, Aarogya Bharati presented detailed information on solutions to different diseases based on Bharatiya values.

2. **Professor Pradeep Apte**, Dr. Gokhale Institute Pune, 13th Finance Commission member told about the growth in primary sector agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, etc. and growth in financial sector manufacturing and further extension of service sector. He also stressed on utilization of resources, FDI and Water Crisis in near future.

3. Sh. Saroj Mitra said clearly on the relationship of the SJM with the government that it will be

based on the Responsible Corporation. He said that it will not be right to accept the government and the nation is as the one. The SJM will as usual be logical and responsive in nature. Society's observations are going towards acceptance, to carry out the historical role of SJM.

In this open discussion Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Singh (Bihar), Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh (Jharkhand), Dr. Vijay Singh Prayag, Sh. Mahesh Panwer (Chhattisgarh), Sh. Yashovardhan Tripathi (Uttar Pradesh), Sh. Anjani Kumar Singh (Bihar), Sh. Suresh Saini (Jaipur), Sh. Ketan Dasha (Orissa) etc. were took active discussion.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan delivered a lecture to give awareness on updated issues of Trade Agreements, PepsiCo Case, illegal farming of Gujarat, Bt Brinjal Haryana, GM crops, current status of public health, e-commerce, WTO, the status of RCEP as an immediate challenge.

Passed resolutions

1. **"Bharat should be called as Bharat not as India"**. Reading and passing this proposal is done by Sh. Satish Kumar.

2. **"Appropriate time for policy changes in the economic direction at this time"**. Proposal done by Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma.

3. **"Need for reconsideration of the disinvestment policy has been proposed"** by Shri. Anil Sharma (C.A.) and Dr. Ashwani Mahajan.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agrawal presented a detailed information on Intellectual Property Rights. He said



that, even though we claim to be the world's biggest economy, but according to per capita GDP we are very poor; in Hanuman Development Index we are at 129 place; in Innovation Index we are at 59th rank. We have been facing the trade deficit since 1991. We have to change our development paradigm.

Organizational works and Sh. Dattopant Tengdi ji Centenary Celebrations:

Sh. Kashmiri Lal explained the doable works to be done to all states. He has stressed on '7P's. — 1. Patrak; 2. Patrika; 3. Prachar; 4. Pradarshan; 5. Prabhod; 6. Paisa Sangrahan; 7. Pravas for all karyakartas of SJM.

He said that Sh. Tengdi Ji's centenary celebrations will start from 10th November 2019 to 10th November 2020. Presently our SJM has outreach in 375 Districts in the country and it has to be increased upto 500 districts. So, we can celebrate Shri. Tengdi ji's Birth Anniversary in 500 Districts. He suggested all Karyakartas to read Shri. Tengdi's literature and listen to his lectures available on YouTube. Suggested to read Shri. Dharmpal's literature.

A committee has been set up at the national level for organizing the birth centenary of Tengdi ji. Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh will be comprising the Birth Celebrations Committee at National Level. On behalf of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, Sh. Satish Kumar is in its organizing committee. He suggested to form a committee in all the States for grand success of the Centenary Birth Anniversary of Shri. Tengdi ji.

In the centenary year, there will be two subjects to be discussed i.e., 1. The concept of a nation; 2. The

concept development.

Sh. Kashmiri Lal pointed out key issues of the concept of development. 1. Removal of Poverty; 2. Creation of Employment; 3. Environment Friendly; 4. Dharmnukul; 5. Decentralised System.

In this open discussion Sh. Ranjit Singh, Sh. Yogannand Kale, Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma, Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh, Dr. Ashwini Mahajan, etc were participated.

New appointments

- **Uttarakhand** - Sh. Praveen Purohit and Mr. Prince Yadav National Council Members.
- **Karnataka** - Sh. Girish Nilgund, National Council Member.
- **Vidarbha** - Sh. Jayant Dinkar Rao Deshpande, National Council Member

Upcoming Events

- **14th Rashtriya Sabha** will be held on 28th, 29th and 30th November and 1st December 2019 at Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

Others

Sh. Bhagaiah ji (Sah-sar Karyavah, Rashtriya Swayamsevak) has participated on 9th June from 7:30 am to 9:00 am in National Council Meeting. He had a meeting with core committee of National Council Meeting then after, he has participated in one session of SJM council meeting.

Conclusion

National Council Meeting was held in healthy and cooperative atmosphere at Pune. All our karyakartas were re-energized for future activities on various subjects. □□

Data localisation must stay in e-commerce rules: SJM

The Centre should retain its e-commerce norms on storing data locally, Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has said. SJM's letter to the government coincided with the visit of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is expected to reiterate Washington's position that New Delhi should not insist that e-commerce data be stored within India. SJM, however, favoured the US line against allowing Huawei for 5G deployment in India. In a 16-point note, detailing its comments and suggestions on the draft e-commerce policy to the commerce ministry, SJM objected to any attempt to remove data localisation clauses from the policy, ET has learnt. There were news reports that the e-commerce policy may not deal with data storage as the proposed data protection bill would deal with it comprehensively.

"Reference to 'data' should not be eliminated from the policy on the ground that the same will be defined and explained in the proposed personal data protection bill, 2018. Personal data and commerce are directly and closely linked to each other," the SJM note said. SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan also tweeted on Wednesday, tagging commerce minister Piyush Goyal: "Dear @PiyushGoyalji this has been reported 'Piyush Goyal has decided to keep data localisation norms out of the final policy, leaving...' is this correct? Do you think MEITY can handle issues like commercial data, beyond privacy?"

The SJM note emphasised that the policy should provide for "location of data servers in India, prohibit use of sensitive personal data (including genetic and health data) and restrict personal data (including financial data) for business purposes by the entity or its associates." Cross-border transfer of data should be prohibited, SJM said. The US has sought softening of stance on data localisation and is pitching data flow across borders.

"Bringing in Huawei will give it access to the entire telecom network and data of the country. The 'back door' pact is meaningless. What sanctity or guarantee does such an instrument have," asked Mahajan while talking to ET. Huawei has offered to sign a 'no-backdoor agreement', which will stipulate that it will not allow any snooping on its network or transferring data.

"This must be viewed in the long term, with the

country's security and economy in mind. We are not against 5G or new technology, but will we just keep importing or try to build capacity in the country? If you import 5G technology now, our domestic industry will be out of it for the next 15-20 years. China is expansionist in nature and this is part of its many moves to exercise some control over India. We must never allow it," he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/data-localisation-must-stay-in-e-commerce-rules-swadeshi-jagran-manch/articleshow/69966996.cms>

SJM opposes Centre's disinvestment plan, Air India strategic sale proposal

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) has strongly opposed the plans of the central government to disinvest public sector airline, Air India. The two day National Council meeting of SJM that ended on June 9 in Pune has resolved to urge the government to not go ahead with its plan to disinvest the subsidiaries of Air India. Instead, it wants the government to claim back the businesses of Air India subsidiaries given to private parties during the UPA regime and support them to further expand their businesses.

SJM points out that Air India, though making losses for several years, has substantially high intangible assets in the shape of international parking slots earned over the period due to diplomatic relationship with some of the important countries. It has a very big pool of highly qualified engineers as part of its work force too. Earlier attempts to disinvest these assets by strategic sale couldn't succeed due to public pressure including that of SJM, it notes. The group alleges that three wholly-owned subsidiaries of Air India, Air India Air Transport Services Ltd (AIATSL), Air India engineering Services Ltd (AIESL) and Alliance Air Services Ltd (AASL) are once again on disinvestment list.



AIATSL was formed with an aim to provide unified ground handling services (Ramp, Passenger and Baggage and Cargo Handling) at most of the airports in India under the brand name 'Air India Airport Services'. AIATSL is a market leader in India with a market share of 37 per cent, with huge earning and profitability, apart from providing their services to Air India at subsidised prices, SJM points out.

Similarly, the group terms AIESL as the biggest maintenance, repair and operation (MRO) set-up in India that serves as One-Stop-Shop for all engineering requirements of Air India. "AIESL has highly sophisticated equipment with technical staff which has hands-on experience. AIESL services all of the Air India aircrafts. Also, it has various international and domestic approvals from various bodies such as DGCA, DAA, EASA and ICAO. It has very large off sets provided by international aircraft manufacturing companies which are not reflected in books of the company," SJM resolution states.

On AASL, the group states that with operations of air services to 49 destinations with a fleet of 14 ATR 72-600 (70 Seater) and 2 ATR 42-320 (48 Seater) aircrafts and flights operated mostly to Tier-2 and Tier-3 Cities, Alliance Air is backbone of Government's flagship programme "UDAAN" scheme.

"The survival of Air India, which is on turnaround path at this stage, depends on these three subsidiary companies. The government has revived its plans to sell these three profit-making Wholly Owned Subsidiaries (WOS) of Air India as strategic disinvestment. This move will not only result in creating further and deeper problems for Air India but also result in strategic engineering services, material handling services at air ports and air services to connect remote parts of the country under UDAAN scheme to jeopardy," the SJM says. SJM has urged the government to rethink their recent proposals of disinvestment of 92 CPSEs, as suggested by NITI Aayog.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/aviation/rvs-affiliate-swadeshi-jagran-manch-opposes-centre-disinvestment-plan-air-india-strategic-sale-proposal/story/355141.html>

SJM urges India to ignore US H-1B visa curb threat, go ahead with data localisation plans

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has urged the Modi government to not bulge under the reported plans of the United States to put a 15 per cent cap on H-1B work visas for nations that force foreign



companies to store digital data locally.

Commenting on the reported move, Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM said that the government needs to ignore the pressure tactics that are going in the name of H-1B visa. "These are all blackmailing tactics and even if that happens, that is going to be momentary because they (US) need us more than we (India) need them," Mahajan says.

It is known that of the 85,000 H-1B work visas that are issued every year by the US government, almost 70 per cent are granted to Indian IT professionals. Mahajan said that even at the cost of these visas, India should stick to its plans to enforce data localisation requirement. "Even if it comes to the worst, we will have to protect the interests of our people, the interests of millions of our startups that are willing to come into the e-commerce sector if we are able to provide a level playing field," Mahajan points out.

Referring to recent discussions Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had with representatives of IT firms and domestic retailers over the draft e-commerce policy, Mahajan said that even though not every retailer understands the importance of data localisation, Indian startups in e-commerce do. "We have told the government that for a level playing field, we need to have localisation of data. Why should Facebook and Google and others have more access to the data than small entrepreneurs? Whenever you talk about this, there will be arguments in one or the other direction, but it's not that arguments only on one side will be listened to," he said. According to Mahajan, data localisation is very important for Indian economy and the whole ecosystem of e-commerce depends upon the data. "I don't think the department of IT can understand the importance of commercial data. They will talk only in terms of information technology, so this thing has to be understood by the Commerce minister and the government. We will again raise this

issue and we will keep on raising this issue,” he adds.

The US plans are known to be driven by global e-commerce firms that are lobbying hard against data localisation rules around the world.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/swadeshi-jagran-manch-urges-india-to-ignore-us-ftb-risa-curb-threat-go-ahead-with-data-localisation-plans/story/357590.html>

Walmart-Bharti JV obtained licences by making improper payments: US SEC

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission has observed that Walmart’s earlier joint venture retail operations in India, with Bharti Enterprises, routed improper payments to government officials through third-party intermediaries to obtain store operating permits and licences between 2009 and 2011. These improper payments were then recorded in the India joint venture’s books as “misc fees”, “miscellaneous”, “professional fees”, “incidental”, and “government fee”.

The SEC disclosed this while entering into an agreement with Walmart to settle allegations of bribery in India and other countries, including China, Brazil and Mexico, for \$282 million. Walmart had initially entered India through a joint venture with Sunil Mittal-backed Bharti Enterprises because FDI rules do not allow foreign players to own 100 per cent stake in a retail venture. Around November 2006, prior to the formation of the India joint venture, a Walmart real estate employee wrote to a Walmart executive that he had received a “wink and nod” when he “brought up transparency and clean transactions relative to the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act” with a Bharti employee.

“The India partner employee also admitted that “speed payments” were used in the past by India partner. Walmart did not sufficiently address the Walmart real estate employee’s warning prior to forming India joint venture,” the SEC said.

In or around August 2007, Walmart and Bharti executed franchise and joint venture agreements. Walmart tasked its partner with obtaining all licences, permits, certifications, and zoning for retail stores in India. Between March 2009 and January 2011, Walmart’s internal audit team in India conducted at least three reviews of the India business. “All of those reviews identified certain weaknesses in anti-corruption related internal accounting controls that required remediation, which were not immediately ad-



ressed,” the SEC said.

In July 2011, an anonymous source sent an email to Walmart executives alleging, among other things, that a couple of employees of the India venture were involved in a scheme to make improper payments to government officials to obtain store-operating permits and licences. Although one executive requested that Walmart investigators examine the allegations, Walmart did not conduct an inquiry at that time. “Despite the audit reports discussing control deficiencies and the anonymous email alleging improper payments to government officials, Walmart did not begin to implement and maintain a system of sufficient internal accounting controls related to anti-corruption to address corruption concerns in India until... around April 2011,” the SEC said.

Responding to the settlement, a Bharti spokesperson said, “As a responsible corporate, we have always been and remain compliant with all regulations and the laws of the land. Since we were neither involved nor aware of these proceedings, we would not be able to offer any comment.”

“We’re pleased to resolve this matter,” said Walmart President and CEO Doug McMillon. “We’ve enhanced our policies, procedures and systems and invested... resources globally into ethics and compliance, and now have a strong Global Anti-Corruption Compliance Programme.”

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/walmart-bharti-jv-obtained-licences-by-making-improper-payments-us-sec/article28102899.ece>

FSSAI to bring in new labelling norms for gluten-free products

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) plans to introduce new labelling norms



for gluten-free claims on products as well as address the issue of cross-contamination of such products with gluten-containing products during manufacturing.

In a guidance note for manufacturers and consumers on gluten-free foods, FSSAI said that it is in the process of adding labelling provisions for addressing the issues of cross contamination. Advising food manufacturers to avoid such cross contamination, it said that when a gluten-free product is manufactured in a plant where gluten-containing products are also manufactured, it should be declared on the label. It should read, "Processed in a plant where gluten containing products are manufactured".

The regulator reiterated that only foods that contain 20 mg gluten/kg or less can be labelled as gluten-free, as per its current standards.

"FSSAI is also in the process of removing the provisions relating to the standard of "Food specially processed to reduce gluten content to a level 20-100 mg/kg".... and 'Low Gluten and warning for low gluten' from its regulations," it added.

The regulator has said that packaged food manufacturers should establish separate storage and preparation areas for gluten-free and gluten-containing ingredients. It said that they "should have separate production areas and equipment with controlled air-flow between the two production areas," to reduce the potential for air-borne flour dust contamination.

The regulators said that hotels and restaurants are advised to keep gluten-free options at their outlets. The FSSAI said that consumers should be aware when seeking gluten-free options that "wheat-free" foods may contain grain such as rye and barley. It has advised consumers to check the label when buying gluten-free products and look for certification mark, ingredients, allergen warning among others.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/fssai-to-bring-in-new-labelling-norms-for-gluten-free-products/article28021124.ece>

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh to hold nationwide campaign against PSU divestment in September

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh said it will run a nationwide campaign against divestment of PSUs in the wake of Niti Aayog listing 92 state-owned companies for sell-off. "In the background of Niti Aayog listing 92 PSUs for disinvestment, a meeting of Public Sector National Coordination Committee of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) was held in Delhi," a BMS statement said.

The meeting decided to hold nationwide awareness programme on "Save Public Sector" during September 1-7.

Unit level meetings, dharna, processions etc will be conducted as part of the campaign. On November 15, a national convention of PSU employees will be held at Delhi. The convention will prepare a policy document on the role of PSUs in nation building, release a Charter of Demands of PSU workers and declare future agitation programme, it said. As a prelude of this, industry wise seminars, roundtable discussion of trade unions, management and experts will be conducted during July-August.



At national level, meetings will be held with policy makers and the government. Further, parliamentarians and other dignitaries will be contacted as a part of mass contact programme, it added. The coordination committee meeting was attended by the union representatives from coal, banking, insurance, steel sectors, among others. Union representatives from BSNL, MTNL, IOC, ONGC, FCI, NTPC, NHPC, and other PSUs were also present.

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<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/bharatiya-mazdoor-sangh-to-hold-nationwide-campaign-against-psu-divestment-in-september/article28063688.ece>

Swadeshi Activities
Rashtriya Vichar Varg (UP & UK)

28-30 June, 2019 (Sitapur, UP)

Pictorial Glimpses



Rashtriya Vichar Varg (Rajasthan)

14-16 June, 2019 (Abu Road, Sirohi, Raj.)



Mahila Sammelan (Ujjain, MP)



Swadeshi Activities

National Council Meeting

8-9 June, 2019 (Pune, Maharashtra)

Pictorial Glimpses



