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PM's visit to Russia

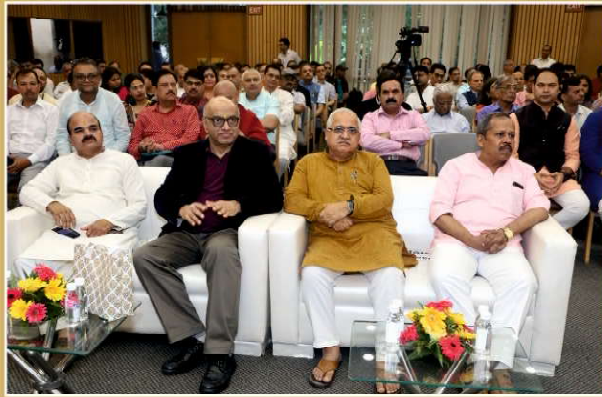
India First



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Swadeshi: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Pictorial Glimpses



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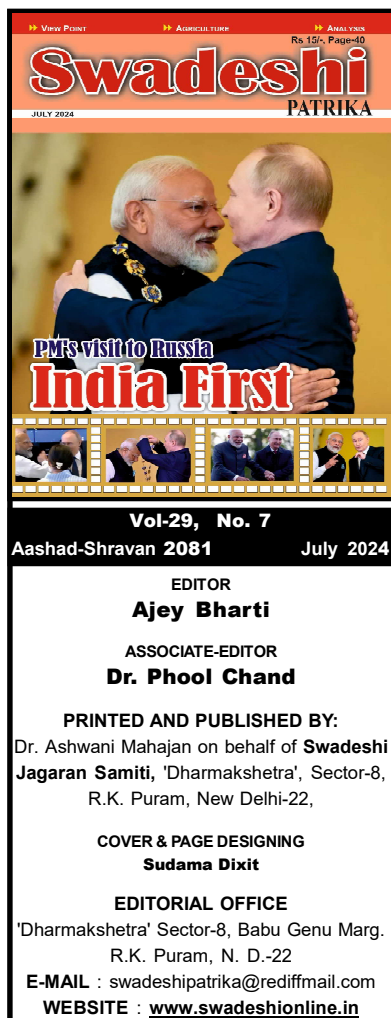


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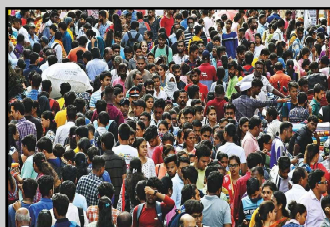
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Natural Farming: India's need

Since ancient times, India has been a country dominated by agriculture and entrepreneurship. The proof of which is obtained from our ancient texts, from which it becomes clear that agricultural work can be done even without using chemicals, which is called natural farming. Despite this, the farmers' dependence on chemicals has increased so much that it seems impossible for them to get a successful crop production by doing chemical-free farming. Due to which, today the use of fertilizers has increased so much, that the amount of the carbon content present in the soil is decreasing and the health of the soil is also deteriorating, as a result, crop production has also decreased.

Every year, the government has to bear the loss related to agricultural fertilizers. Because, fertilizers are used for agricultural purposes, so the government has to give special subsidy on fertilizers to the farmers, this amount has been determined in the financial year 2024-25 will be Rs 1.64 trillion. which has a direct impact on the government's financial funds and the farmers' land, there is a danger of the land becoming unfertile.

To avoid all these consequences, we should again adopt our old farming system, train the farmers, motivate them for doing cow based farming, it is the need of the people so that the land can be saved from becoming unfertile. Disadvantages of using fertilizers are such as soil erosion, decrease in soil fertility, emission of greenhouse gases, environmental pollution, water pollution, land pollution etc. can be reduced. In this area, non-government organizations are running campaigns across India like the Bhoomi Suposhan Avam Sanrakshan Jan Anavarat Abhiyan, as a result of which farmers are getting successful results in the natural farming area.

— Kishan Sharma, Delhi

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Quote-Unquote



There are two ways, I believe, to meet the challenge of protection and conservation of the environment; broader steps that can come from governments and international organizations, and smaller, local steps that we can take as citizens.

Droupadi Murmu, President, Bharat



The media is not a mute spectator of the conditions of the nations but plays a major role in changing them.

Narendra Modi, PM, Bharat



India is a young country and our challenge is to make global citizens of the 21st century would which is rapidly changing and being driven by technology. Ensuring an education system which is both rooted and futuristic is our collective responsibility.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Education Minister



"The govt. should continue with the PLI scheme, or, rather, extend it. Rising imports from China have wreaked havoc on the Indian industry. This can be corrected only by pushing for investments."

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

Plug IBC Delays to Optimise Recoveries

Prior to the 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' becoming law, there were nearly a dozen laws dealing with bankruptcy/insolvency and some of them were more than 100 years old. The Narendra Modi government enacted the Bill for Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, and the same is being considered a major economic reform.

According to the IBC, once a debtor goes bankrupt, his property could be easily taken over by creditors. It says that if 75% or more of the committee of creditors agree, action can be taken in 180 days from the date of admission of the application for such action (with 90 days' grace period, subject to the approval of the NCLT). If even then the debt is not paid the person/firm will be declared bankrupt/insolvent. Assumption of the IBC was that with the new law in place, delays in recovery of loans and associated losses would automatically come to an end.

When an economic unit becomes bankrupt, it is unable to repay its debts and clear liabilities. However, lack of clarity in law makes it difficult to deal with such situations. In these circumstances, not only are creditors put to heavy loss, even the unit which goes bankrupt has to undergo huge agony. Though, IBC can't be termed as a failure, but the fact is that there is a gap between its stated expectations and the experience on the ground.

According to RBI Governor, since the inception of IBC, till January 2024, 7,058 corporate debtors have been admitted into the CIRP, of which 5,057 cases have been closed and 2,001 corporate debtors are under various stages of resolution. Of the cases which have been closed, around 16% yielded successful resolution plans; 19% have been withdrawn under Section 12A of IBC, where largely the debtors agreed for full or partial settlement with the creditors; 21% were closed on appeal or review; and in 44% of the cases, liquidation orders have been passed.

However, when we go into the details of those 2001 cases, which are under different stages of resolution, we see that as on September 2023, 67% of the ongoing CIRP cases had already crossed the total timeline of 270 days including possible extension period of 90 days. More concerning is the fact that, the average time taken for admission of a case during financial years, 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 stood at 468 days and 650 days respectively. There could be various reasons for delay in disposing appeals filed by financial creditors. One of this is that many a times courts get into the commercial aspects of the transaction.

Such long degree of delays is likely to substantially erode the value of the assets, and therefore causing huge loss to the creditors and thereby, defeating the very purpose of the IBC. This also makes it increasingly difficult to attract potential buyers coming forward. A recent report of the Standing Committee on Finance (2020- 2021) identifies two key stages where most delays occur in a corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP):

First, admission of an application for initiating CIRP; and Second, approval of resolution plan by the NCLT.

Regarding, admission of an application for initiation of CIRP, sometimes, disagreements among stakeholders, also cause delays. The law says that if 75% or more of the CoC agrees, then the CoC may take certain actions during the process of resolution. But many times, creditors and other stakeholders can't agree on a resolution plan and it can hold up the process.

Disputes between various stakeholders involved in the insolvency process, such as creditors, debtors, and potential buyers, can lead to lengthy court battles and delays.

The major problems faced in finding resolution in cases of insolvency and bankruptcy are related to systemic inefficiencies stemming from the shortage of staff to cumbersome points of law, related to processes and procedures, which is used by scrupulous and wilful defaulters to delay the resolution.

Though, by now Supreme Court has resolved several basic questions pertaining to the legality of IBC, but those issues keep emerging from time to time. While the jurisprudence on any important piece of legislation like IBC will keep evolving, courts need to take up this task of avoiding undue delays.

PM's visit to Russia: India First

Among the recent foreign visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the one that grabbed the most headlines was his two-day trip to Russia. It created a different kind of stir in the Western world. The United States and European countries are feeling an unprecedented unease due to the deepening relations between New Delhi and Moscow. They wonder whether India's purchase of oil from Russia means that Delhi is indirectly funding Moscow for the Ukraine war. It is also being said that Russia will become an even more important partner of India in the defence sector. These countries are worried that such a development will affect their economic and strategic strength.

The deep and long-standing relations between India and Russia are known universally. There was a time when the US and Europe used to side with India's adversaries at international forums and Soviet Russia used to stand firm as Delhi's friend. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, Russia continued to remain a superpower even in a unipolar global scenario. However, India's trade relations with Russia were largely limited to the purchase of defence equipment.

Scenario changed with the Ukraine war

When Ukraine increased its proximity to NATO under the influence of European countries, Russia reacted violently. Moscow found it a threat to its border security, and a phase of more intense armed conflict started since February 2022. Ukraine is weak in front of the mighty Russia and has suffered heavy losses in this war. The US and Europe did not directly participate in the war but provided Ukraine with all kinds of military and other types of help.

Since a direct war with Russia could have dire consequences, the US im-



If the West really wants to end the war, it should come forward and facilitate peace by entrusting faith in India to mediate.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



posed many types of sanctions on it to cause economic damage. These included Russia's exclusion from the international payment system 'SWIFT', adverse treatment with countries buying goods from the country, forcible seizure of Moscow's foreign exchange reserves with the US Federal Reserve System, and many other steps.

Due to the change in global economic conditions after the Ukraine conflict and targeted efforts by India in this direction, Delhi has now started transactions in rupees with more than 20 countries. Thanks to all these changes, the dominance of the US and its dollar has started diminishing. Against the background of all these changes, the close relations between India and Russia played an important role.

Large quantities of oil purchased from Russia

Due to US and European sanctions, Russia, whose economy was largely dependent on the export of petroleum, reduced the price of its oil significantly to attract countries outside the Western bloc. In such a situation, India increased the purchase of oil from the country to a great extent. It benefitted hugely. Dependent on the rest of the world for nearly 70 per cent of its petroleum crude requirements, India started getting Russian oil at a price almost 40 per cent lower. In the process, it saved billions of dollars. Moreover, since Russia was ready to trade in local currencies, India could save its dollar reserves, as payment for the oil was being made in rupees. With this rupee settlement, international trade got a boost, which was a big relief to India.

The reality is that India is paying Russia not in dollars but in rupees, and since Moscow is out of SWIFT, it cannot convert these rupees into dollars. In such a situation, all this money is lying in the Indian accounts of Russian oil companies. Yes, India is definitely benefiting from this because now, Russia will be investing the rupee reserve in India, whether it is infrastructure or stock market.

The West has to understand that now, time has changed. India has become stronger both economically and strategically. Today, it is self-reliant — to a large extent — for defence goods. It also exports many missiles, guns, and rifles globally. In such a situation, India is competing with established players in defence production. Today, despite America's threats, it is adopting an independent foreign policy, buying oil in large quantities from Russia, and making payments in rupees. Many more countries are also now slowly dumping the US dollar. Due to the digitalisation of payments, today, India is not afraid of American sanctions like exclusion from SWIFT.

India still imports 45 per cent of its total defence goods and 40 per cent of its oil from Russia. The West's allegation that India is buying oil from Russia and therefore indirectly funding the Ukraine war is meaningless, if not ridiculous. The reality is that India is paying Russia not in dollars but in rupees, and since Moscow is out of SWIFT, it cannot convert these rupees into dollars. In such a situation, all this money is lying in the Indian accounts of Russian oil companies. Yes, India is definitely benefiting from this because now,

Russia will be investing the rupee reserve in India, whether it is infrastructure or stock market.

Western countries also have to understand that since India is fulfilling 40 per cent of its requirement by buying oil from Russia and getting it cheap, the demand for oil in the rest of the world is decreasing. That is why European countries are also getting cheaper oil. Therefore, Western countries are also getting indirect benefits from India's oil imports.

India is a true peacemaker

The PM said in the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin that this is not the time for war. India has repeatedly said that the war must end. Due to the lack of trust between Ukraine and Russia, very few countries can mediate between the two. If the West really wants to end the war, it should come forward and facilitate peace by entrusting faith in India to mediate. Now the time has come for all the countries of the world to rise above their narrow geopolitical interests and come forward to persuade India to find a lasting solution to this war. Instead of questioning Modi's visit to Russia and raising doubts, the West should have made use of his visit to bring back peace in the region. □□

June 26, 2024:

Golden Jubilee of the Blackest Day

Rahul Gandhi was waving the Constitution of India as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was taking oath as member of the 18th Lok Sabha on June 24. Rahul was a five-year six-day baby when his grandmother and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared Emergency 50 years back on the midnight of June 25/26 to smoke out the Constitution, snuff out all freedom and terrify the nation into submission. Here is a snapshot of what happened on and after that blackest day half a century ago.

1975 June 25/26 midnight

On June 25 midnight, Indira tore and binned the very Constitution her grandson Rahul holds out now, arrested all Opposition, even dissenting leaders in her own party, cut off electricity to newspapers to prevent the people from knowing the news of the arrests. Jayaprakash Narayan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Morarji Desai, Charan Singh, Madhu Dandavate, L K Advani and others were arrested under the infamous MISA intended for anti-nationals and anti-socials.

On June 26 morning, she called the cabinet whose approval was mandatory to declare Emergency, informed them that Emergency had been imposed and asked them to ratify it. The terrified and corrupt cabinet succumbed. Thus began the horrendous dictatorship of her family for 21 months till March 1977. In that period, she turned the IAS, IPS, IFS officers into a bunch of slaves, arrested and cut advertisement and made the media other than the Indian Express and the Statesman crawl before her, and terrified judges of the Supreme Court into submission.

The frightful Emergency continued till Indira was shockingly thrown out of power in an anti-climax of an election, which she had called miscalculating she would win. But alas her party lost and so did she and her son Sanjay Gandhi who ran the autocratic government.



*Three generations
of Indians who
grew later
remained
illiterates about
the very fact of
Emergency and
about how
Constitution
ceased to exist
and autocracy was
institutionalised
by it.*

S. Gurumurthy

3 generations of illiterates — including Rahul's

How Indira institutionalised dictatorship by perverting the Constitution, subverting Parliament, coercing the media and subordinating the judiciary would have been the subject of study, awareness and caveat for the future of Indian democracy. Also how the darkness of the very Emergency she had imposed made her believe only what her courtiers said and emboldened her to call elections that she lost, too, is a warning for dictators. But that entire and educative story of the Emergency was suppressed from the nation when the very perpetrators of the national crime, the Congress, rode back to power in 1980 and ruled for almost the next two decades.

All records, including the Justice Shah Commission report on the Emergency crime against the nation were done away with when Indira Gandhi, decisively defeated by the people in 1977, equally decisively came back to power in 1980. The Shah Commission report was recovered after four decades by DMK leader

Era Sezhiyan who fought Emergency in Parliament. He republished it in 2010 with the title, Shah Commission Report — Lost and Regained, and got it released in Chennai by BJP leader L K Advani, who was in jail during the entire 18-month Emergency.

Three generations of Indians who grew later remained illiterates about the very fact of Emergency and about how Constitution ceased to exist and autocracy was institutionalised by it. That Rahul, who belongs to the first of the three illiterate generations, too, is illiterate about the Emergency imposed by his grandmother is therefore no surprise. And now, why the Emergency?

Emergency — to pave way for dictatorship

Why did all the crimes against the Constitution, nation and the now celebrated human rights that began on that fateful night of June 25/26, 1975 happen? It was no sudden development. For a year before, a massive anti-corruption movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan was shaking the country and Indira's party and government. Six months before Emergency, on December 31, in his diary Indira's Joint Secretary in the PMO had written: "I am filled with foreboding...a crisis is building up...The main cause of the crisis is the PM...she is completely lacking in tolerance... She is not at all interested in the values which her father had done so much to foster.

Nor is she deeply acquainted with our Constitutional framework of our country...she will not relinquish power regardless of what happens. In brief, the PM is only concerned with her power and rule. Such persons tend rapidly towards fascism. They have no reservations

about becoming dictators." This insider's prophesy that Indira would turn a fascist and dictator came true six months later on June 25/26.

Even as the JP campaign supported by the Indian Express and its Chairman Ramnath Goenka was delegitimising Indira on June 12, the Allahabad High Court declared her election marred by corrupt practices as null and void and unseated her from Parliament. Following her appeal, the Supreme Court on June 24 granted stay on the High Court order but on the condition that she can't speak or vote in Parliament. A Prime Minister without vote and voice in Parliament? The Opposition held a massive rally on 25th June demanding her resignation. This set the stage for the midnight operation on 25/26. What is the consequence of the Emergency imposed on that midnight? Here is an unbelievable example.

"Government can kill — court is helpless"

Under the proclamation of Emergency on that fateful night, Indira suspended all fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 — freedom of speech, right to equality and also the right to life and liberty. As many as 1,11,000 people were placed under preventive detention by invoking MISA. After 11 different high courts ruled that detention is illegal if grounds are not disclosed, the matter came to the Supreme Court.

The central issue before the Supreme Court was whether the right to life, too, remained suspended during Emergency. Indira's Attorney General Niren De told the court that so long as the Emergency was in force, no citizen could move

the court to enforce the right to life and personal liberty. Justice H R Khanna confronted Niren De, asking whether, in view of his submissions, there would be any remedy "if a police officer because of personal enmity killed another man?" Without batting an eyelid, Niren De shamelessly said, "there would be no judicial remedy even in such a case — of murder — so long as the Emergency lasts." De further said, "It may shock your conscience, it shocks mine, but consistent with my submission, no proceedings can be taken in courts of law on that score."

For asking this question and dissenting against Emergency, H R Khanna was superseded by Indira Gandhi in the appointment of the Chief Justice of India. Even as Khanna condemned the Emergency, one judge shamelessly praised the Emergency as the vision for "diamond-hard, diamond-bright future" for the country and another without shame asked what is the grouse when all arrested leaders were being well-looked after in jails with "maternal care". The Supreme Court bent and accepted the Indira government's position that during Emergency dictatorship, even if the government murdered an innocent, the courts would be helpless.

And the Congress government in Kerala did kill. It tortured and killed Rajan, an engineering student who protested against Emergency. Indira also amended the Defence of India Act to make internal disturbance a ground for imposing pre-censorship on newspapers and imposed pre-censorship. This is what is Emergency and dictatorship. Does Rahul, who cries for the Constitution today, know that this is what his party, his grandma did?

Laws to protect Indira, family

What Indira did on 25/26th night and later for 21 months was entirely to protect herself, her power and her family. She had handed the entire power over the party and the government to Sanjay Gandhi and his gang to rule the nation as an extra-constitutional authority, as the Shah Commission had found. Indira imposed Emergency on the fake ground that the JP movement was creating internal disturbances. There was not a single instance of violence in the JP movement. In fact, JP was sought to be killed by the Bihar Police. But Nanaji Deshmukh, who took the lathi blow on himself to save JP, had had his forearm fractured.

Indira imposed Emergency not to restore internal peace but to protect herself and her family. During Emergency, Indira amended the Constitution five times — 38th to 42nd amendments. Of which two amendments — 39th and 41st amendments were solely to save Indira from losing power and from being criminally charged even if she lost power. How the 39th Amendment was passed was a joke on Parliament and a mockery of democracy. The amendment was to protect Indira from being unseated by the Supreme Court by upholding the Allahabad High Court's verdict.

The retrospective amendment preempted the case before the Supreme Court by declaring that no election petition against a Prime Minister, Speaker, President or Vice President shall be heard by it, directing that it be heard by a Parliament committee instead. How was the 39th Constitutional Amendment passed? It was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7th August 1975 and passed on the same day. Taken to

the Rajya Sabha on the 8th and passed on the same day. On 9th August, a Saturday, it was passed by majority of the state legislatures.

And on Sunday, August 10, it was signed by the President. Why such breakneck speed? The Supreme Court was to hear Indira's election case the next day, on 11th August. The Supreme Court willingly obliged the Emergency regime by upholding the retrospective validation of Indira's election, which was declared null and void by the High Court. Emergency meant an atmosphere of terror in which even the Supreme Court was frightened and endorsed a retroactive law to protect the Prime Minister from losing power.

Does Rahul know this is what is meant by Emergency? Does such an atmosphere exist in India today? Now come to 41st Amendment. It prescribed that no civil or criminal proceedings can be taken by anyone against the Prime Minister, President or Governor during his/her term in office and even after ceasing to be in office! That is lifelong pardon! This was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 11 and passed on that very day.

42nd Amendment – Constitution can be repealed!

The most frightening act of Indira during Emergency was the 42nd Amendment, which was intended to perpetuate dictatorship. It completely defaced and defiled the Constitution. It said no amendment to the Constitution could be questioned in courts; that fundamental rights could be amended — which means done away with — and the courts cannot interfere; that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is unlimited “by way of addition, variation or repeal”,

that is Constitution can be totally done away with; that courts cannot disqualify MPs for corrupt practices; that High Courts cannot sit in judgment over the constitutionality of central laws; that unlawful associations can be banned and the courts cannot interfere.

This meant that political parties could be declared unlawful and banned — leading to one party, the Congress, rule forever. The 42nd Amendment was passed by Parliament and the President assented to it on December 17, 1976. The date is critically important. This set the stage for Indira's decision a month later, on January 19, 1977 to hold general elections without lifting Emergency. Indira was confident she would win the elections and after her victory, the 42nd Amendment she had passed would institutionalise her family-run party dictatorship forever.

Has Rahul or Sonia who are crying for the Constitution and freedom today ever read the 42nd Amendment Indira had passed to perpetuate her family autocracy?

Fortunately, the ordinary people of India massively voted the Emergency regime out and saved our democracy. The Janata Party which came to power repealed all amendments passed by Indira's Emergency regime and restored the pre-Emergency Constitution. It is that Constitution Rahul is holding in his hands today. Not the destroyed Constitution passed by his grandma. Does Rahul know that? Till today he or his mother hasn't expressed any remorse for the destruction of the Constitution then. He remains blissfully illiterate. Why only Rahul, the entire national discourse is illiterate about Emergency today. □□

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/columns/s-gurumurthy/2024/Jan/26/june-26-2024-golden-jubilee-of-the-blackest-day>

Unlocking the treasure house: Bharatiya Diaspora- Need for Brain Gain



We have world class scientists, Economists, technocrats, Industrialists and experts in almost every field be it software, artificial intelligence and also the innovators who can drive the Indian Economy most efficiently to become a developed nation even before, 2047.
Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal

Bhartiya living abroad has two types: NRIs who have settled down seeking jobs and Persons of Indian (PIOs) origins or overseas citizens of India (OCIs) who are living in almost all the countries around the world for more than two centuries and are mostly engaged in different business. According to latest study of Ministry of external affairs (MEA), there are about 13.6million NRIs and about 18.6 million PIOs or roughly 32.2 million or more than 3 crores and with a presence in 189 countries, the Bhartiya Diaspora produces an annual economic income of about \$400 billion, almost 13 percent of India's GDP (MEA), 31 Oct 2023. Every year around 2.5 million Indians migrate overseas, which is the highest figure recorded in the World Migration Report 2022. There are some **Push factors** such as lack of opportunities for research work and lower job opportunities, lower wages and there are some **Pull factors** such as better job opportunities and higher wages and better opportunities for creativity and further research and innovation.

Present Status of the Indian Diaspora:

1. Size and Distribution: The countries with the largest NRI populations tend to be those with strong economies and opportunities for skilled professionals. These include:

- United States: 4.8 million (white collar professions majorly)
- United Arab Emirates: 3.5 million (blue collar professions majorly)
- Malaysia: 2.8 million
- Saudi Arabia: 2.5 million
- United Kingdom: 1.8 million



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is a celebratory day observed (starting in 2003) on 9 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community towards the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

PBD significantly impacts India economically through:

- **Remittances:** It encourages and facilitates significant financial flows, consolidating India's position as a top remittance-receiving nation globally.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** PBD boosts FDI from NRIs by showcasing investment opportunities and simplifying regulatory processes.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** It facilitates the exchange of skills, technology, and best practices from NRIs to Indian institutions and businesses, enhancing developmental efforts.

Today when we are planning for Vikasit Bharat@2047, a question triggers in our mind about our rich Human Resource and the brain drain which have been happening in an unrestricted manners for years together and we are unable to take advantage of our own research and creativity. Should we not look for Brain Gain and restrain the Brain drain and particularly so when the scientific research, technology and innovation are the basic tenets of the economic growth in the present era of knowledge. Human Resource and intellectual resource contribute 64 percent of the economic resources as against 16 percent of the capital resource and 20 percent of the natural resources. In USA and in Europe, the

Today when we are planning for Vikasit Bharat@2047, a question triggers in our mind about our rich Human Resource and the brain drain which have been happening in an unrestricted manners for years together and we are unable to take advantage of our own research and creativity.

contribution of intellectual property in the form of royalty from Patented technology, copy rights, industrial designs and trade mark is more than 33 percent in their GDP or the national income. These countries also spend more than 2 percent of their GDP in advanced research in the field of Automobiles, electronics, artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals and several other technologies.

Our own NRI and PIOs or the Bhartiya Diaspora has lots of potentiality for economic contribution. At present the annual remittances in precious foreign exchange itself is US\$125 Billion in 2023 which is highest in the world and has been increasing constantly. It was 68.9 billion in 2015; 83.2 billion in 2020 and \$110 billion in 2022. However apart from the monetary contribution there is tremendous potential value for their brain power which is contributing to the growth of the host countries where they are living now and many of them are acting as lead-

ers and CEOs of mega sized MNCs. Some illustrations are given below:

Significant Contribution of Indian Diaspora on the Global Platter

Economics: Figures like Jagdish Bhagwati, Raghuram Rajan, and Abhijit Banerjee have shaped international trade theory, monetary policy, and poverty alleviation, respectively.

Business & Entrepreneurship: Leaders such as Satya Nadella (Microsoft), Sundar Pichai (Google), and venture capitalists like Vinod Khosla have driven innovation and global expansion, while entrepreneurs like Lakshmi Mittal and Sridhar Vembu have built multinational corporations and supported Indian startups.

Science & Technology: Nobel laureates like Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (chemistry) and pioneers in fields like biomedical engineering (Manu Prakash), sound technology (Amar Bose), and wireless communication (Arogyaswami J. Paulraj) have significantly advanced their respective fields.

Sridhar Vembu's return to India and co-founding of Zoho exemplifies "brain gain" as he leverages his international experience to establish a successful global software company in Chennai. His initiative includes expanding operations to rural India, promoting employment and fostering technological expertise. Through Zoho University, Vembu nurtures local talent, contributing to India's development by creating opportunities and empowering the next generation of skilled professionals.

Vinod Khosla's investment in Indian startups through Khosla Ventures also showcases "brain

gain” by leveraging his expertise in Silicon Valley to foster innovation in India. His focus on clean energy and artificial intelligence sectors aims to advance technological development and sustainable growth within the country. This initiative not only supports local entrepreneurship but also enhances India’s position in global innovation and economic leadership.

Overall, these individuals exemplify how the Indian diaspora has played a pivotal role in shaping global economics, business innovation, and technological advancement.

Apart from the ongoing talent outflow and brain drain, another emerging challenge is the migration of our entrepreneurs to other countries. The Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2024 highlights a concerning trend for India, with a projected net loss of

4,300 millionaires this year. Despite a slight decrease from the previous year’s figure of 5,100 departures, India continues to be a significant source of high-net-worth individual (HNWI) outflows globally. This migration trend is driven by factors such as geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainties, and social instability, posing challenges alongside the ongoing issue of talent outflow and brain drain from the country.

Conclusion

Therefore, to conclude it may be said that Bhartiya Diaspora is the hidden wealth which needs to be unlocked. We have world class scientists, Economists, technocrats, Industrialists and experts in almost every field be it software, artificial intelligence and also the innovators who can drive the Indian Economy most efficiently to become a developed nation even before,

2047. What we need is a proper focused policy framework just the way China did in early 1980s for unleashing the financial and technical strength of the ethnic Chinese. We need more Investment than deposits by our NRIs who should come with their technology and entrepreneurship dynamics. Government of India should spread a red carpet and remove all red tapes and provide a transparent and stable policy framework. This will have two way impact, firstly getting FDI’s from our own citizens which will enable make in India by Indians and secondly stop the flight of HNI millionaires from our country to the other countries. Brain drain will stop and Brain Gain will start pouring in. There will be inbound investment and stop or restrain outbound investment. □□

The Author is Director, Swadeshi Research Institute & National Co-Convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch.

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Contribution of Women for Samagra Vikas of the Nation



Development is necessarily a value addition process to Growth.

Development though is an ongoing process, needs efforts to provide value addition to the natural process of growth.

**Mahadevayya
Karadalli**

While talking, discussing about the country's economic prosperity we often use the words "Growth" & "Development" at par. As though it seems that they carry the same meaning. But there is a significant difference in the practical approach. Growth occurs naturally with passage of time. For example with the passage of years a baby child grows to adulthood, which is but natural and needs no much effort (rather than taking care of the baby body sustenance). In contrast, Development is necessarily a value addition process to Growth. Development though is an ongoing process, needs efforts to provide value addition to the natural process of growth. Providing the child food, cloth, health, education, shelter etc., which are essentials for his/her all round growth which includes physical, intellectual and mental growth is a live example for development.

On reviewing the life style of the western society it may be observed that their thought process and life style is limited to merely material growth and development. In other words, the process of growth and developments covers only the materialistic wants & needs. In contrast to this, the Bharatiya concept of growth and development of a child goes beyond materialistic aspects, i.e. beyond economic prosperity. In addition to material aspects, the spiritual wellbeing of the child is needed to ensure Samagra Vikas. Nearest meaning of Samagra Vikasa is comprehensive development which encompasses all aspects of a human life both material as well as spiritual aspects. Justice Dr M Rama Jois rightly put it in "Trivarga" i.e. earning artha to fulfil desires (the Kama) within the purview of Dharma.

Strong tradition of Family culture has been continuing over many millennia is the basis for Samagra Vikas. And women contribution is the main base for our strong and sustainable family culture.



A woman with multidimensional qualities would be able to lead the family and organize everything systematically, so that there would be either no waste or minimum waste. She would be also responsible for the comprehensive and constructive development. Women's self-help groups are a role model increasing their profits on amount invested, and thereby increasing repaying capacity.

Average Bharatiya, by nature, leads his life for his Family. Institutions such as, the society, the Village, the Taluk, the District and so on has their roots in the family. Thus Bharatiya thought Process of "Samagra Vikasa", naturally leads to the lofty concept of "Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu" and this is being practiced throughout life. Welfare of Individual lies within the welfare of Family, the Society, the State and the Nation. Member of a family works simultaneously for his personal welfare as well as family welfare, just as the mother earth revolves around the sun and also around herself.

Applying these principles to economic field, ours is a Positive and Saving Oriented economy based on family values. Bharatiyas create wealth to take care of present and future generations with nature friendly life style conducting his activities as the Trustee for the resources of mother earth. People endeavour to create assets, and services not at the cost of nature, (the mother of all of us) but to fulfil their present and future needs without harming anybody including mother nature.

Women, who constitute half of the country's population, have been the sustaining force of this concept of Samagra Vikasa of the

village to country since time immemorial. Contributions and participation of women in running the family, celebrating of festivals, continuing the traditional legacy is unique one. For westerns such type of works are unimaginable, laborious, almost impossible.

Bharatiya family system is commendable one. In which both Men and women function in a highly coordinated manner like two wheels of a single chariot. This can be compared with the perfectly synchronized, symphony which generates pleasing music, expressed in the kannada phrase "Samsaradalli Sarigamapada" (melodious music in family). This perfectly coordinated harmonious function is possible due to innate management capacity/skills within women. Her capacity and confidence in managing and handling the situation is commendable. Her working skills viz cooks at home, taking care of children, husband, elders, widows, unmarried, serving food according to one needs, reusing redistributing food/things without wasting, are the best examples for Women Contribution.

A woman with multidimensional qualities would be able to lead the family and organize everything systematically, so that there would be either no waste or min-

imum waste. She would be also responsible for the comprehensive and constructive development. Women's self-help groups are a role model increasing their profits on amount invested, and thereby increasing repaying capacity. Further, Women are working at par with Men are in governance, business, economy, and administration, showing similar levels of competence, productivity and at the same time are providing care, giving moral support and protection to the Family Members. The best and live example is handling COVID-19 situation. Women were in various profiles/duties such as Doctors, Nurses, Asha workers, Anganwadi workers, Sanitation Workers, Social Service Workers, etc., worked on par with men day and night sacrificing their individual life, family life to serve the patients.

For the overall socio economic development of Bharat, providing enabling environment to bring the best contribution out of women is very important. In this connection, educating women assumes great importance "Educating a man is just educating another man, but educating a women is like opening a school" says the Kannada proverb. The history of Bharat is rich with the shining examples of achievements and contributions of all types of women from ordinary to extraordinary.

"Yatra naryastu poojyante ramante tatra devata yatrautatastu na poojyante sarvastatra phala Kriya" Says Manu Smriti. (Meaning: Wherever women are treated with respect, their lives the Gods to bestow good results. Where the women are not respected, how can there be good results to any deed.)

Grihini Grihamuchyate (characteristic of Indian woman)

A beautiful samskrit subhashita (great saying) highlights the importance of women in a home.

*Nagriham Grihamityaburgribinei
Grihamuchyate
Grihantu Grihinibinamaranyasadrisham Bhavet*

Meaning: A house is not transformed to a home till the home maker (grihini - wife) declares it. A house without a housewife is like a forest.

A housewife in Kannada, Smaskrit and other languages is called the Yajamani i.e., the owner of the house. In a very true sense, women are the OWNER of the house. She works 24x7 works for the happiness of the family. She loves and cares for everyone. There is nothing in the home that is beyond her reach, beyond her emotional intelligence. Women is the Grihini, an ideal mother, wife, daughter, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, grandmother, maid, minister, doctor, guru, rescuer in times of danger and Jyoti (lamp) of the house. Home with Women- Grihini, is a happy family in real sense. 1000gms of Silver, Gold & Diamonds in the Bank Locker, Dozens of sites, large bed rooms, luxury equipment can never make a home. Only a home with a Grihini is a perfect home. Grihini can only perform multi-dimensional tasks like hospitality, respect to elders, love for younger, friendship among equals, solidarity, mutual consultation; adherence to the elder's decision is a perfect family. Hence, a woman is provided a higher stature in our society, by calling her as Grilahakshmi. She is the true Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth) of the house.

***A housewife in
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Women's multi-dimensional characters are, the companion, counsel like a minister, the mother one who carried, the one who nurtured, the one who leads life as a shadow of husband, the wife, pours out the flow of love, the pillar of the family and the relation bond between family members. "Nari" has an equal share in hardships and pleasures, pains and pleasures, for her children the mother is just a God on earth. Whether the husband is educated, rich or an officer, it is an open secret that no man can go beyond the words of his wife (many times she is less educated than the husband).

*"Karyeshu Dasi, Karaneshu Mantri,
Bhojeshu Mata Shayaneshu Rambha,
Kshamaye Dharitri, Rupeshu Lakshmi,
Satkarmayukta Kuldhadharma Patti"*

Meaning- A housewife is the Yajamani (mistress) of the household, a loyal worker while working, a good adviser and intimate counsellor like a minister to a king, while serving food, she is a mother. Rambha, (the apsara) at night, makes you wander in the wonderful world of romance and love. While forgiving mistakes she is like the Bhumata, Vishnu's wife Lak-

shmi. Dharma Patni (House Wife) be it in health or wealth, be in maintaining prosperity and peace, be in maintaining good deeds like kindness, charity morals and religion, she is always ahead of others. This auspicious Bharatiya woman is not only an icon for her ability, nature, business skills but also for the achievement of Purushartha i.e. Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha. She controls Artha & Kama the materialistic thoughts through practice of Dharma (the spiritualistic thought). Hence, Significant Contribution of women in Samagra Vikasa cannot be underestimated. A model to follow, paramount to all and living testimony is woman's multidimensional personality, author ship. Woman's contribution to the individual, the Society is an ideal model. Modern Indian women - a Samskaravanti Grihini (cultured women) - empowered with modern education, is making strides in every field of life outside the home. There is no field which is untouched by Bharatiya women, be it business, art, literature, sports, science, politics and also in sensitive fields like police and army. Women are shining in all fronts and have proved the age old kannada proverb "women are helpless and their intelligence is below the knee" etc. lost its relevance.

To summarize Samagra Vikasa (a comprehensive development,) of Indian society, a family and Social bond with clear goal, goal-oriented practice, special attention towards business ethics and social commitments, are necessary. Towards this goal, the contribution of women towards holistic Samagra Vikasa is to be recognized and respected.

[To be continued]

Fundamental Unity of Bharat - Kashmir Context - Abhinav Gupta's legacy



*As Superintendent
of Archaeological
survey of India
(1910 - 1929),
Mark Aurel Stein
contributed
immensely to
studies regarding
the knowledge
tradition of
Kashmir. Stein
foresaw the future
of Kashmir and
what would
happen to the
knowledge
tradition, cultural
remains and
identity.*
Vinod Johri

During 18th Lok Sabha election in April – May – June 2024 in seven phases, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah made promises on recovering Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir. Pakistan's survival depends on Kashmir in its illegal possession though people of Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir have been agitating for independence from Pakistan and now the movement has turned violent. The political solution with Pakistan looks impossible as Pakistan Government lacks sanctity and credibility within Pakistan itself. Moreover, it is easier said than done as according to the analysis and researches of Ex-Army Generals, it requires at least ten years of military preparedness to counter Pakistan and China who both occupy our lands. Kashmir is our pious cause, sensitive, the closest to our hearts and flash point of politics. Kashmir has become the most epochal and paramount source of research on ancient, medieval and modern history, religion, culture, foreign invasions, demographic changes, role of several countries and global organisations in Kashmir, domestic political movements and conflicts. There are untold miseries of people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in Bharat and also Pakistan even after illegal possession, as well as illegal transfer of our part of Kashmir and Ladakh to China. There are innumerable subjects of researches, documented chronology of events and woes of partition.

The call for plebiscite itself caused mass scale violence, demographic changes of population and mass exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from Kashmir to various parts of Bharat and also Kashmiri Muslims.

We have easy access to the books, documents, chronicles and articles in Bharat but whatever researched and written about Kashmir by foreign authors, is not readily accessible.

I have picked certain threads, quotes and facts from the books "*Cultural Terrorism – Conflicts and Debates on Cultural Pasts – B.S. Harishankar, (ISBN – 978 – 81 – 948127 – 4 – 6)*" and "*The Story of Kashmir Affairs & Sundry Topics – by Triloki Nath Dhar (Book published in 2013)- (ISBN No. 978-93-82792-37-6)*". It is honestly submitted that the facts have been reproduced from voluminous information based on their researches over several years.

Beyond the facts in this article, there is still lot to say on the nefarious conspiracies, personal ambitions and violent movements not just during partition but since centuries earlier.

Abhinav Gupta's legacy

Abhinav Gupta (940 – 1015 AD), authority on aesthetics, theatre and literary criticism, belonged to the Pratyabhijna School of Kashmir Shaivism. Shri Kanti Chandra Pandey (1983), who devoted himself to the study of Monistic shaivism of Kashmir and its greatest exponent, Abhinav Gupta, mentions fifty works of his versatile genius many of which are lost. Abhinav Gupta's works can be classi-

fied in four general categories – aesthetics, philosophy, Tantra and hymns. He had brilliant teachers such as Lakshman Gupta, Bhutiraja, Bhatta Tauta and Shambhunatha in grammar, poetry, logic, philosophy, esoteric ritual practice, yoga, art, music and aesthetics. Abhinav Gupta is one of the foremost aestheticians of the world, taking the Bharatiya aesthetics based on Shiva metaphysics and epistemology to the rare heights.

When Bharat celebrated Abhinav Gupta's 1000th anniversary, we are reminded of Sir Aurel Stein's observations on Kashmir. British archaeologist Mark Aurel Stein was famous for explorations and archaeological discoveries in Central Asia. As Superintendent of Archaeological survey of India (1910 – 1929), he contributed immensely to studies regarding the knowledge tradition of Kashmir. Stein foresaw the future of Kashmir and what would happen to the knowledge tradition, cultural remains and identity. As early as 1900, in the preface to translation of Kalhana's Rajatrangini, he cautioned, "Great are the changes which the last few decennia have brought over Kashmir, greater, perhaps than any which the country has experienced since the close of Hindu period. It is very easy to foresee that much of what is a value to the historical student will long before be destroyed and obliterated."

The tradition says, King Lalitaditya of Kashmir travelled to Madhya Pradesh in Bharat where he met the great Shaiva teacher, Atrigupta. After for some centuries Varsha Gupta was born in the House of Artipupta, Varshagupta had his son named Narasimhagupta, who was father to great Shaiv



Thus the movement of knowledge tradition from Kashmir to east coast of Bharat, three millennium back, expresses the integration of Bharat as a cultural entity.

acharya Abhinavgupta.

Abhinav Gupta has written at least sixty works. He had brilliant teachers in grammar, poetry, logic, philosophy, esoteric ritual practice, yoga, art, music and aesthetics. He earned fame and regard as one of the greatest teachers, writers and spiritual masters of his times. A Millennium later, he is acknowledged not just one of Bharat's colossal intellectuals but as one of the most accomplished writers, philosophers and aestheticians the world has ever known. Veteran scholar Christopher Wallis quotes Abhinav Gupta who wrote on Kashmir, "*saffron flowers scattered everywhere seem to make the earth into a garden for worship of the three Goddesses' and that centre of learning and literature where everyone is either a poet or a scholar where even warriors are eloquent*".

Previously the critics protested against Millennium celebrations of Abhinav Gupta, the versatile genius of Kashmir. The Sangh Parishad (RSS) celebrated Kashmir's philosopher (The Hindu December 14th 2015).

Truncating the concealing the long history of a brilliant knowledge tradition in Kashmir, they have carved out a new political identity for the region with their dubious agenda of disintegrating Bharat. The deeply embedded Hin-

du cultural outlook among the people of Kashmir has been narrated (1913) by the eastern and western disciples of Swami Vivekananda. When Swamiji and his disciples went to Kheer Bhawani temple in Kashmir, the Muslim boatman would not allow them to land in the temple premises wearing shoes. The eastern and western disciples of Swamiji further record Sister Nivedita's observation that "*the Mohammedanism of Kashmir is so thoroughly Hinduistic, with its forty rishis and pilgrimages made fasting to their Hindu shrines.*"

The present left secessionist lobbies who raise a new seven decade of old identity for Muslim majoritarian Kashmir, should understand how Jawaharlal Nehru (1946) emphasized in "Discovery of India" that "in Kashmir, a long-continued process of conversion to Islam, had resulted in 95% of population becoming Moslems, though they retained many of their old Hindu customs." Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru also mentioned that "*very large number of these people (Muslims) were anxious or willing to return en bloc to Hinduism*".

The active efforts since 1875 to understand Kashmir's submerged past have to be understood to contend and substantiate the identity of Kashmir in historical context. The patrons of ideological studies in

Kashmir include Maharaja Ranbir Singh, Maharaja Pratap Singh, Raja Amar Singh and Maharaja Hari Singh. Western scholars include George Buhler, Mark Aurel Stein, George Grierson, Dr. David B. Spooner, Prof. Stein Konow, Prof. Maurice Winternitz and John Marshall. The plethora of Kashmiri Pundits who assisted Indologists in unearthing the Hindu legacy of Kashmir include Prof. Nityanand Shastri, Pandit Govind Kaul, Pt. Damodar, Pt. Sahib Ram, Pandit Mukund Lal Sastri, Pandit Anand Kaul, Pt. Ishwar Kaul, Pt. Sahaj Bhat, and Prof. Jagdhar Zadoo.

Shri S.N. Pandita (2002) grandson of acclaimed Kashmiri scholar Pandit Nityanand Shastri observes that when George Buhler arrived in 1875 at Srinagar, he was assisted by Pt. Radhakrishnan, the first native of Kashmiri to allow Europeans to see his collection of manuscripts. The most important manuscript obtained by a Buhler was Birch bark manuscript Paipalada shakha of Atharv Veda. which reached Tubingen University and is acknowledged as the best Bharatiya manuscript in Germany. Professor Maurice Winternitz (1981) mentions the Kashmiri recension of Atharv Veda. Fritz Staal (2008) refers to Paipalada recension only from Odisha, available in manuscripts only from Kashmir. Thus the movement of knowledge tradition from Kashmir to east coast of Bharat, three millennium back, expresses the integration of Bharat as a cultural entity.

During the early Gupta period, Kashmir emerged as the apex centre of Buddhist studies. Classical age of Buddhist philosophy flowered in Kashmir with Sarvastivadin school pioneered by broth-

ers Asanga and Vasubandhu. The Sarvastivadin school of Buddhism, which adopted Sanskrit as media, flourished in Kashmir, Punjab and North West frontier.

The great Kusana monarch, Kanishka, was its patron in first century AD, and convened fourth Buddhist council in Kashmiri. Asanga taught Yogacara Cortana Vijnanavada school of Buddhism. The great Buddhist scholar, Ratnaprabha was sent from Tibet to Kashmir by his guru Jnanaprabha and returned as illustrious scholar in Sanskrit.

The Gilgit manuscripts on Buddhist Canons (600 AD) are the among the oldest manuscripts in the world, and cover a wide range of subjects from philosophy, medicine and rituals. They are in Sanskrit language, written in Gupta Brahmi and post Gupta Brahmi script.

Goddess Sharada is eulogised as “Kashmiri Puravasini” presiding deity of Kashmir. As a great centre of learning Sharda Peeth played a key role in development of Sharda script. The eighth century Advait philosopher, Adi Sankara, from Kerala, visited Sharda Peeth and provided an interface between two schools of Monism, the Vedanta school of Sankara and Kashmiri school of Shaiv Advait.

A thousand years after Abhinavgupta entered Bhairava cave with the disciples. Bharat had begun to appreciate the treasure trove of wisdom illuminated by this great acharya who gave us a priceless legacy.

It was unfortunate that moves are on to claim Bhairava caves associated with Abhinavgupta's samadhi as a Muslim heritage site. In 2016, Anjuman Mazharul Haq, representing Islamic outfit protested against holding Abhinav Sandesh yatra to

Bhairava cave in the memory of Abhinavgupta's millennium centenary, as according to revenue records, the Cave was used by Muslim Saint Mian Shah Sahab for prayers. National Front Chairman Naeem Khan termed Abhinav Sandesh yatra as a religious aggression on Kashmiris. Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani accused Abhinavgupta's millennial Centenary celebration as an act of culture aggression on Muslim identity of Kashmir.

Demographic change

In December 1947, Shri Ram Manohar Lohia had indicated in this confidential note that during the period 1887 to 1947, Kashmiri Pandit community had dwindled from 1,00,000 to 80,000 (a decrease of 20%) whereas Muslim population had risen from 5,00,000 to 20,00,000 (increase of 400%). British into connivance with the non-Kashmiri Muslim leaders residing outside J&K state give a philip to Muslim influx into Kashmir from territories contiguous to the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir.

Twenty percent decrease in the population of Kashmiri pandits could be attributed to the silent exodus induced by the fear of the revival of fatal Muslim dominance as the tyranny, loot, rape and slaughter by Afghans was fresh in their minds.

Lot more needs to be told about Kashmir. Efforts will be made to narrate ancient, medieval and modern history, religion, culture, foreign invasions, demographic changes, role of several countries and global organisations in Kashmir, domestic political movements and conflicts related to Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in subsequent articles. □□

Zero-duty wheat imports: A recipe for disaster for farmers



While some reports use scare tactics to create panic, domestic production is sufficient to meet demand. The recent rise in retail prices is likely due to factors beyond supply and demand, potentially including stockpiling by industry players
Devinder Sharma

The argument that wheat stocks are the lowest in 16 years and therefore the need to import wheat and that too at zero duty defies logic. While I can see screaming headlines in some major newspapers, and even some editorial comments, that are aimed more at creating panic; it will be suicidal to allow imports by doing away with the prevailing import duty of 40 per cent. Wheat production this year is anticipated at 112-million tonnes, about 0.2 million tonnes more than last year. In fact, Punjab has recorded its highest wheat productivity this year.

As far as the government's purchase for stocks is concerned, against the target of 37.2 million tonnes, more than 26.4 million tonnes of wheat has already been procured. To say that the stocks are at the lowest in 16 years I think is an argument that is being flashed to create a sense of panic. That was at a time when mainline economists were decrying over-production resulting in overflowing wheat stocks leading to wastage in storage. The argument at that time was that since the country was over-laden with food stocks, it is time to reduce MSP or keep it static so that procurement comes down.

The same argument is now coming in handy to create a panic situation thereby necessitating imports. Sometimes I wonder how conveniently policy makers use the same official data to build justification for any argument they want to make at any particular time. All efforts now are on allowing duty-free import of wheat. Moreover, I find it amusing to see some newspapers even going to the extent of warning that retail wheat prices will zoom by approximately Rs 3 per kg in the next fortnight or so if the government is unable to make open market releases at a subsidised price for the trade. Knowing that any mention of rising food prices will invite swift reaction, powerful lobbies are building pressure for doing away with import duties. This is not the first time when the growing demand is to remove import tariffs, but perhaps an appropriate time. This is how lobbies work.

Let's therefore make an effort to put the entire wheat imbroglio in perspective to understand the reasons for concern or why so much panic is being created.

The US Department for Agriculture (USDA) has already predicted that India will need to import wheat this year to meet the domestic demand. The USDA may have its own justification but going by the production figures, India has harvested 112 million tonnes of wheat to cater to a domestic demand of 105 million tonnes. That means there is no mismatch in supply demand situation. That means there is no shortfall in domestic production.

Against 5.8 million tonne stock in 2007-08, the availability now stands at 7.5 million tonnes on April 1. Interestingly, as I said earlier, the comparison is wrong. In 2007-08, after a wheat debacle in 2005-06 when India allowed the trading companies to purchase wheat directly from farmers bypassing the procurement system in the APMC mandis, India had resorted to importing 7.1 million tonnes



of wheat in the next two years at prices that were double what was paid to farmers here. In the next few years, procurement steadily went up. In 2021-22, an all-time high of 43.34 million tonnes was procured. These were the years when food stocks had touched 100 million tonnes and there was a cry to clamp down on MSP increase so as to reduce procurement. Otherwise, procurement is undertaken to meet the requirements under the public distribution system (PDS) and other welfare schemes.

But the next year, in 2022-23, in the wake of Russia-Ukraine war, aggressive purchase by private companies in expectation of a higher export brought down procurement to 18.2 million tonnes. That was the time when India claimed to be on the path to become a global annadata. Mercifully, the exports were subsequently banned. Later, stock limits were also imposed.

The prices still continued to climb. Obviously, since there was no shortfall in production last year, the question that arises is why the retail prices are increasing when an export ban has been in place from May 13, 2022 and stock limits has also been imposed. In the previous year, price rise in wheat and

atta prices is being witnessed despite an open market release of 10 million tonnes at prices lower than what is being paid to farmers. It means the flour mills association have been getting subsidised wheat in open sale programme and yet prices continue to rise.

It clearly shows there is more to rising prices than what meets the eye. Is the industry holding on to stocks expecting to make a higher profit in the months to come? After all, the additional 10 million tonnes of open market release is not a small quantity to stabilise prices.

Meanwhile, against the wheat procurement price of Rs 2,275 per quintal, market prices in an eNAM mandi in Rajasthan have touched Rs 5,740 per quintal. While this may be an isolated case, prices in some mandis in Maharashtra this year have been relatively high at Rs 2,500 to 3,000. But this still is not the general trend. Primarily it is the premier Sharbati variety that is fetching a higher price. One reason for the higher prices is because Rajasthan had made procurement at Rs 2,400 per quintal, which includes a bonus of Rs 125 per quintal.

Now coming back to the call for wheat import at zero duty, I see no reason why the government should succumb to pressure from

the flour mill associations. After all, it is well known that most flour mills find it attractive to lift imported grain directly from the three ports. Given that the international wheat prices are hovering around Rs 21,000 per tonne (it is still lower for wheat coming from Russia), the flour mill industry will find the landing price unattractive if it comes with an import tariff of 40 per cent. Doing away with import tariff will make the wheat imports economically viable for the domestic flour mill industry.

It is therefore very clear that wheat procurement prices have nothing to do with the rise in retail prices of wheat as well as that of atta. Instead of buckling under pressure and opening the Indian market to zero duty import of wheat, my suggestion would be to crackdown on processing and trade in the immediate future. At the same time, effort should be to raise prices for farmers so as to encourage them to produce more. In the long run, policy focus should be to provide a guaranteed price for wheat as per the Swaminathan formula. This must be accompanied by expanding the network of APMC mandis across the country.

To begin with, the government should stand up to the electoral promise of procuring wheat in Rajasthan at Rs 2,700 per quintal. Instead of opening for wheat imports, the policy thrust should be raise the procurement price for the 2024-25 marketing season at least at Rajasthan level. At the risk of reiterating what I have said earlier: policy makers must understand that importing food is like importing unemployment. □□

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture and hunger)
<https://www.bhaskar.com/article/zero-duty-wheat-imports-a-ruse-for-disaster-for-farmers-1321951>

Monetary Policy, Hot Money, and PPI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy has a job to accelerate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and maintain inflation bandwidth. The convenient tool in the hand of RBI is the interest rate. Economic growth leads to better employment opportunities and inflation control leads to better purchasing power parity (PPP). There are a lot of other factors that determine employment opportunities and PPP. For example, the definition of employment itself is a factor in determining the employment data, and the role of the exchange rate in determining PPP is evergreen in today's integrated financial world.

So, in a single sentence if we have to understand the motivation of RBI in deciding monetary policy then it seems to be difficult. This led to the force-fitted conclusion that the RBI's monetary policy is maneuvered by inflation targeting. Further, the RBI or any central bank has to pick among, either the expansionary monetary policy or the contractionary monetary policy.

The expansionary monetary policy aims for economic growth and the easy way is to reduce interest rates. The contractionary monetary policy aims to control inflation and the easy way is to raise interest rates. Again, the repercussions of interest rate are on many financial sources with the sinecure being the availability of money in the system i.e. money supply. Money supply itself has a sequence of definitions that includes M0, M1, M2, M3, MB, MZM, and might be a few more.

The money supply data has inputs like total currency and coins in circulation with the public, commercial banks, the RBI itself, traveler's cheques, demand deposits, savings deposits, time deposits, and many other spaces of the money market wherever the money flows. It means in simple language that "Expansion-



The PPI as an economic indicator should be given due diligence and incorporated to make a better-informed monetary policy framework.
Alok Singh



ary” means increasing the money supply and “Contractionary” means decreasing the money supply. This simplicity is not so simple in real life.

Whatever the monetary policy decision the RBI fixes for a quarter consumes time to cascade. The impact itself has its own lead time to be effective and the time lag is sometimes instantaneous and sometimes multiple weeks. It means that the band of time lag is different for different sectors, few sectors can realize immediate effect while few need lead time of more than fifty weeks, and few might not be impacted at all. The immediate impact is on hot money i.e. the money that are in the space of stock exchanges, whether that be foreign money or indigenous money with foreign money being more volatile. The delayed effective impact is on long-term investments.

The monetary policy of RBI itself is a short-term goal. However, the sequence of short-term goals is as good as a long-term goal if the direction of the goal is not changing in subsequent monetary policy announcements. If the direction is changing in neutralizing the last monetary policy announcement in the current announcement it is very near to a stable monetary policy announcement in the long term. Unfortunately, in the era of fintech, credit cards, e-commerce, crypto-currency, and many other technologies based financial instruments the length of the long term is diminishing. But this technological era has equipped us with strengths as well.

The cheap internet and affordable smart-phones along with the young and aspiring youths of

our nation have hedged the impact of FIIs in the stock market, hence also due to changes in monetary policy in our stock exchanges. This happened as our youths who are anywhere in the nation whether it be rural, urban, semi-urban, financially literate, financially illiterate, educated or lesser educated are owing more than sixteen crore demat accounts today. Few of them have multiple demat accounts, and discounting multiple counting, the small and big individual retail investors in our stock markets are approaching ten crores soon. We need them and should create awareness so that the chances of them risking their financial stability are reduced almost completely in the hot money market that includes currency market as well.

The RBI monetary policy should incorporate appropriate weightage to these new small investors in hot money vis a vis FIIs. The definition of inflation is another domain that needs appropriate modification as per the contemporary contribution of various baskets of sectors.

The widely used Consumer Price Index (CPI) captures the price that an end user pays for the goods and services. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) captures the price data at the level of wholesaler and the WPI is able to capture the data of physical goods only. WPI usually misses the price data of the services sector. The contribution of the services sector to the economy is highest. The Producer Price Index (PPI) is a more balanced approach as it captures the price that a producer of goods and services receives from its consumers. It is the selling price of goods and services over a period of time.

We need to create PPI data and the RBI can rely on it for monetary policy decision-making.

The idea should be to come up with monetary policy recommendations based on CPI and PPI both. If there is a significant difference in policy recommendations based on these two sets of data then further brainstorming needs to be done. It is a tough choice to completely replace CPI with WPI. We should work on gathering the PPI data and spend some time with both the data then make a call whether to have one or two or all.

The complex mathematical algorithm has failed to address the concerns of economic growth, employment opportunities, and inflation concerns in black and white. Economics is a beautiful faculty that can't be pure science or a pure humanities. The fintech has further complicated the landscape of economic policy including that of monetary policy. The PPI as an economic indicator should be given due diligence and incorporated to make a better-informed monetary policy framework.

The role of RBI has to move beyond that of the behavior of a football goalkeeper. The goalkeeper despite knowing that fifty percent of the time the ball comes straight, the goalkeeper leans in one direction, and majority of the time it is in the opposite direction to that of the approaching ball. This happens as the time to make a call is a very small window and it's not possible to switch the direction midway. We wish good luck to the world's central bank including our RBI.

(Alok Singh has a doctorate in management from IIM Indore and is currently Delhi based freelancer academician.)

Mewar as Focus of Guhila State (Part-XXIV)



Mewar was as also engaged militarily with Rajput powers that were its immediate neighbours, such as the Hādās of Bundi, the Rāthauras of Mandor and the Devda Cāham?nas of Sirohi in order to better control the fortresses strategic to its eastern, northern and north-western frontiers respectively.
Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha

The Baghelas too claimed victory over Mewar in the mid-thirteenth century. A Baghela land grant dating back to AD 1260 refers to the Baghela Rāōā Visaladeva of Dholka as one 'who resembled a hatchet on account of his cutting the roots of the creeper like turbulent government of The Medapâta country. It is equally significant that the Baghelas acknowledged Guhila Jaitrasimha as Medapâtap-rth vilalâtam mandalam Jayatalam. The rise of Ahmad Shah-I (contemporary of Rāōā Mokal) in Gujarat was accompanied by repeated incursions into Mewar by him and was followed by Guhila counter-claims of victory over Firuz Shah of Nagaur and Patsaha Ahmad, Rana Kumbha responded with a programme of territorial expansion in the north-western frontiers of Mewar to control the fortresses of Nagaur and Narena, among others and tried to ally with the fugitive Ghurid princes from Malwa (necessitating a Mewar-Gujarat military alliance against Malwa). This provoked a counter alliance by Malwa with Gujarat against Mewar, and necessitated close Guhila-Baghelā and Guhila-Yadava political cooperation which led to matrimonial alliances with the Bāghelās and with the Yadavas. Mokal's Ūrngir'i inscription eulogizes his Bagheli Queen Gaurambikā at great length.

Gujarat's repeated attempts at controlling the fortresses of the Abu- Sirohi belt and its protectorate, the Sultanate of Nagaur, shifted Mewar's to attention its north-western frontiers. A number of inscriptional records issued by Kharataragaccha Vasahi of Abu in AD 1458, an image inscription from Caturmukha Vihar of AD 1461 and the Gaumukh Inscription from Acalgarh referring to the reign of Rānā Kumbha, speak of the Mewar-Gujarat rivalry over Abu. Significantly Persian sources speak of repeated attempts by Gujarat to seize Kumbhalgarh and Chittaurgarh. Hence, pursuing social alliances with local Rajput families of Gujarat became an important strategy against the Sultanate of Gujarat.

If Mokal had a Bagheli queen, a Guhila Princess Ramāvati (Kumbha's daughter) was married to Raya Mandalika, the Yādava ruler of Junagarh. The way the Visnu Temple Inscription of Ramāvati from Zawar (AD 1497) eulogizes the Yadavas, speaks of their political importance for fifteenth-century Guhilas. Even seventeenth-century sources refer to Rānā Kumbha's control over Junagarh (Saurashtra), The Guhilas continued to strengthen their social linkages with the local Rajput powers of Gujarat at least up to the end of the fifteenth century: local bardic traditions speak of Rāōā Rāimalla's (son and successor of Kumbha) chief queen, a princess from Idar (Banaskantha region of north-eastern Gujarat), and how Rāimalla captured Chittaurgarh from Kumbha's assassin Udayasimha (I) with the help of his father-in-law, the Rajput ruler of Idar.

Malwa's repeated incursions into Mewar, attempted invasions of Chittaurgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Mandargarh, Hādāvati and Gagraun throughout the fifteenth century, and Kumbha's claim of defeating a joint army of Malwa and Gujarat all

led to a matrimonial alliance of the Guhilas with the Khicis of Gagraun. *Annals* record the marriage of Lāl-bāi (Mokal's daughter) with Acaldas Khici. Since Gagraun commanded a strategic point on the route between Malwa and Mewar, the politico-military significance of the social linkages with the Khicis of Gagraun cannot be underestimated for the Guhilas of the fifteenth century. Undoubtedly, the social alliances with the neighbouring Rajput powers beyond Mewar facilitated Guhila hold, however difficult and tenuous, over some of the fortresses claimed by the contemporary records.

Guhila attempts at magnifying their own status vis-à-vis the neighbouring sultans (Qutabuddin Mahmud Beghara in Gujarat and Mahmud Khalji and Ghiyasuddin Khalji in Malwa) in their fifteenth-century charters also point to Mewar's military pre-occupation with Gujarat, Malwa and Nagaur. The Guhila claim began with the liberation of Gaya from the Yavanas, indicating a local tirtha possibly in central Rajasthan (Nagaur), Kumbha later credited the same predecessor, Lakshasimha with the liberation of the trithali; the three tirthas of Kashi, Prayag, and Gaya in the Gangetic plains magnifying Guhila power in the eyes of the local Rajput chiefs.

Mewar was also engaged militarily with Rajput powers that were its immediate neighbours, such as the Hādās of Bundi, the Rāthours of Mandor and the Devda Cāhamānas of Sirohi in order to better control the fortresses strategic to its eastern, northern and north-western frontiers respectively.



Conquests of Vrndāvatī (Bundi) are mentioned twice in Kumbhalgarh Prāuasti while a separate reference occurs to the conquest of Hadāvatī (eastern Mewar extending into Bundi). The first Guhila reference to possession of Vendāvatī appears only in the context of Kumbha's conquests. In view of continuing Hādā resistance from Bundi, it is significant that Badvādevīdān does not mention a single Hādā queen for Kumbha. With the emergence of the Rāthours in Marwar in the latter half of the fifteenth century, Mewar found it difficult to control the fortresses of Mandor and Sojat. Although the Ranakpur Prāceasti claims Kumbha's victory over Meru Mandor, the situation had changed significantly for the Guhilas as Kumbha is later stated to have captured Mandor by killing the enemy family. In contrast, Kumbha's control over the Abu-Sirohi belt does not figure in the Guhila records in such terms as that of Mandovarapur or Vendāvatī. Kumbha's land grant charters appeared in Ajahari and Sirohi as early as AD 1437 while his inscriptions at Abu continued to appear till late fifteenth century. Although local bardic traditions of Sirohi record the name of Devda Cahamana Dodia Narasimha, son

of Rao Salji, as conqueror of the fortresses of Abu, Vasantgarh and Bhula, etc., a local popular song celebrates the conquest of Abu, a Devda possession, and ascribes building of palaces and lakes there to Kumbha. Dode Rāo Sirohi dujādā dalasajda par hamsa dia Âbu girvar Sikhar uparan Kumbhe sarovar mahal kid (although Sirohi belonged to Rāo Dode, it is

Kumbha who gifted the swan-like mount of the Abu with the palaces and lakes) Such popular traditions reflect Guhila control of the Abu-Sirohi belt for a considerable time in the fifteenth century. Interestingly, Badvādevīdān lists a Devda queen each for the early kings of the Rānōā branch like Khetā and Lākhā as well as two Devda queens for Rānā Rāimalla, Raj Kunwar. Devda Rāo Gopā's daughter and Campā Kunwar, Devda Rāo Lakha's daughter. The social relationship with the Devda Cāhamānas of Sirohi became politically significant in view of the Mewar-Gujarat clash over Abu. Hence, Guhilas seem to have a better control over the Abu-Sirohi belt than the Marwar of the Rathours or Bundi of the Hādās.

Last, but not the least, occasional victory over Rajput forts beyond Mewar undoubtedly brought additional resources, seized during the campaigns. Also, commercial wealth accruing from the trade routes that some of these fortresses commanded, was obviously diverted to the Guhila state of Mewar. A part of this wealth is likely to have contributed resources to the making of massive forts in Kumbha's reign.

[to be continued...]



Swadeshi Jagran Manch National Council Meeting 28-30 June 2024, Lucknow - Ayodhya (UP)

The National Council meeting held on 28 and 29th June 2024 at SR Group of Institutions, Lucknow. Sh. R. Sundaram (Akhila Bharatiya (AB) Convenor, SJM), Sh. Kashmiri Lal (AB Sangathak), Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal (AB Co-Convenor), Dr. Ajay Patki (AB Co-Convenor), Dr. Rajkumar Mittal (AB Co-Convenor), Dr. Amita Patki (AB Mahila Pramukh), and Chairman of SR Group Sh. Pawan Singh Chauhan among the dignitary guests, started with lighting of lamp and garlanded to the portraits of 'Maa Bharati', Shradheya Dattopant Thengadi Ji and Shradheya Deendayal Upadhyay. 340 Karyakarta's from all the states across the country participated in the meeting, in which the number of women force (Naari Shakti) participation was appreciable. Dr. Rajiv Kumar (AB Vichar Vibhag Pramukh) invited all the guests to the dais in the inaugural session.

Sh. R. Sundaram welcomed all the karyakarta's from all across the country, by sharing his overwhelming experience of his tour to North-East Bharat, Jammu & Kashmir, Leh & Ladakh and Bhagyanagar (Hyderabad), he stated that language has never been a barrier among the Swadeshi Karyakarta's. He praised the efforts of the workers for the Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan being run all over India.

He said that it is our duty to present our suggestions and give a new economic direction to the country with the conviction that the country shall follow

them. We have to think beyond the boundaries for a challenging economic situation. The country has made solid progress towards achieving the self-reliant Bharat, however, still long way to go in this path.

In future our work will be focused on the following four key areas;

1. Core issues of Swadeshi
2. Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan
3. Swadeshi Mela
4. Evidence based research to lay down the road map for Bharat@2047 through Swadeshi Research Institute.

This three-day National Council meeting has focused on the above points to make a strong and prosperous country.

Chairman of SR Group of Institutions Sh. Pawan Singh Chauhan, chaired the inaugural session and expressed his experience in overcoming the adverse economic conditions. He started economic activity with farming, then selling tea, afterwards running a grocery shop and clothes shop, then started his own business through the agency of multinational companies, but resigned to the multinational companies and to start his own business in his native village. He opened his own school in his village. Today there are about 16000 students in this SR Group of Institutions and they are trying to give employment to about 7000 people every year.

Resolution

Worrying declining total fertility rate (TFR) amongst the educated class

According to demographic theories, if the total fertility rate falls below 2.1 then the population in the country will start decreasing in future. By Total Fertility Rate (TFR) we mean the average number of children born to women in a population in their lifetime.

After experiencing population explosion between 50s and 80s; now our nation is going through, a decline in fertility rate, especially among educated class, which may have long term implications in the size, composition and quality of population.

We know that medical development precedes economic development. Due to this, the birth rate in the country decreases at a very slow pace, but the death rate starts decreasing rapidly. But after 1980s, the rate of decline in birth rate also accelerated; hence the natural rate of population growth also started declining. Decline in death rate, especially infant mortality rate, came to us as a blessing, and as a result, a new opportunity also arose for the country. Due to decreasing infant mortality rate, those children who attained youth-hood, after a few years and the youth population in the country started increasing continuously. If we take the data of 2001, then the population of youth (age group of 15 to 34 years) in the country was 33.80 percent of the total population, which increased to 34.85 percent in 2011 and currently it has reached more than 35.3 percent of the total population.

If we estimate the total number of youth, it becomes clear that today India has the largest number of youth in comparison to any other country. The youth population, can contribute more to the development of the country. Today everyone is talking about taking advantage of this demographic dividend and taking the country on the path of progress. Today most economists agree that population in the country is not a burden if used judiciously. There is a need that we make full and efficient use of our youth power.

Fear of population decline

The natural rate of population growth has gone below zero in most of the developed countries of the world. That means now the population in these countries has started decreasing. In these countries, the fertility rate is indicating towards decline in the natural rate of population growth. Today, in few countries of Asia- China, Japan, South Korea and many countries of Europe like Germany and France, TFR has become a major problem. The Governments of these countries have started many schemes to provide incentives for having more children. Almost a similar situation is now happening in India. According to government data, the gross fertility rate in the country has reached 1.99 in the year 2019-21. In such a situation, there may be a decrease in population in the coming time.

The real question is not much about the decline in the total fertility rate, there is a more serious concern that in some sections it has reduced much more and in some sections it is also increasing.

It is noteworthy that the fertility rate among illiterate women first increased from 3.33 in 1991 to 3.36 in 2001 and later it decreased to 3.17 in 2011, but among educated women (graduate and above), this fertility rate has been consistently declining. It was 1.62 in 1991 to 1.40 in 2011. A similar signal is also being received from women educated above matriculation but not graduate, whose fertility rate declined from 2.08 in 1991 to 1.77 by 2011.

These figures bring to mind that the fertility rate is still high among mostly illiterates and this fertility rate has decreased significantly among the educated and more advantaged people. That is, those people who can impart better education to their children and a better life in other ways, the fertility rate is low and those who are not able to provide better education and a better life in other ways to their children, the fertility rate is low. If the rate is low and falling, this situation indicates a change in the population composition, towards worst, in the future. Further, we see that in some religious communities, fertility rate is keeping high, due to their lower education levels and cultural reasons.

Nowadays, a new thinking is emerging in urban areas, which is more prevalent among the educated and highly educated people and people of high income group. This thinking is inspired by the consumerist thinking of the West. Working couples in cities are now aspiring to live a more independent and luxurious life instead of raising a family.

The institution of family has had a special importance in Indian society since the beginning. Parents, along with their children and after the marriage of those children, their children, all have been enjoying natural happiness while living as a family. But for some time now, the trend of joint families is gradually on decline and not only this, the trend of married children living with their parents is also decreasing.

Nowadays, with the trend of nuclear families, some young couples no longer want to stay in the bond of marriage. In most of these types of couples, there is no reason to pursue a family. But even among the youth who get married, many are not interested in raising the family further. Due to all such reasons, fewer children are being born among the educated youth, that is, the fertility rate among educated women is continuously decreasing. It has been observed that a large family helps in providing a permanent prosperity and happiness to any family. Large family becomes a cause for any family's social security, cultural security and its stability. The same thing applies to a country as a country is an extended family of society.

Rashtriya Parishad of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Lucknow, 28-29-30 June, expresses concerns about continuously declining fertility rate among educated women. We understand that this trend is a reflection of the changing beliefs in the society that the fertility rate among educated women is decreasing rapidly, while the decline in fertility rate among less educated women is very less. This emerging situation in demography does not bode well for the rising level of population in the country.

There is a greater possibility that a large percentage of children in less resource-rich families remain illiterate and poor. In such a situation, contraction of more educated population and expansion of uneducated and less educated population can bring down the quality of population.

Government and society has to think how TFR rate less than 2.0 can adversely affect its economic future and social and cultural development. Rashtriya Parishad of Swadeshi jagran Manch calls upon the society at large and the government, to deliberate, and find solutions towards this unwarranted trends in size, composition and quality of population. □

Sh. Satish Kumar (AB Saha-Sangathak) delivered inaugural address on "Bharat@2047 - Prosperous and Great". While giving an overview of the organization's work, he told that today our active units are working in 550 districts out of 750 districts in 45 States across the country. Some programs were organized in 200 universities of the country in the last two-three years. Many educationists, entrepreneurs, businessmen, thinkers of the country came in contact with us through this campaign. Last year, under MY-SBA, 550 youth were encouraged for entrepreneurship in 4950 institutions. We honored 4000 entrepreneurs across the country for their success through SBA campaign.

Under the growing dimensions of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, he told that;

- In collaboration with 38 organizations, we are running Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan.
- The construction work of the building of Swadeshi Research Institute is in progress.
- Swarnim Bharatvarsh Foundation Trust was formed.
- Swadeshi Publications started.
- We are also working on the micro loan distribution scheme.
- Swadeshi magazine and media are working.
- 20 big Swadeshi Mela's were organized in the country; and

- Entrepreneurship award programs were held in large numbers.

Under the upcoming plan of this year, he told that how should Swadeshi influence the behavior of the people, family and thoughts? We have to work on this.

For a prosperous and great Bharat@2047, he has elaborated on the following points;

- Young dynamic population
- Bharat with full employment
- Bharat the world's top economy
- Strong defense system
- Bharat - Leading power in science and technology
- Environment friendly Bharat
- Bharat - voice of the World's brotherhood
- High moral values

The inaugural session was coordinated by Sh. Ajay Patki.

Second Session

This entire session was continued with the presentation of State-wise activities in the presence of Sh. R. Sundaram and Sh. Kashmiri Lal. The Kshetra (Regional) Convenors of SJM/Coordinators of SBA from all 11 regions presented the activity report of their respective Kshetra. South Region (Tamil Nadu and Kerala States) was presented by Sh. Satyanarayana (Organizer, Tamil Nadu), South Central Region

Resolution

Bharat@2047: Prosperous and Great India

As India nears the 100th anniversary of its independence, the vision of "India @2047: Prosperous and Great India" seeks to create a nation characterized by comprehensive development and global leadership. This vision encompasses goals of full employment, a young and dynamic population, economic supremacy, robust security, technological leadership, environmental sustainability, global brotherhood, and high life values. This resolution outlines the detailed objectives and strategies to achieve this vision.

Vision: To establish a prosperous and great India by 2047, characterized by full employment, economic leadership, technological advancements, robust security, environmental stewardship, advocacy for global brotherhood, and upholding the highest standards of life values.

1. Full Employment Era in Bharat: It is a stated target that by 2047, Bharat should become a fully developed nation with nearly full employment rate. Concerted efforts resulting in a stable job market and reduced unemployment rates are being made through innovative policies and strategic investments, which have fostered employment opportunities across emerging sectors such as renewable energy, biotechnology, and advanced manufacturing. Initiatives like Skill India, Start Up India, Make in India etc. along with various policies and schemes to boost manufacturing, trade and entrepreneurship has helped in equipping the workforce with relevant skills and fostering entrepreneurial spirit. However, still the challenges lie in providing meaningful employment matching the skill sets with opportunities and remuneration, shift from the mindset and ecosystem of 'Job Seekers to Job Providers', increasing the female participation and equal opportunity in employment, migration neutral employment creation, fostering a Swadeshi approach of employment. The working group will develop scenarios for 2047 based on these issues.

2. Youth and Dynamic Demography: Bharat with its large and young population, is currently experiencing a demographic dividend. It is expected to last until 2055, providing Bharat with a unique opportunity to boost its economic growth. Bharat is expected to add another 183 million people to the working-age group between 2020 and 2050. This change in the age structure of the population can lead to a 'demographic dividend' of economic growth if it is accompanied by sustained investments in education and health, and policies that promote labor force participation. According to the IMF, the demographic dividend could add about 2 percentage points per annum to Bharat's per capita GDP growth over the next two decades. A report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) suggests that Bharat's demographic dividend could boost India's GDP growth from the current \$3 trillion to \$9 trillion by 2030 and \$40 trillion by 2047.

However, Spending on education and health should be prioritized much more so than other kinds of spending. The labor force needs to have the right skills, competing with AI and other such challenges. The working group should focus on the following issues; a) What should be the demographic policy in Bharat till 2047, including thoughts on composition of population, size of population living in Bharat and abroad, inward and outward migration related policies, b) what should be the policy for capacity building of this population in terms of skills, education and health, c) Policy relating to utilizing the potential of this population.

3. Global Economic Power: Bharat was formerly the richest nation on earth. It is a nation that worships Laxmi and Kubera as deities. But as a result of constant foreign invasions, the richest country ended up being one of the poorest. According to a well-known OECD study led by Prof. Angus Maddison, Bharat was contributing significantly to global wealth creation by generating almost 33% of the world's output.

The vision for 2047 is that Bharat will emerge as a global economic powerhouse with a GDP surpassing \$10 trillion, solidifying its position among the top three economies worldwide. Sustained growth across emerging sectors such as digital services, artificial intelligence, sustainable agriculture, Health care, Space technology /infrastructure, Energy, Novel Transportation systems etc. needs to be ensured. The challenge is not only to boost R&D and manufacturing in these sectors but also to decide on optimum mix of Rural-Urban economic systems, to stop business immigration and attract more investments in Bharat. It can become a global leader in directing the policy towards mitigating climate change based on its cultural and economic thoughts of sustainable agriculture, peaceful coexistence of all elements and beings of the nature.

4. Impenetrable Security System: Bharat strives to maintain a formidable security apparatus in 2047, encompassing advanced defense technologies, strategic alliances, and comprehensive Cybersecurity measures. Investments in defense modernization have bolstered national security capabilities, ensuring preparedness against diverse threats ranging from Cyber attacks to traditional security challenges. Collaborative

efforts with global partners reinforce India's commitment to regional stability and international peacekeeping missions, underscoring its role as a responsible global actor.

The evolution of a nation's stature on the global stage hinges not only on its military might but also on its economic stability, societal cohesion, and geopolitical strategy. India, in particular, has recognized the multidimensional nature of national strength. The nuclear tests at Pokhran-2 underscored its military capability, yet India understands that sustainable greatness requires robust economic foundations and strategic geopolitical positioning.

In recent years, Bharat's defense sector has seen significant advancements driven by the imperative to modernize in response to escalating geopolitical challenges. The government's focus on strengthening and developing this sector reflects its commitment to national security. This transformation encompasses technological advancements, strategic partnerships, and policy initiatives aimed at enhancing both defensive capabilities and global influence.

5. Leader in Science and Technology: Bharat should take a lead in science and technology development. It already achieved milestones in biotechnology, and quantum computing. Institutions like ISRO and premier research institutes drive innovation, with successful missions to Mars, advancements in healthcare technologies, and breakthroughs in renewable energy solutions. Bharatiya innovation ecosystem fosters entrepreneurship and attracts global talent, positioning it at the forefront of technological innovation and sustainable development. However, much needs to be done to boost R&D, product development, innovative and futuristic technologies.

6. Global Brotherhood: Bharat's engagement in 2047 is characterized by robust diplomatic relations and strategic partnerships, promoting international cooperation, peace, and sustainable development. As a leading voice in global forums such as the United Nations and G20, India advocates for multilateralism, climate action, and equitable global governance. Humanitarian initiatives, including disaster relief and development aid, underscore India's commitment to fostering global solidarity and addressing shared challenges collectively. The world is one family, or "VasudhaivaKutumbakam," is a key idea in Bharat philosophy that has come to define the nation's perspective on the world. This philosophy's foundation is the conviction that all living things on Earth are interrelated and that each person's well-being is inextricably linked to everyone else. The most recent illustration of this is the fact that our nation supplied 101 countries with 3012.465 units of Covid-19 vaccination.

7. Pioneer of High Social/Cultural values and Family based Thought System: Bharat upholds its rich cultural heritage and traditional family values in 2047, fostering social cohesion, inclusive, and sustainable living practices. Despite rapid urbanization and technological advancements, these values remain integral to Bharat society, shaping policies promoting gender equality, education, healthcare, and environmental stewardship. Initiatives promoting digital literacy and accessible healthcare contribute to enhancing the quality of life across diverse communities, reaffirming India's commitment to holistic development and societal well-being.

As Bharat progresses towards 2047, the nation stands poised to realize its vision of inclusive growth, technological leadership, and global influence. With a resilient economy, advanced security infrastructure, and steadfast commitment to values-driven governance, Bharat continues to inspire as a beacon of progress and opportunity on the world stage. Embracing diversity and innovation, Bharat's journey into the future promises to elevate standards of living, foster global collaboration, and uphold its legacy as a pioneer of high life and family values. The working group is tasked to formulate a global vision based on this value system which should be the hallmark of our internal and global policy.

"Bharat @2047: Prosperous and Great Bharat" envisions a comprehensive and inclusive development plan for the nation, addressing economic, social, technological, environmental, and ethical dimensions. This vision requires the collaborative efforts of the government, private sector, civil society and every citizen to create a prosperous and great Bharat by 2047.

Call to Action: To realize this ambitious vision, it is essential for all stakeholders to collaborate and integrate their efforts towards common goals. By leveraging Bharat's strengths and addressing its challenges with innovative and sustainable solutions, we can collectively work towards achieving a prosperous and great Bharat by 2047. This public awareness campaign seeks to inspire and mobilize the nation towards this shared vision, ensuring a bright and prosperous future for all. □

was presented by Dr. S. Lingamurthy (Region Coordinator), West Region was presented by Sh. Prashant Deshpande (Region Co-ordinator), Central Region was presented by Sudhir Daate (Region Coordinator), Rajasthan Region was presented by Dr. Satish Kumar Acharya (Region Coordinator), North Region was presented by Prof. Somnath Sachdeva (Region Coordinator), Western Uttar Pradesh was presented by Dr. Amitesh Amit (Region Coordinator), Eastern Uttar Pradesh was presented by Sh. Anupam Shrivastava (Region Coordinator), Bihar-Jharkhand Region was presented by Shri Amarendra Singh (Region Coordinator), Eastern Region was presented by Shri Shatrughan Tarai (Region Coordinator), and North-Eastern Region was presented by Sh. Deepak Sharma (Region Coordinator).

The session was conducted by Smt. Archana Meena (AB Saha-Mahila Pramukh).

Third Session

This session was about Resolution's proposal and discussion. The resolution on the 'Impact of the Population Change on Economy' was presented by Dr. Rajkumar Mittal. While presenting the proposal, he said that the number of children a woman gives birth to on an average in her lifetime is called TFR (Total Fertility Rate). At present, the fertility rate in Bharat is 1.9%, and this rate is falling in India, especially in educated families. One of the reasons for the fall in TFR is the breakdown of joint families. In a joint family, someone or the other would definitely take care of the child, but now a days, due to nuclear families, especially due to the spread of education, young couples have started the trend of having only one or none child for the last few years. This will be a danger for the young population of Bharat in the future.

Due to the decline in TFR in many countries of the world, like Western countries, Japan and Korea are facing aged population problem. Today Bharat has the largest youth population in the world. If we want to remain young in future, this TFR will have to be increased. The National Council of Swadeshi Jagran Manch calls for its improvement to maintain the youth population for the country.

This resolution was passed unanimously.

In the same session, Dr. Rajkumar Chaturvedi (AB Sampark Pramukh) gave a power point presentation on the topic "Young Bharat - The foundation of Bharat's progress".

He told that according to WHO, the fertility rate in the world should be 2.1 per woman. In India, this rate has become 1.9 as per 2023. The population growth rate in India is decreasing, this is happening due to global population related policies. He clarified that where husband and wife are earning, children are not being born. Educated young men and women are no longer interested in socializing. The rate of abortion is also increasing. Although Bharat has the lowest number of divorces, it is still necessary to stop this trend.

Dr. Madhur Mahajan, spoke on the topic of "Bharatiya concept of development" as part of "Vimars". He said that at present such narratives are being created in which it is said that current Bharat growth is fake, false. This is a battle of discussion, so to work on the ground level on the basis of India's concept of development, work on positive discussion has been started by forming economic groups at some places, these include Udaipur, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

In the same session, the head of IID, Mr. Mukesh Shukla, told that "Samadhaan" entrepreneurs, our identity was based on our professional work, but during the British rule our economy is de-industrialized. So, if we have to take the country's economy forward, then it is necessary to have an entrepreneur in every household. We have to turn the youth towards entrepreneurship and we have to offer solutions. In the same session, the book "Global Market Forces" written by Ajay Upadhyay was released.

The session was conducted by Dr. S. Lingamurthy.

Fourth Session

In this session, meetings were organized according to the region in which the following points were discussed:

1. Full Time Workers
2. Women's Work and its Status
3. Swadeshi Mela
4. Akhila Bharatiya Adhikari's Visit
5. State's Views and Training Classes
6. Organic Entrepreneurship Book Release Program
7. Entrepreneurship Promotion Conference

In these meetings according to the region, as central officers, Sh. Jitendra Gupta, Sh. Deepak Sharma 'Pradeep', Dr. Amita Patki, Mrs. Archana Meena, Mrs. Vijaya Rashmi, Dr. Raghavendra Chandel, Sh. Balram Nandwani, C.A. Anil Sharma, Dr. Dharmendra Dubey discussed the above topics with the Karyakarta's.

The meetings were conducted by the respective region coordinators.

Fifth Session

This session on Bharat@2047 resolution and discussion. In this session, Sh. R. Sundaram, Prof. Pradeep Chauhan (JNU), Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal were present on the stage.

While proposing on the resolution “Prosperous and Great Bharat@2047”, Prof. Pradeep Chauhan said that the government’s NITI Aayog also prepared a report in the name of developed Bharat, but our proposal is of prosperous and great Bharat, there is a slight difference between the two. The Government of India is mainly emphasizing on economic issues, but our resolution emphasizes on social, cultural, historical and moral values along with the economy. So that Bharat does not become a materialistic country like America by 2047. In the race for economic development, nature should not be exploited like in western countries.

Earlier it was said that Bharat is an agricultural country, but it is not so, agricultural production was there but along with agriculture, we were the operators of a prosperous industrial system.

Bharat emerged as a global pharmacy during Covid. Now we have started exporting in the field of defense as well. Other countries of the world know the power of Bharat internal strength; now Bharat cannot be ignored. There is a competition to keep Bharat in the global group. First we have to develop a strong belief that we will make Bharat the super power in the world.

The main points of the proposal that Bharatiya economy should develop on the basis of Bharatiya way of thinking are as follows;

- Young and dynamic population
- Skilled and innovation Bharat
- Strong security system
- Technological leadership
- Environment-friendly sustainable development
- High values in life

This resolution was passed unanimously in the national council meeting.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agrawal while sharing his views on the topic “Brain gain, not brain drain” said that the people of Bharatiya origin who are living in about 189 countries of the world, these are 3.25 crore people whom we know as NRIs. These people are

outside the country but send about 125 billion dollars to Bharat every year.

Today our focus is entrepreneurship. Can we use the talent of Bharatiya settled abroad and connect them with the vision of a prosperous Bharat or can their participation be used?

At present Bharat has an economy of about four trillion dollars in the world economy of 105 trillion dollars while we have an 18% share in the world population. But we are at 3.5% in the world GDP. There must have been many reasons for Bharatiyas going out of country. At present stability in our policies is necessary. If research and development is not our priority then we cannot retain brain gain. If we also want to move ahead in research and development, then we need to stop brain drain and gain brain. Using this, we can lay the foundation of a prosperous Bharat.

The session was conducted by Sh. Annadashankar Panigrahi (AB Sangharsha Vahini Pramukh).

Sixth Session

Many topics were discussed in this session:

1. Dr. Vikas, while sharing his views on the topic ‘Organic Path of Entrepreneurship’, said that 90% of the target group of organic entrepreneurs are those who are youth or women power who are looking for employment. The idea of organic entrepreneurship also came up because our youth can start their own enterprises by using local resources on the basis of organic entrepreneurship while keeping distance from the corporate entrepreneurship model of the West. By adopting this path of organic entrepreneurship, we can provide employment to a large number of youths.

2. Prof. Somnath Sachdeva (Vice Chancellor Kurukshetra University) while sharing his views on the topic of contribution of science and technology in building a prosperous and great Bharat@2047, said that our young and dynamic population is leading in the field of science and technology today. It is necessary to form the mindset of children during school education itself. Innovations like creating projects in the education system itself, connecting with industries, making innovation-based investments etc. have been implemented under the National Education Policy 2020. It is necessary to implement them on the ground, promote research, increase the participation of women in the field of engineering, establish research centers.

3. Sh. Ananda Shankar Panigrahi, started his talk on the subject of environmental protection with the Panch Mahabhutas - Earth, Fire, Water, Air and Sky and said that today every country is emitting green gases. How sensitive we are towards the environment in our daily routine, our lifestyle, social routine. He told that today Bharat has the least number of trees per capita in the world. In Bharat, drinking water has decreased by more than 30% in the last 30 years.

There is no policy for cutting trees in the process of setting up big highways and industries and mining. We should raise our voice against this.

4. While giving information about the formation of Swadeshi Research Institute, Sh. Anil Sharma said that 'Dharmasya Moolam Artha' is our motto.

Many programs were conducted recently under Swadeshi Research Institute. The website and logo of the research institute were launched. Many MoUs were done by Swadeshi Research Institute.

5. While giving information about Swarnim Bharat Foundation, Sh. Saket Rathore said that it was formed last year in 2023. Swadeshi Mela's organized across our country are being organized under Swarnim Bharat Foundation.

6. While giving detailed information about the Akhila Bharatiya Adhikari's tour, Dr. Rajiv Kumar said that this year the visit of central officers will start from Arunachal Pradesh on 9th August. Sh. R. Sundaram will start this tour. This tour will be completed on 10th November on the birth anniversary of Dattopant Thengadi Ji in Wardha (Maharashtra). All our central officers will be a part of this tour.

In this tour, Adhikari's should organize meetings with Karyakarta's and intellectuals. Programmes of Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan can also be organized among the youth.

The session was conducted by Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan co-coordinator Sh. Jitendra Gupta.

Seventh Session

This session was organized in 3 groups. In this session, mainly 3 topics Panch Parivartan, Funds Collection and Management, Entrepreneurship Promotion System (MY SBA) were discussed.

Sh. Keshav Dubolia, Sh. K. Jagdish, Sh. Ajay Upadhyay discussed on the topic of Panch Parivartan, Dr. Dharmendra Dubey, Smt. Archana Meena, Sh. Vaibhav on the topic of SBA Promotion System, while Sh. Balram Nandwani, Sh. Anil Sharma and Sh.

Satish Chawla discussed on the topic of Funds Collection and Management.

Eighth Session

This session was focused on the topic of workers, self-development and team work.

Sh. Kashmiri Lal, Sh. Dinesh Nandwana (Vakranggi Group), Dr. Rajiv Gupta (Gayatri Parivar), Sh. Chetram (Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram) were present on the stage.

Sh. Dinesh Nandwana, while discussing the glorious economic history of Bharat, said that we were self-reliant earlier, from the Maurya period to the Mughal period we were progressing with 35% GDP. During the British period, due to the exploitative policies of the British, the economic condition of Bharat deteriorated a lot.

We can bring back this lost golden age of Bharat. We have to give information about the ancient glorious economic history to our youth and inspire them to move forward on the basis of self-reliance and entrepreneurship. On the basis of self-reliance, we can once again become an economic power in the world.

Sh. Kashmiri Lal addressed the karyakarta's in his usual style of communication on the subject of Swadeshi, self-reliance and research. He clarified that change in the society will be visible only on the basis of self-reliance but the basic work of Swadeshi should always go on simultaneously.

We should obtain information about local level issues with regard to research, collect economic data of our village, our district, our state.

On the basis of the negative discussions going on at present, he clarified that Swadeshi Jagran Manch has to work on these two subjects - Global Market Forces and the concept of Bharatiya Development. On the birth anniversary of Rashtra Rishi Sh. Dattopant Thengadi Ji on 10th November, we should organize some program at our district level.

While discussing the five changes or Panch Praan, Sh. Kashmiri Lal told that the Karyakarta's of Swadeshi should assess himself that how will this Swadeshi sentiment and maximum use of Swadeshi products be done in my home, my work, my society? We should try to have the philosophy of Swadeshi in our language, our medicines, and our food as well. Currently, around 189 full time workers in the country are working for Swadeshi by devoting their full time. To expand the work among the youth, we should

appoint youth heads at each district level. Young entrepreneurs and young saints should also be invited to the programmes.

Only if we all move ahead with a spirit of organization and with the basic idea of Swadeshi, Bharat will adorn the position of Vishwa Guru.

The session was conducted by Sh. Keshav ji Dubolia.

Ninth Session

In this session, Maanniya Sh. V. Bhagayya Ji, Sh. R. Sundaram, Sh. Kashmiri Lal, Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal, Dr. Ajay Patki, Dr. Rajkumar Mittal were present on the stage.

First of all, the regional convenor Sh. Anupam Shrivastava introduced all the karyakarta's engaged in the arrangements in the National Council meeting.

Dr. Rajkumar Mittal announced the new responsibilities on behalf of Sh. R. Sundaram.

In his message to all karyakarta's, Sh. R. Sundaram said that the basic mantra of Swadeshi Jagran Manch is decentralization. Although we have studied global events and global economic issues from the very beginning by focusing on them continuously. As a result of which we have developed a comprehensive understanding on them, but now the time has come that we recognize the immense power within our country and start studying the economies and economic activities of various states of the country. Some states are very large, so if needed, start studying at different regional levels within those states. For example, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal etc. Our ultimate goal is district-centric / district-based economy, but to reach there, the states are their gateways. I suggest to all the state units of Swadeshi Jagran Manch that they should study and understand the economy, economic activities and the hidden possibilities of the state or any of its regions in depth and make their future strategy of work on that basis. We have been discussing this for some time, but now the time has come for this idea. Dr. Vijay Govind Rajan has explained it very clearly in his book "The Three Box Theory" by giving the example of Brahma-Vishnu-Maheshwara. Brahma creating, Lord Vishnu protecting and Mahadev Shiva destroying, all three co-exist together at the same time. Creation, protection and abandoning is a natural process. The process of development is also not an exception to this. Today we are in Lucknow and tomorrow we will leave for Shri

Ayodhya Dham. Our wish is that a research centre of Swadeshi should be established in Shri Ayodhya to research the policies for establishing Ram Rajya in the country. It is believed that with everyone's cooperation this wish will be fulfilled soon.

Maanniya Sh. Bhagayya Ji, while addressing the workers said that the relation between nature and man has been described in the Bharatiya concept, there should always be a balance between them. Nature can fulfill the needs of man but not the desires of man. Worshipping nature and preserving it is eternal.

The concept of Swadeshi is to bring change in society, lifestyle, vision.

The work of the forum is to move forward by uniting everyone. The purpose of Gandhiji's appeal for Swadeshi by spinning the charkha was to awaken our manly efforts. If we are karyakarta's of Swadeshi Jagran Manch then the struggle should be visible. The work of Swadeshi Jagran Manch is that no matter which government is in power, wrong policies should always be opposed. For struggle, one should fast, agitate. If needed, one should also go to jail.

District level karyakarta's should work in depth. Along with the dedication of time, dedication of mind and commitment nature is also necessary. There can be difference of opinion but there should not be difference of heart.

If there is no penance, no sadhana in one's own life, then how will the society change. Big workers will have to take care of the lower workers. All the Karyakarta's of Swadeshi Jagran Manch should come to the ground level and do their basic work.

The session was conducted by Dr. Rajiv Kumar.

National Council meeting concluded with Vande Mataram.

Shri Ayodhya Darshan

On 30th June, all the karyakarta's reached Ayodhya from Lucknow by buses where everyone had darshan of Lord Ram Lalla.

After having divine darshan, all the karyakarta's reached Karsevak Puram where in a brief session was organized after the meal, Sh. Kashmiri Lal and Sh. R. Sundaram interacted with the karyakarta's. In this session, there was also an experience sharing in which karyakarta's shared their experiences.

In the end, with the resolution of Ramrajya and the slogan of Jai Shri Ram, all the representatives departed towards their respective destinations. □□

'Robot tax' for AI-induced job loss & 'wealth tax' on vacant land: SJM



Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) wants the Modi government to impose a 'robot tax' to compensate those who lose their jobs due to the use of artificial intelligence (AI). In its wish list submitted to the government during the pre-budget meeting held last month with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the SJM also suggested imposing a tax on vacant land, as well as incentivising those who are generating more employment.

"The Government may impose tax on use of labour displacing technologies (robot tax), not to discourage the new technology but to cross subsidise those who are losing jobs due to the use of labour displacing technologies. The funds raised can be used to help those displaced to adopt new technologies," reads the suggestion submitted by SJM to the government, which ThePrint has accessed.

Asked to explain 'robot tax', national co-convenor of SJM, economist Ashwani Mahajan, said the key is to make technology advancement without labour displacement.

"The thing is, robots are reducing employment and displacing people. Whole work is being done by robots in many fields. For instance, in automobile companies, a number of jobs are now fully automatic and mechanised, but that is one aspect of manufacturing. This has started in the service sector, too. Whether it is ChatGPT or Meta AI or any other, it has all led to loss of jobs and hence it is an important issue," said SJM.

"Of course, we understand that tech can't be stopped and that is not the intention at all. But in companies and entities that are making use of AI and displacing labour and earning profit out of it, there has

to be some compensation for those who are losing their jobs, or not getting new jobs. This is a burden on the economy and the government, too. The government needs to help them, too, through ration etc. So, in a way, state support is required. So where will the money come from? World over, this issue is gaining traction that a robot tax should be introduced as AI-generated disruption is hitting most economies. It is a new economic thought and, internally, SJM has also started researching robot tax," SJM added.

"Robot tax is a general term that can be used for robots for AI or any new tech that is labour displacing. If the government is able to garner that much money which it can use to skill those who aren't trained in those areas, then job opportunities can be created for them," SJM explained.

Another suggestion given by the SJM regarding advancing technology without causing labour displacement was assigning "one critical technology to each district for development". This approach would result in development of local talent and overall growth of that district.

A paper released by the IMF in June had argued that fiscal policy has a major role to play in supporting a more equal distribution of gains and opportunities from generative AI. But this will require significant upgrades to social protection and tax systems around the world.

SJM has also highlighted the issue of unemployment as it pointed out that tax rate should be decided by employment output ratio. To boost employment growth, SJM has said "tax incentives may be given to industries generating more/additional employment based on employment-output ratio".

The issue of unemployment and job creation was a major theme in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections with the Opposition criticising the government for not creating enough jobs.

The organisation has also suggested measures to control food inflation by introducing subsidies for micro irrigation systems for small farmers.

With the aim to ensure 'housing for all', SJM also suggested introducing a wealth tax on owners of vacant land "to discourage unnecessary land holding on the pretext of future requirements".

On controlling food inflation, SJM said that while the government cannot provide MSP to farmers, certain steps can be taken to ensure remunerative prices.

"There is a general misconception that higher

prices given to the farmers will cause food inflation. There is ample research to show that better prices given to the farmers may actually help control inflation, by way of curbing profiteering by the market players. We understand that it is beyond the capacity of the government to provide MSP from the government kitty. We need to find novel ways to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers by using e-markets, modern warehousing facilities with marketable warehousing receipts and modern technology,' it said.

The SJM has also suggested introducing production linked incentive (PLI) schemes, especially for MSME entities.

<https://theprint.in/economy/robot-tax-for-ai-induced-job-loss-wealth-tax-on-vacant-land-rss-affiliate-sjm-budget-wish-list/2171365/>

SJM plans campaign to raise awareness that 'India's population a boon, not burden'



Expressing concern that the "one child norm" being adopted by many families in the country might soon turn India into an "older nation" such as Japan or China, Swadeshi Jagran Manch has passed a resolution stating that India's population is "not a burden but a boon for the country" and decided to soon launch a public campaign to raise awareness in this regard. The move comes as the Manch concluded its three-day national meet in Lucknow.

The Manch also passed the resolution on making India "a prosperous nation by 2047" by creating public awareness on eight points in the coming years.

"Two resolutions were passed during the meet... one was on how population is not a burden but a boon for us and to launch a public campaign to spread awareness. There is a trend of one child norm... which would soon make India also a nation of elderly such as Japan or China and the issues that they are facing right now. Thus, the resolution was passed to

spread awareness about the same and also on total fertility rate," SJM, told The Indian Express.

As over 300 office-bearers from 45 prants across the country participated in the meeting, Dubey informed that the second resolution was regarding eight points of expectation from Mach and the society on how to make India a prosperous country by 2047 and launch campaign with the co-idological organizations in the coming years in this direction.

These eight points included "India with complete employment", maintaining that narrative that jobs are only means of employment needs to be "re-established" and instead it is only through enterprise that 37 crore youth can participate in the nation building.

Another was "Young dynamic population" maintaining that for a prosperous India, country's population should be young and dynamic for which there will be a need for joint family, physical nutrition, healthy mind and heart and also need to correct the fertility rate of India.

Thirdly, it was discussed that in order to make India prosperous, its economy would have to be "world's top economy". Other points included the need to develop "Impenetrable security system" by becoming self-reliant in the field of indigenous armament, manufacturing and weapons. Becoming a "leader in science and technology" discussing need for both the government and society to make joint efforts in this direction.

Also, "Environment Friendly India", promoting India as "Strong spokesperson of Universal Brotherhood", "pioneer in High values of life", which can set example for rest of the world.

Sources informed that apart from volunteers of SJM, representatives of 6 other affiliate organisations also participated in the meet and took resolve to participate in the public awareness campaign for the two resolutions passed during the meet.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/lucknow/rss-population-awareness-campaign-swadeshi-jagran-manch-population-control-resolution-india-japan-china-9425256/>

Russian army at war wearing Made in Bihar shoes

Bihar's Hajipur has gained recognition for producing safety shoes for the Russian army and designer shoes for European markets since 2018. Competence Exports, a private limited company based in Hajipur, aims to create local employment opportunities through its shoe manufacturing operations. Last



year, the company exported 1.5 million pairs of shoes worth Rs 100 crore, with plans to increase this by 50% next year.

According to Shib Kumar Roy, the general manager of the facility, Competence Exports is India's largest exporter to Russia. "Not just in Hajipur, we are India's largest exporter to Russia and we expect the numbers to expand day by day," Roy stated.

The safety shoes produced for the Russian army are designed to be lightweight, slip-resistant, and weather-resistant, enduring conditions as harsh as -40 degrees Celsius. "We started the Hajipur facility in 2018, and the main interest is to generate local employment. At Hajipur, we make safety shoes that are meant to be exported to Russia. Total exports are for Russia, and we are also slowly working on Europe and will launch in the domestic market soon," Roy added.

The company's managing director, Danesh Prasad, has set a goal to establish a world-class factory in Bihar, contributing further to state employment. Of the 300 employees at the facility, 70% are women.

In addition to safety shoes, the Hajipur facility also exports luxury designer shoes to European markets, including Italy, France, Spain, and the UK. Mazhar Pallumiah, head of fashion development and marketing at the company, noted initial reservations from foreign clients were overcome after they received samples. The company is expecting visits from international companies next month.

"Our aim is to develop high-end shoes for international brands. We recently started negotiations with a Belgian company as well," Pallumiah said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fashion/-/cosmetics/-/jewellery/russian-army-at-war-wearing-made-in-bihar-shoes/>

Indian refiners likely saved at least \$10 bn due to discounted Russian oil

Indian refiners may have been able to save at

least \$10.5 billion by purchasing Russian oil at discounted prices after the outbreak of the Ukraine war in February 2022.

According to a report by The Indian Express based on the analysis of India's trade data, Indian refiners ramped up their efforts to buy oil from Russia at discounted costs between April 2022 and May 2024, resulting in savings.

According to India Express' report, if the domestic refiners purchased the Russian crude (average per barrel price) at the same rate that they paid for crude from all other suppliers put together, this bill would have surged to \$145.29 billion.

In the financial year preceding that, India's oil imports were \$162.21 billion, which would have been an additional \$4.87 billion if the average price of the Russian barrels matched those of other suppliers.



India's oil purchase from Russia has been the subject of criticism from the West. Russia's biggest foe – the United States – has pushed the Group of Seven nations to cap Moscow's oil prices to \$60 a barrel.

India's purchase value of oil from Russia exceeds this cap enforced by the West. On this, the US recently remarked that it had not asked India to cut on oil purchases.

"It is important to us to keep the oil supply on the market while limiting (Vladimir) Putin's profit from it," Eric Van Nostrand, the US Treasury assistant secretary for economic policy, said in April.

He added that the buyers can negotiate steeper discounts on Russian oil outside of the price cap, as long as they don't use Western services like insurance and broking – a move, he said, was aimed at limiting Moscow's sales channels.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/indian-refiners-likely-saved-at-least-10-bn-due-to-discounted-russian-oil-124071100509_1.html

Bullish on India's consumption, investors flock to fund retail sector startups

Buoyed by India's strong consumption patterns, venture capitalists are flocking to fund retail sector startups. Investor confidence in new-age retail companies and startups has surged, with funding in the retail sector increasing by 32 per cent to USD 1.63 billion in the first half (H1) of 2024, up from USD 1.23 billion in H1 2023, according to data intelligence firm Tracxn.

The Indian economy is on track to emerge as the third-largest economy in the world by 2026. Last year, the country's consumption grew at a faster pace than that of advanced economies such as China, the US, and Germany, as observed in a UBS report.

The report further noted that India's household consumption nearly doubled in the past decade to USD 2.1 trillion last year, with an annual compound growth rate of 7.2 per cent, higher than the aforementioned countries. Additionally, India is expected to surpass Germany (in 2024) and Japan (in 2026) to become the third-largest consumer market in the world.

Commenting on venture capitalists' interest in new-age retail companies, Harmanpreet Singh, Co-founder and Managing Partner of Prath Ventures, said, "India's GDP is projected to reach USD 8 trillion by FY32, with consumption expected to remain around 60 per cent of GDP. Thus, Indian consumption is expected to cross USD 4.5 trillion in the same period. For context, this is more than double the current consumption and will equal what China's consumption was in 2015. With this context, there is naturally some catching up to do for venture capital to invest in this space," he said.

He opines that companies such as Zomato and Nykaa have yielded attractive outcomes in the consumer-tech space. However, investors have witnessed large failures driven by unsustainable unit economics and misallocation of funds. The industry is perhaps over-correcting by focusing on more conventional businesses like retail and omnichannel brands, where more sustainable business models are being funded.

"We expect the focus on profitability and sustainable business models to keep this sector at the forefront of investor interest in 2024 and beyond," he added.

Singh highlighted that during 2020-2022, investors strongly favoured online and consumer-tech businesses due to the COVID-19-driven surge in digital adoption, resulting in high growth and controlled customer acquisition costs. However, two key realizations have emerged: the number of consumers willing to spend significant money online is limited to around 40-50 million, and even these customers still value the trust and reliability that offline retail and distribution provide.

Shravan Shetty, Managing Director at Primus Partners, said, "The sector's share has increased as interest in the sector has remained buoyant, while exuberance for other sectors has reduced. Venture capital is behaving similarly to the markets, where the long-term story of consumption has picked up compared to other themes like fintech, which has seen reduced interest compared to previous years."

According to the Tracxn report, the first half of 2024 witnessed 8 funding rounds surpassing USD 100 million such as Flipkart's USD 350 million Series J round led by Google, Apollo 24|7's USD 297 million PE round, and Meesho's USD 275 million Series F round, underscoring the VCs strong intent for the retail sector companies.

Dr Ashwini Mahajan, who led the delegation of economists that met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with suggestions, told ANI, "As far as investors are concerned, they always make comparisons between economies, and India, due to its sustained performance on the GDP front, is among the best places to invest. Due to its expanding economy and consumption, the country is able to attract investments."

The Indian economy has witnessed a significant change in spending patterns by consumers. Spending in rural areas increased by 164 per cent and in urban areas by 146 per cent since 2011-12, at current prices, as demonstrated by recently released data from the Household Consumption (/topic/consumption) Expenditure Survey.

According to the survey, the country saw a significant surge in Monthly Per Capita Consumption (/topic/consumption) Expenditure (MPCE) in 2022-23, with rural spending reaching Rs 3,773 and urban spending at Rs 6,459, reflecting a 164 per cent and 146 per cent increase, respectively, since 2011-12 at current prices. Adjusted to 2011-12 prices, the growth is 40 per cent in rural areas and 33 per cent in urban areas.□□

<https://aninews.in/news/business/bullish-on-indias-consumption-investors-flock-to-fund-retail-sector-startups20240630153901/>

Swadeshi Activities

State Vichar Vargs

Pictorial Glimpses



Delhi



Konkan



Meerut



Himachal Pradesh



Swadeshi Activities National Council Meeting

Lucknow, UP (28-30 June, 2024)

Pictorial Glimpses

