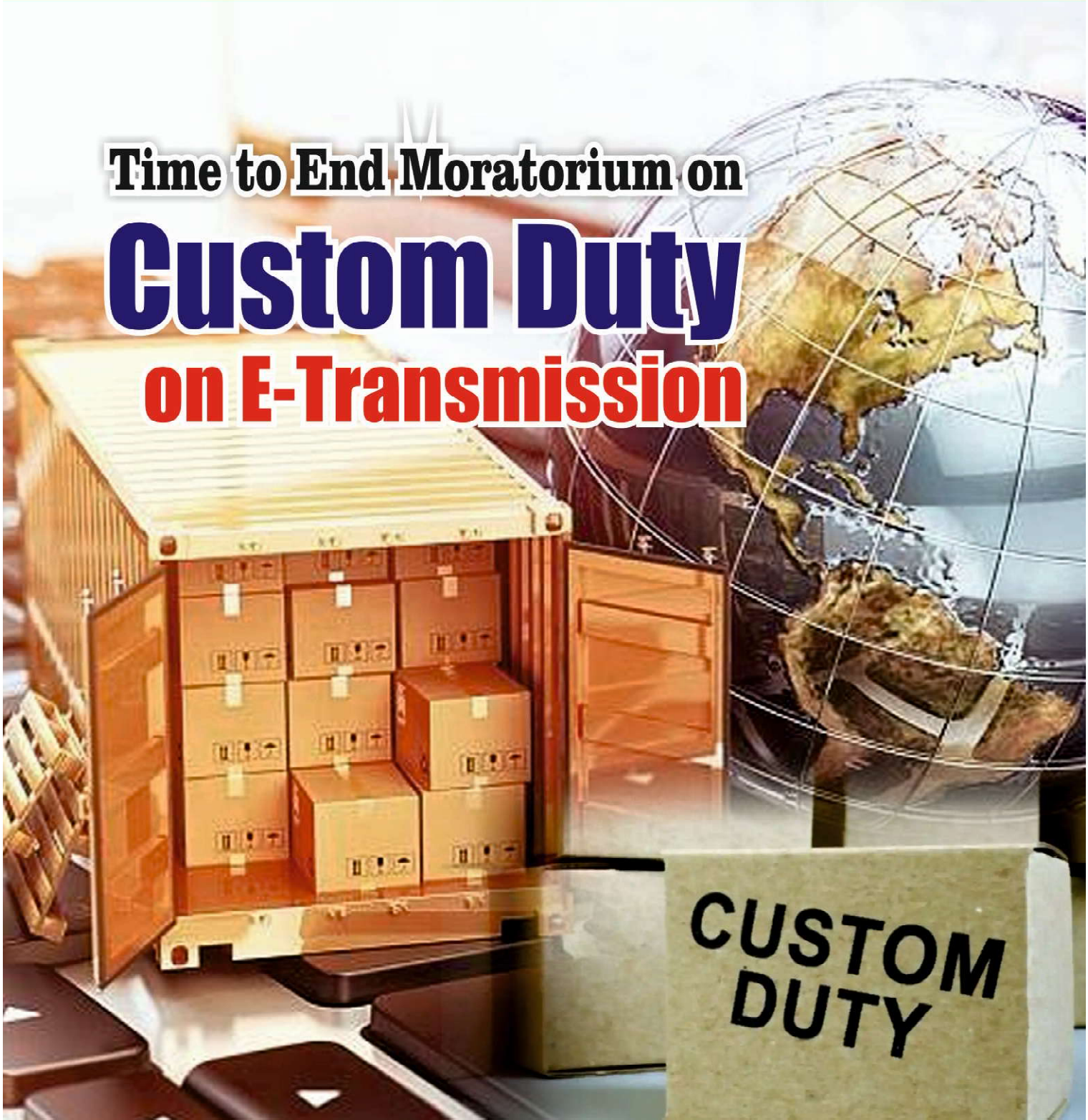
View Point | Agriculture | Analysis

Rs 15/-, Page-40

Swadeshi PATRIKA

March 2026

Time to End Moratorium on Custom Duty on E-Transmission



Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Program

Pictorial Glimpses

Entrepreneur Award Ceremony, Agartala (Tripura)

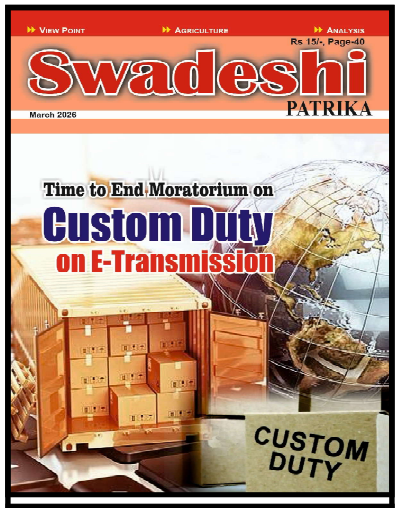
VOICE OF

SELF RELIANT INDIA

SWADESHI
Patrika

स्वदेशी
पत्रिका

पढ़ें और पढ़ायें



Vol-31, No. 3
Falgun-Chaitra 2082-83 March-2026

EDITOR
Ajey Bharti

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR
Dr. Phool Chand

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

COVER & PAGE DESIGNING
Sudama Dixit

EDITORIAL OFFICE
'Dharmakshetra' Sector-8, Babu Genu Marg. R.K. Puram, N. D.-22
E-MAIL : swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com
WEBSITE : www.swadeshionline.in

LETTERS 3

NEWS 36-38

CONTENTS

COVER STORY 6

Time to End Moratorium on Custom duty on E-Transmission

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

1 Cover Page
2. Cover Inside Page

08 TECHNOLOGY
Artificial Intelligence: Meaning, Origin, Opportunities and Challenges
..... **Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal**

12 ANALYSIS
Understanding India's AI Moment from the Lens of AI Summit 2026
..... **Annu Kumari**

14 OPINION
Will India build AI — or just feed it?
..... **Ajay Srivastava**

16 VIEW POINT
Analysing AI Impact Summit
..... **Alok Singh**

18 ENVIRONMENT
Breathing Self-Reliance – A Structural Solution to India's Air Pollution Crisis
..... **Deepak Sharma**

21 ISSUE
Can the US-Israel War on Iran Trigger an Agrarian Crisis?
..... **Indra Shekhar Singh**

23 DISCUSSION
World on the threshold of World War-III
..... **Vinod Johri**

26 HEALTH
Food labelling isn't anti-industry, it's pro-health
..... **Arun Gupta**

28 SJM ACTIVITIES
National Council Meeting – 7-8 March 2026, Jaipur (Rajasthan)
..... **Swadeshi Samvad**

39 Back Inside Cover
40 Back Cover

The Roadmap for India's Youth: The New Era of Entrepreneurship

As of 2026, the global economic landscape has shifted significantly, placing Indian youth at a critical crossroads. With India maintaining its position as the third-largest startup ecosystem globally, boasting over 1.45 lakh recognized startups, the "mode" of entrepreneurship for the youth must evolve from mere survival to global leadership.

The current world situation demands a move towards Deep-Tech and AI-driven innovation. According to recent data from the Global Innovation Index, India's jump to the 38th rank signifies that our youth are no longer just service providers but creators of Intellectual Property (IP). The ideal mode today is "Problem-First Entrepreneurship"—identifying a bottleneck in sectors like Agriculture (Agri-tech) or Healthcare and solving it using homegrown technology.

Furthermore, the rise of Sustainability is non-negotiable. With the government's Mission LiFE initiative, the world is looking for "Green Solutions." Indian entrepreneurs must focus on Circular Economy models—recycling, renewable energy, and eco-friendly manufacturing—to tap into the multi-billion dollar global green market.

Data from DPIIT suggests that nearly 50% of new startups are emerging from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities like Indore, Jaipur, and Kochi. This "Decentralised Mode" is the future. By leveraging digital public infrastructure like UPI and ONDC, young Indians can build "Bharat-centric" businesses that are scalable globally.

In conclusion, the modern Indian entrepreneur should transition from being a "Job Seeker" to a "Job Provider." By balancing profitability with social impact, the youth can ensure that India's "Amrit Kaal" is defined by innovation that is "Made in India, for the World."

— **Vijeet Kumar,** *Kshetra Media Pramukh, Purvottar Bharat, SJM*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

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

Disclaimer

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

Quote-Unquote

Awareness about water management and conservation among the younger generation will ensure the country's water security in future.

Droupadi Murmu, Pesident, Bharat

When individuals are healthy, familes become strong; when families are strong, society prospers; and when society prospers, the nation rises…. as India moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, the goal must also be to build as Swasth Bharat.

CP Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, Bharat

The future growth engines of the world are likely to be less developed or developing countries such as India. Therefore, exposure to India would help students from developed countries in their future careers.

Piyush Goyal, Commerece & Industry Minister, Bharat

This ongoing conflict is of particular concern to India. We are a neighbouring region, and have obvious stakes that West Asia remains stable.

S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Bharat

Stopping IDBI Disinvestment: A Right Decision

India has no historical precedent for the outright privatization of a public sector bank. Yet, the structure of the banking system has undergone significant consolidation over the past decade. From a landscape of 27 public sector banks, the system has now been streamlined to just 12. Alongside these stands IDBI Bank-an institution where the Government of India's direct shareholding has fallen below 51%, but effective control remains close to 95% through the substantial stake held by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). For several years, the government had been pursuing strategic disinvestment in IDBI Bank, inviting expressions of interest for the sale of a 61% combined stake held by the government and LIC. However, recent developments indicate that this process has been halted, reportedly due to bids falling below the reserve price. This pause has reignited a long-standing and ideologically charged debate: should public sector banks in India be privatized?

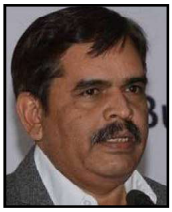
The question is not new. Since the introduction of the New Economic Policy in 1991-anchored in liberalization, privatization, and globalization-the role and ownership of public sector enterprises, particularly banks, have been continuously contested. Yet, successive governments have exercised caution, refraining from large-scale privatization of public sector banks, precisely because of the systemic and socio-economic implications involved. Disinvestment itself has taken two principal forms in India: strategic sales and market-based share sales. Strategic disinvestment often raises concerns regarding valuation, limited bidder participation, and transparency. In contrast, market-based disinvestment-executed through stock exchanges-offers greater transparency, wider public participation, and more robust price discovery. Over the past decade, this distinction has been evident: of the approximately Rs. 4.5 lakh crore mobilized through disinvestment, only about Rs. 69,000 crore has come from strategic sales, largely from transactions such as Air India and HPCL. Against this backdrop, the proposed privatization of IDBI Bank would have marked a significant departure-potentially the first large-scale transfer of a public sector bank into private hands. Proponents of privatization argue that such a move would introduce market discipline and improve capital allocation efficiency. Freed from bureaucratic constraints and political interference, banks could make faster, more commercially sound decisions. Improved governance standards, enhanced accountability of management, and greater transparency are also cited as likely outcomes.

Additionally, privatization is expected to strengthen asset quality and address persistent issues such as non-performing assets (NPAs), which have historically affected institutions like IDBI Bank. Another frequently advanced argument is fiscal: the government has repeatedly infused capital into public sector banks to maintain their stability. Privatization, therefore, could reduce the burden on taxpayers by limiting the need for recurring recapitalization. However, the counterarguments are equally compelling-and deeply rooted in India's development experience. Public sector banks occupy a unique position in the financial ecosystem. Unlike private banks, they carry an implicit sovereign guarantee, which underpins depositor confidence. Historically, India has witnessed failures of private banks, but not a single instance where depositors in a public sector bank have lost their savings. This trust has been instrumental in mobilizing domestic savings, a critical pillar of India's economic resilience. The origins of this model lie in the bank nationalizations of 1969 and 1980, which were driven by the objective of inclusive growth. Public sector banks were tasked with extending credit to priority sectors such as agriculture, small-scale industries, education, and exports-areas often underserved by private capital. This mandate continues to define their role. Public sector banks remain the backbone of financial inclusion initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). With over 51 crore accounts opened, these banks have enabled millions to access formal financial services and facilitated the delivery of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) through the integration of Aadhaar and mobile platforms.

The contrast with private sector participation is stark. Despite accounting for roughly 36 percent of total deposits and lending, private banks have opened less than 3 percent of Jan Dhan accounts. Similarly, public sector banks and regional rural banks dominate the provision of livelihood loans under schemes such as the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, as well as credit support for street vendors and other vulnerable segments. This asymmetry highlights a fundamental trade-off. Public sector banks operate under a dual mandate: commercial viability and social responsibility. Private banks, by contrast, are primarily profit-driven and are not obligated to pursue financial inclusion at the same scale. Consequently, while privatization may enhance profitability, it risks undermining the very mechanisms that enable inclusive growth. It is also important to note the financial turnaround of institutions like IDBI Bank. Once burdened by losses, the bank has regained profitability in recent years. Moreover, the value of government and LIC shareholdings in public sector banks has risen significantly-from around Rs. 20,000 crore in 2019 to approximately Rs. 1.1 lakh crore today-reflecting improved balance sheets and market confidence.

In this context, the wholesale transfer of public sector banks into private ownership raises critical policy questions. While efficiency gains are desirable, they must be weighed against the broader objectives of financial stability, inclusion, and developmental equity. A calibrated approach may offer a more balanced path forward. Market-based disinvestment-through gradual dilution of government stakes via stock exchanges-can enhance efficiency and governance without relinquishing strategic control. Similarly, offering shares to employees at concessional rates could align incentives and strengthen institutional commitment. The decision to halt the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank, therefore, appears less as a retreat and more as a reassessment. It underscores the need to reconcile economic efficiency with social purpose-a challenge that lies at the heart of India's banking policy. In the final analysis, the question is not merely whether public sector banks should be privatized, but how India can preserve their developmental role while enhancing their competitiveness in an evolving financial landscape.

Time to End Moratorium on Custom duty on E-Transmission



It's now or never time for our government to stay firm and press for ending this moratorium, stop revenue losses; and open new vistas of growth in e-products for our start-ups, and blocking future exploitation by global giants by circumventing physical imports through 3D printing technology.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

With development of technology, structure of international trade has under gone a major change. Physical goods like books and videos, once governed by traditional tariff rules, are now available as digital services. Strangely, whereas, as physical goods, they were subject to custom duties, but after they are digitalised, they become free from tariff, thanks to the tariff moratorium for trade in these digital products since 1998, when WTO member countries adopted the declaration of global electronic commerce, say electronic transmission. However, this moratorium was a temporary provision till the start of next ministerial, but it continued on the pretext that trade in digital products or E-transmission is in a nascent stage, till the time rules are framed in their regard, temporary moratorium can be a good policy. But, contrary to the belief, that it was temporary provision, every successive WTO ministerial kept on extending the moratorium. In the 13th ministerial conference at Abu Dhabi in 2024, again the same thing happened and without much debate WTO's members agreed to extend the moratorium and this extension was valid until 31 March 2026 only or the next ministerial conference, whichever comes first.

14th Ministerial Conference of WTO is scheduled in the last week of March 2026, where major issue before the conference, is to decide about the fate of moratorium on custom duty on E-transmission of digital products. As per the news reports, India is totally opposed to any continuation of the moratorium. But reports also indicate that US has been pressing for the continuation of moratorium. Now stage is set for a face-off between US and India on this issue.

Developing countries including India has been opposing this moratorium for various reasons. Though, developing countries had been opposing continuation of this moratorium, but developed nations somehow have been able to make member countries agree to the continuation of this moratorium.

Revenue loss for India

The most accepted proxy for "digital products imports" is digitally delivered services (DDS)—software, cloud, OTT, data, design, fintech, etc. As per NITI Aayog's estimates, India imported $116.9 billion worth of digitally delivered services in 2024, up from $41.4 billion in earlier years, which shows an accelerated growth.

Another important aspect of this trade is that imports are largely coming from developed countries (US, EU platforms, software firms). We note that there is huge revenue impact of WTO moratorium on e-transmissions, as no customs duties are imposed on electronic transmissions, e.g., software downloads, e-books, movies, cloud services etc. Though for 2017, the revenue loss was estimated at $500 million but it's likely to be much higher now due to explosion in streaming,movies digital, books, SaaS, AI tools, gaming imports (video games) etc.

with rising import base of $117 billion, even the most conservative estimates put this loss to be $2 billion annually. overall revenue loss for the developing countries was estimated at US$10 billion for 2017, but it is increasing very fast, thanks to the fact that physical imports such as Books, CDs, DVDs, software disks, are fast being replaced by products delivered digitally at zero duty. For example, Imported film reel are being replaced by OTT stream, where no customs duty is imposed and collected, thanks to the moratorium. Moreover, there is import concentration. Are mostly exported by US and EU firms, India remans a net importer of high value digital products. Therefore, we can say that Tariff leakage or loss is one-sided.

Developed countries like United States, European Union, Japan and China have actively been trying to make the WTO moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions permanent (or at least indefinite). Latest proposals to WTO made by their institutions and chamber of commerce, speak tons about such attempts.

The US has now started pushing for an "open-ended" or indefinite extension of the moratorium at WTO discussions. The US, along with the EU and Japan, has also advocated for permanent adoption of the moratorium to maintain tariff-free digital trade. The main arguments from the US side are that firstly, digital tariffs would disrupt global digital trade; secondly, it may increase costs for businesses and consumers and thirdly, it would fragment the global digital economy.

Significantly, at the time of the start of the WTO, trade in electronic products was very limited. In such a situation, the tariff on the trade of electronic products was temporarily suspended in 1998 and it was decided to study the issues related to the global electronic trade with reference to the development needs of the developing countries and was proposed that tariffs on electronic products be postponed till the next ministerial conference.

Another important reason, why moratorium must end is that, our start-ups and software companies are able to make a variety of electronic products, where they can make movies and other entertainment products domestically, but if all such products are imported undeterred, without tariff, there is little incentive to produce them indigenously. This tariff moratorium on e products is actually killing our efforts of Atmanirbhar Bharat, benefitting US, European countries and China.

Thirdly, there are digital products which are fast replacing physical products. Many of the digital product in health, fintech, public services and many others, incorporating artificial intelligence etc. have been changing the demand patterns for these services. Failure to tax them in innovative ways is likely to bring hurdles for manufacturing these digital products indigenously.

Fourthly, with widespread adoption of 3D printing, products like auto parts, medical devices, toys, and machinery components can be traded as design files instead of goods. Customs authorities may lose the ability to track and tax trade. Manufacturing may shift to distributed digital production networks, and India may lose huge custom duties, as designs will replace physical goods' imports, free from payment of custom duties.

Today, major issue of moratorium is not the traditional E transmission, but real issue, though new, is about Artificial Intelligence (AI). We understand that, US (and Chinese) have emerged AI monopolies, which are set to rule the world, avoiding any border taxes. If these countries are allowed to transmit AI products, free from custom duties, rest of the countries will be devoid of any tax revenues from AI, which will dominate both cross-border value flows and the national economies. As is expected that in future, share of AI in GDP will be huge, moratorium on custom duty on E transmission, will cause a huge revenue loss, and may further accentuate monopoly of US and China, which in turn will hit at the very heart of national economic sustainability, and thereby political sovereignty. Therefore, the issue of e-transmission has become much more complicated, than what it was, in the past.

All over the globe, talks are on about regulating AI, in view of its disadvantages in terms of loss of employment. Therefore, globally demand is being raised that to help saving employment, there is a need to tax AI services. In this regard, Economic Survey, 2025-26 has come out with an idea, and suggested "Companies that replace labour with AI and earn higher profits may face taxation on those incremental profits to compensate for job displacement."

But if we allow AI services to enter into Indian markets from overseas at zero custom duties, we will not have any right to impose tax on domestically provided AI services. Therefore, a policy space to regulate AI will be lost.

[Conitnued on page no. 20]

Artificial Intelligence: Meaning, Origin, Opportunities and Challenges

The Meaning and Origin of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence refers to the capability of machines and computer systems to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, including learning, reasoning, pattern recognition and natural language understanding. The concept of AI emerged during the early years of computer science and was formally introduced at the Dartmouth Conference in 1956.

Early AI systems relied on rule-based programming and symbolic reasoning. However, rapid advances in computing power, data availability and machine learning techniques have dramatically transformed the field. Modern AI systems use neural networks and deep learning algorithms capable of analysing vast datasets and identifying complex patterns. Today AI is increasingly viewed as a general-purpose technology similar to electricity or the internet because of its ability to influence multiple sectors of the economy simultaneously.

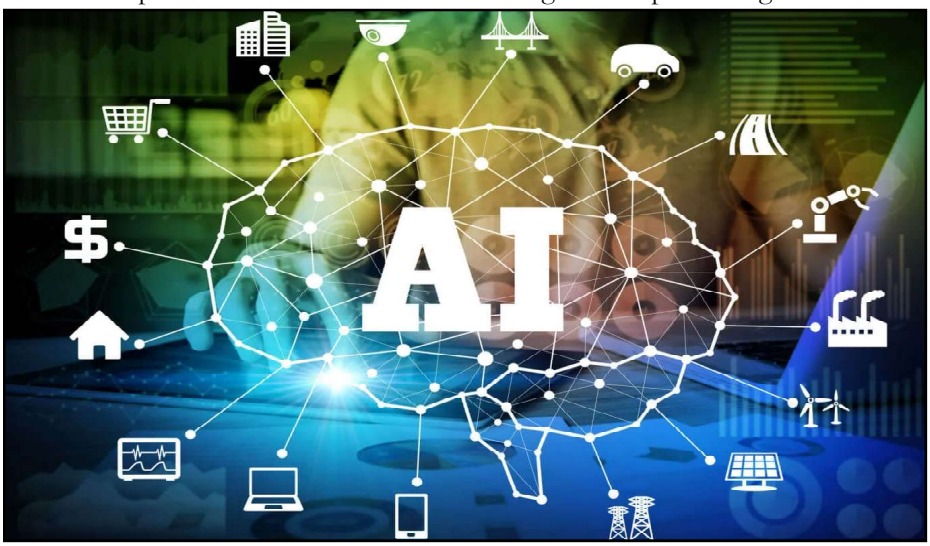
From Silicon to Algorithms: The Infrastructure of AI

Artificial Intelligence depends on a vast physical and digital infrastructure. The AI ecosystem begins with natural resources such as silicon and rare earth minerals extracted from the earth. These materials are used in semiconductor manufacturing to produce advanced microchips that power computing systems.

Semiconductor fabrication plants convert silicon wafers into processors and AI accelerators. These chips are installed in servers and high-performance computing systems located in large data centres around the world. Above this hardware infrastructure operate software frameworks, machine learning algorithms and advanced computational models that enable intelligent data processing.

For India, the combination of technological capability, skilled human resources and supportive policy initiatives can enable the country to play an important role in the global AI ecosystem.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal



The Eight Layers of the AI Technology Stack

AI development can be understood through an eight layer technological stack.

1. Natural resources layer – silicon, rare earth metals, and energy resources.
2. Semiconductor design layer – companies designing chip architectures.
3. Fabrication layer – semiconductor manufacturing plants.
4. Hardware infrastructure layer – servers, GPUs, and computing hardware.
5. Data centre and networking layer – large computing facilities and global connectivity.
6. Cloud computing layer – scalable computing platforms.
7. Algorithm and model layer – machine learning models and neural networks.
8. Application layer – AI solutions used in different industries.

Each layer represents a different industrial ecosystem with specialized technologies and companies.

Companies Driving the AI Revolution

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has been driven by a number of leading technology companies operating across different layers of the AI ecosystem. Semiconductor design companies such as NVIDIA, Intel and AMD produce high-performance processors used in AI computing. Semiconductor manufacturing is dominated by firms such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) and Samsung Electronics.

Cloud computing infrastructure is provided by major technology companies including Amazon, Microsoft and Google. These companies operate global networks of hyperscale data centres capable of training and deploying advanced AI models.

In the field of AI research and algorithms, organizations such as OpenAI, DeepMind and Anthropic are developing large-scale machine learning systems and generative AI technologies.

Anthropic Claude and its impact on Stock Market

A particularly notable development has been the emergence of the Claude AI assistant developed by Anthropic. Claude is designed with a strong emphasis on safety, reliability and advanced conversational capability. The rapid adoption of generative AI platforms such as Claude has increased competition among technology companies and has influenced investor expectations regarding future revenues from artificial intelligence. As a result, developments in AI platforms often influence stock market sentiment and valuations of technology firms. Companies such as IBM, Microsoft and Infosys have seen increased investor attention as artificial intelligence becomes a central driver of innovation and enterprise software development. This demonstrates how progress in AI research increasingly affects not only technological competition but also global financial markets.

Role of Global Capital and the Big Three Investment Firms

Large global asset managers including BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street hold significant equity stakes in many technology companies involved in AI development. Because these firms manage trillions of dollars in assets they play an important indirect role in shaping investment flows into semiconductor manufacturing, data centres and AI research.

Artificial Intelligence development is distributed across several countries, each contributing to different segments of the technology value chain. The United States leads in AI research, algorithm development and cloud infrastructure.

Role of Major Countries in the AI Ecosystem

Artificial Intelligence development is distributed across several countries, each contributing to different segments of the technology value chain. The United States leads in AI research, algorithm development and cloud infrastructure. China has rapidly expanded its capabilities in AI applications and digital platforms.

The Netherlands plays a crucial role in semiconductor equipment manufacturing, particularly advanced lithography machines used in chip fabrication. Japan and South Korea contribute significantly to semiconductor materials and electronics manufacturing, while Taiwan has become the world's most important centre for advanced semiconductor fabrication.

India occupies a distinctive position as a major global talent pool with a large number of software engineers, data scientists and IT pro-

fessionals contributing to AI development and digital innovation.

Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labour Markets

Artificial Intelligence is expected to transform labour markets worldwide. Automation may replace certain routine tasks in sectors such as manufacturing and administration while creating new employment opportunities in fields such as data science, robotics engineering and AI software development. The long-term impact will depend largely on education systems and workforce reskilling initiatives.

Environmental Implications of Artificial Intelligence

Training advanced AI models requires substantial computational power and electricity consumption. Large data centres require sophisticated cooling systems and continuous energy supply. However AI can also support environmental sustainability through climate modelling, smart energy systems and improved resource management.

India Semiconductor Mission

Recognizing the strategic importance of semiconductor manufacturing, the Government of India launched the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) to promote domestic chip manufacturing and strengthen the country's electronics ecosystem. The initiative aims to attract global semiconductor companies to establish fabrication plants and semiconductor design facilities in India through financial incentives and supportive policies. By developing semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, India seeks to reduce dependence on imported chips, support the growth of domestic electronics industries and create a strong technological foundation for artificial intelligence, advanced computing and digital innovation.

AI Impact Summit in New Delhi

The growing global importance of artificial intelligence was highlighted by the recent AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi, which brought together policymakers, technology companies, researchers and industry leaders to discuss the future of AI innovation and governance. The summit emphasized the importance of responsible AI development, international collaboration and regulatory frameworks that balance technological progress with societal safety. Discussions also highlighted India's ambition to become a significant participant in the global AI ecosystem through investments in digital infrastructure, talent development and technology governance.

The Overall Impact on India

For India artificial intelligence represents both a strategic opportunity and a challenge.

India possesses advantages such as a large digital population, a strong IT services sector and a growing startup ecosystem. Government initiatives in digital public infrastructure also provide a strong foundation for AI adoption.

However India faces challenges including dependence on imported semiconductor technology, limited high performance computing infrastructure and shortages of advanced AI research capabilities. Strengthening semiconductor manufacturing, AI research and talent development will be essential for India's technological future.

Implications of Artificial Intelligence for Humanity

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to greatly improve human welfare. In healthcare, AI can assist in early disease diagnosis, medical imaging, and drug discovery. In agriculture, AI technologies enable precision farming and crop monitoring. In scientific research, AI supports complex simulations and data analysis.

However, concerns also exist regarding privacy, misinformation, algorithmic bias, and the potential

misuse of AI technologies. Ensuring that AI systems serve human interests therefore requires careful ethical and policy frameworks.

Regulation and Governance for the Safety of Human Life

As AI systems become integrated into sectors such as healthcare, transportation, finance and governance, robust regulatory frameworks become essential. Effective AI governance should ensure transparency of algorithms, accountability of developers, protection of personal data, prevention of bias and strong cybersecurity safeguards.

International institutions increasingly emphasize the concept of human-centred AI, meaning that technological development must prioritize human welfare, safety and fundamental rights. Regulatory systems must balance innovation with ethical safeguards so that artificial intelligence enhances human capability without threatening human life or social stability.

The Debate Around Artificial Intelligence

The debate around Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a major geopolitical and economic issue, and there is an interesting contrast between how some Western politicians (like Bernie Sanders) view AI and how countries like India and China approach it.

1. Western Concerns: AI as a Threat to Jobs and Democracy - In the United States and Europe, many political leaders focus on risks of AI.

Main Concerns: 1. Job Displacement, 2. Concentration of Power, 3. Economic Inequality, 4. Misinformation and Security

Because of these concerns, Western governments are working on strict AI regulation frameworks.

AI is becoming one of the most influential technologies of the modern era. Its development depends on a complex ecosystem involving natural resources, semiconductor manufacturing, computing infrastructure, algorithms & digital applications.

For example - The European Union introduced the AI Act, The U.S. Congress is debating AI oversight rules. Politicians like Bernie Sanders emphasize protecting workers first.

2. India's Approach: AI as an Economic Opportunity : India largely sees AI as a development accelerator rather than primarily a risk. Government initiatives include: NITI Aayog National AI Strategy, India AI Mission, India Semiconductor Mission

Key Goals - 1. Economic Growth, 2. Public Sector Transformation, 3. Digital Infrastructure

India's vision is "AI for All."

3. China's Approach: AI as Strategic Power : China views AI as a strategic technology similar to nuclear weapons or space capability.

Major companies involved include: Alibaba Group, Tencent, Baidu, Huawei

China's goals include: global AI leadership by 2030, military AI systems, AI-driven surveillance and governance. AI is treated as a national strategic asset. Thus US, India and China all three have different approach towards AI.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is becoming one of the most influential technologies of the modern era. Its development depends on a complex ecosystem involving natural resources, semiconductor manufacturing, computing infrastructure, algorithms and digital applications. While AI offers enormous opportunities for economic growth and scientific progress, it also raises challenges related to employment, environmental sustainability and technological governance.

Countries that invest in research, digital infrastructure, human capital and responsible regulatory frameworks will be better positioned to benefit from the AI revolution. For India, the combination of technological capability, skilled human resources and supportive policy initiatives can enable the country to play an important role in the global AI ecosystem. ❑❑

References

- Brynjolfsson, E., & McAfee, A. (2014). The Second Machine Age.
- Russell, S., & Norvig, P. (2021). Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach.
- Stanford University (2024). AI Index Report.
- McKinsey Global Institute (2023). The Economic Potential of Generative AI.
- International Monetary Fund (2024). Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work.
- World Bank (2022). Digital Development Report.
- NITI Aayog (2018). National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence – AI for All.
- OECD (2023). Artificial Intelligence in Society.

Understanding India's AI Moment from the Lens of AI Summit 2026

The AI Summit 2026 presented a vision of India's role in the global AI ecosys tem. India's AI ecosystem is robust in sectors such as healthcare, logistics, customer service and financial technology which are application layer innovation. India focuses on applications layer due to three structural reasons. First, lower capital requirements. Training frontier models costs higher while applications cost far less. Second, massive domestic market. India has 1.4 billion users, 700 million internet users and 22 plus languages. This creates demand for localized AI products. Third, talent structure India produces software engineers, data scientists and SaaS founders.

Table: Evolving AI ecosystem of India

Layer	Current status in India
Infrastructure	Mostly NVIDIA + hyperscalers
Compute cloud	AWS / Google / Azure
Foundation models	Emerging (Sarvam AI, AI4Bharat)
Frameworks	Mostly global
Applications	Strong Indian startup ecosystem

Source: Own compilation

Companies like Sarvam AI signal an effort to develop Indian-language AI models that better serve the country's linguistic diversity. However, a relatively small number of global technology companies dominate the AI compute infrastructure, large-scale training frameworks and frontier model development in India. Therefore, the concept of sovereign AI becomes crucial for India. The sovereign AI means building AI capabilities that are locally developed, controlled and aligned with national interests. For India, sovereign AI would require progress in several areas: national AI compute infrastructure, Indian-language foundation models, trusted data governance frameworks, local AI semiconductor development, independent cloud and deployment platforms. At AI summit 2026, the initiatives presented by Jio, Google, NVIDIA, Microsoft, Meta, Sarvam AI and several startups indicate early steps in this direction, though substantial work remains.

As India represents the largest future AI user base and a market that is still open to foreign technology. So, the strategy of American companies is to win India to control the next billion AI users.

Annu Kumari

At the AI Summit 2026, Reliance Jio demonstrated the architecture of India's emerging AI ecosystem. Reliance Jio presented a vertically layered AI vision organized into six layers: AI-ready infrastructure; Elastic AI compute; Data assets; AI models; AI frameworks; and AI solutions. Jio displayed a strategy to embed AI into everyday Indian life through Jio AI Home, Jio Bharat IQ, Jio Shiksha, Jio Arogya AI, Jio Sanskriti, Creator AI and Jio Frames. This is similar to Alibaba Group or Tencent built ecosystems in China. Jio appears to be positioning itself as the domestic orchestrator of India's AI ecosystem which combines telecom distribution, data assets, developer platforms and consumer applications. However, the deeper layers like advanced compute and hardware still depend on global suppliers. While the ambition of Jio is significant, the success of such a stack will depend on whether Jio can build or localize these deeper layers.

Google positioned itself as an enabler of AI development for India's digital public infrastructure. It showed partnerships with startups, research institutions and organizations working across healthcare, digital commerce and entrepreneurship. So, it implies that local startups and public initiatives build applications, but much of the training, deployment and scaling occurs on global cloud infrastructure. From sovereign AI viewpoint, it raises questions about platform dependency as much of the AI infrastructure including cloud computing, training environments and foundational models remains tied to global platforms.

NVIDIA showcased a wide range of Indian startups building AI solutions in robotics, generative media, enterprise analytics and voice technologies. It demonstrated that NVIDIA's GPU infrastructure supports a wide spectrum of AI innovation in India. Without domestic alternatives or large-scale national compute infrastructure, India's AI ecosystem may remain reliant on external hardware providers. While training advanced AI models requires massive computational resources and the global supply of such hardware is concentrated among a few companies. Interestingly, Sarvam AI was also listed in the NVIDIA pavilion. So, when NVIDIA highlights a company like Sarvam AI, it indicates that "this company is building important AI models using our infrastructure." For NVIDIA, companies like Sarvam are strategic because India will be one of the largest AI markets in the world. Every model trained means more GPU demand.

The global digital economies tend to fall into two categories: platform builders vs platform users. Countries that control infrastructure, chips, operating systems and foundational technologies are platform builders.

Thus, it can be concluded that India's AI startup ecosystem is thriving at the application layer, but the underlying compute infrastructure remains globally controlled. India's strength clearly lies in innovation at the application layer, where its software talent and large domestic market provide a strong advantage. Therefore, AI summit 2026 raises a central strategic question that can India move deeper into the foundational layers of AI? Building sovereign AI capabilities would require progress in large-scale national compute infrastructure, domestic semiconductor ecosystems, advanced AI research institutions, locally trained foundation models. These layers are capital-intensive and require long-term industrial strategy. When foundational technologies are externally controlled then application ecosystem might also remain structurally dependent.

The global digital economies tend to fall into two categories: platform builders vs platform users. Countries that control infrastructure, chips, operating systems and foundational technologies are platform builders. While countries that innovate on top of externally built technological foundations are Platform users. From this viewpoint, technological sovereignty lies primarily in the lower layers of the stack. The potential Indian strength is uncertain in foundation AI layers (chips, compute, core models) but strong in application layers (services, vertical solutions). As of now, India equals to application innovation layer while US tech companies equal to foundational AI layer. But the ecosystem (Jio, Sarvam, IndiaAI Mission) suggests India is trying to move deeper into the stack. Moreover, the strong presence of Meta, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Google and Reliance Jio in the same AI summit ecosystem actually signals something deeper than just technology partnerships. It reflects a geopolitical and economic competition around the future AI market. As India represents the largest future AI user base and a market that is still open to foreign technology. So, the strategy of American companies is to win India to control the next billion AI users. ❑❑

Will India build AI — or just feed it?

At the AI Summit in New Delhi, Indian startups — Sarvam, Gnani and Bharat Gen — showcased home-grown AI models. CEOs from leading technology firms praised India's growing role in artificial intelligence and announced significant investment pledges. Beyond the applause and investment pledges, a harder question remains: where does India stand in the global AI order? One way to assess its position is through the five-layer AI stack described by Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang. At the base of five-layer AI stack is energy, which powers data centres and AI factories. AI requires reliable, high-quality electricity at competitive prices. India offers relatively low-cost power, but grid reliability issues, transmission bottlenecks, and uneven power quality remain constraints for hyper-scale infrastructure.

Next is compute infrastructure — advanced chips, and high-speed networks. The US leads through Nvidia and major cloud providers, while China is rapidly expanding despite chip restrictions. India is growing its data-centre capacity but depends entirely on imported chips and GPUs, creating a strategic vulnerability.

The third layer is foundation models trained on vast datasets. The US leads through OpenAI and Google, while China has built strong domestic models such as DeepSeek. India's strength lies in multilingual data and talent, but it lacks globally competitive models.

Above this are platforms and developer ecosystems. India benefits from a large developer base and digital public infrastructure, yet lacks globally dominant AI platforms. At the top is application layer, where India can build cost-ecient AI solutions across sectors. Its challenge is to capture intellectual property and build globally competitive products.

To build its own models, Indian AI firms require sustained funding, access to high-performance compute and long-term policy support.
Ajay Srivastava

Why big tech is interested

In short, despite its many strengths, India is not at the cutting edge of frontier AI. Why, then, are US technology firms focusing so intensely on India? Two reasons explain this attention.

First, India as the world's largest open data source. China's data is inaccessible to foreign firms. India produces vast streams of multilingual, real-world data from payments, e-commerce, mobility, agriculture, and public services. Some estimates suggest that Indian data volumes even exceed the US data used to train major AI models. For global AI companies, India is a vital testing and training ground for US models designed to serve the world. US tech giants are investing in India to secure future continued supply of India data. India's data position feels like this: US Big Tech fishes freely in India's data pond, sells the cooked meal back at a premium — and if it causes harm, there is no accountability.

Second, India as the next billion-user AI market. ChatGPT alone has roughly 100 million weekly users in India, making it the platform's second-largest market. With China largely close to them, the next 500 million AI users for US firms are

expected to come from emerging digital economies led by India. With hundreds of millions of smartphone users, a large developer base, and digital public infrastructure that enables rapid adoption, India oers unmatched distribution scale for US AI products.

At the AI Summit, Sriram Krishnan, Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence, made the intentions clear. He said the US wants the world, including India, to use American AI models, infrastructure, and platforms.

Securing India's AI Future

This requires action on three fronts: First, developing Indian AI requires keeping Indian data available for domestic use. If data flows freely abroad, incentives to build local AI systems weaken. India's automobile industry grew behind high import taris that encouraged global carmakers to invest and manufacture locally. A similar logic applies to data. If unrestricted data flows continue, Indian AI development may struggle to move beyond the small startup stage.

The February 6 India-US Joint Statement linked to the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement calls for clear digital trade rules that could limit India's ability to regulate its digital economy, bind it to free cross-border data flows, and prevent taxes on digital transactions. Agreeing to such provisions could reduce policy flexibility and public revenue as economic activity moves online.

Second, India must build its own AI models and infrastructure. Governments around the world are investing in national AI systems to secure technological sovereignty. China, France, South Korea and the UAE are building models tailored to their languages, regulations and local needs.

India has begun this journey through the India AI Mission & initiatives such as Sarvam, Gnani & BharatGen. Yet India's AI startups, though driven by talented and enthusiastic founders, operate with limited capital & computing resources.

India has begun this journey through the IndiaAI Mission and initiatives such as Sarvam, Gnani and BharatGen. Yet India's AI startups, though driven by talented and enthusiastic founders, operate with limited capital and computing resources. Competing with global AI leaders requires sustained funding, access to high-performance compute and long-term policy support —conditions that most startups cannot secure on their own.

Large Indian IT firms, with deep pockets and technical capability, are better positioned to build AI platforms. However, their business model — built on providing services to US technology companies — creates a conflict of interest. Developing indigenous AI tools could disrupt existing contracts and revenue streams, so many remain focused on processing data and supporting global platforms rather than creating their own models.

With domestic giants staying on the sidelines and global players seeking dominance, promising startups risk early acquisition and India risks technological dependence. To avoid becoming merely a data supplier that pays to use tools built from its own data, the government must craft a strategy for large-scale investment, shared compute infrastructure and long-term ecosystem support, as other countries are doing.

Third, prepare India's IT workforce for the AI era. AI is automating routine coding, testing and backoce tasks that support traditional outsourcing. While this will cut profits and jobs, it will also create major new opportunities. Integrating AI tools with legacy systems in factories, banks, hospitals, government platforms and supply chains will keep Indian IT firms busy for years, as deployment requires customisation, regulatory compliance, cybersecurity safeguards and human oversight.

Demand will also grow in cloud modernisation, data engineering, AI governance and responsible deployment. This "last-mile" integration is where value will be created —and where India's technical talent can lead globally. To capture these opportunities, India must strengthen engineering education, improve curricula quality, and prioritise skills for an AI-driven economy.

The New Delhi summit celebrated India's AI potential, but the real test lies ahead. If India safeguards its data, builds its own models, and prepares its workforce, it can shape the AI age rather than merely consume it. Without decisive action, it risks supplying the data while buying back the tools built from it. The choices made now will determine whether India becomes a rule-maker in the AI era – or simply its largest marketplace – with consequences for national security and economic sovereignty as well. ❑❑

The writer is Founder, GTRI

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/will-india-build-ai-or-just-feed-it/article70652942.ece

Analysing AI Impact Summit

The AI (Artificial Intelligence) impact summit, which concluded recently at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, featured the who's who of the so-called disruptive technology sector. A disruptive technology challenges the status quo. It creates a forest of usage cases. The scale spreads like wildfire depending upon urgency, utility, necessity, productivity, and many other factors that govern operations strategy.

The AI is a necessity for an aging world, offering hope as we harness the demographic dividend over the next two decades, reassuring the audience about positive prospects for aging societies.

The aging world needs AI, as there are more senior citizens than youths. The working population pays taxes, and the aging population receives government support. The AI is a necessity as it has utility in factories that rely on a twenty-four-hour labour supply. Dark factories have emerged as an alternative to address the shortage of youth in such factories. Factories are called dark because they operate without lighting or air conditioning. The AI is customized to do manufacturing work. The AI can perform many hazardous tasks, for example, firefighting and mining. The AI that spreads like wildfire is in the services sector. It's on our handhelds and laptops.

The AI can supplement students' learning, enhance patient care, and be used for much more in daily life. Judicious use is expected everywhere, whether that be an individual, an institution, or a civilization.

The judicious decision to engage AI is a challenge. It's a challenge for the government to regulate. It's a challenge for companies to survive. It's a challenge for users to isolate themselves from AI-driven addictions.

The AI Impact Summit, held from 16th to 20th February 2026 at Bharat

The greatest benefit AI offers is its power to democratize education and business, breaking down financial barriers and fostering inclusive growth across society.
Alok Singh

Mandapam in New Delhi, served as a pivotal platform for shaping AI policy, industry collaborations, and addressing future challenges.

The government-to-government session of this program aimed to collaborate and regulate disruptive technology to make the world a better place to live.

The engagement among companies and the contracts might have resulted in impactful deals being signed. The venue had a separate, reserved space for corporate meetings and discussions.

Visitors to the display pavilion had the opportunity to experience the real-world use and impact of AI products. Students from academic institutions were allowed to showcase their AI projects. There was no discrimination based on the university's rankings, legacy, or credibility. It was a true demonstration of democratic beliefs. Whosoever academics wished to participate were provided with space to demonstrate their skills with a no-questions-asked mindset.

This summit resembled a fair. Anyone can come, anyone can display, anyone can offer, anyone can engage, and it all builds confidence in the democratisation of AI.

The contemporary mindset of monetizing knowledge at every stage of its development, sharing, and use might align with the red ocean strategy of survival of the fittest. The Bhartiya philosophy consistently creates a blue-ocean strategy in which competition complements cooperation.

The AI summit at New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam can be labelled as a one-stop shop for governments, companies, and users. Such events, without discrimination, are an honest attempt by the Bharatiya leadership to reposition the thoughts and ideas of Pandit Deendayal Upadhayay: that the East neither owns knowledge nor is it owned by the West, but is owned by the world. Whosoever needs ours can have it, and that's our offer and belief. Unfortunately, the other way assumptions are weak. So, we need to lead by offering to others.

AI offers dark factories to aging countries and promotes decentralization as a positive alternative to traditional economies of scale, inspiring confidence in local and customized growth.

Academics, industry, corporations, and creative professionals, such as authors, singers, dancers, and others, occasionally raise doubts in the audience's minds about whether the presentation is an original human composition or a machine-generated one.

Academic publications are already requiring authors to disclose the extent of AI's contribution to the paper. There are academic regulations, such as plagiarism, that hedge the work of the original human. But if a human does not acknowledge the work of AI, it forces the conceptualization of ideas, such as the birth of organizations like "The Artificial Intelligence Association" and regulators spread across multiple universities, countries, and laws, and the regulatory matrix can be complex. The dark factories themselves will force the accounting firms and the government's income tax department to rewrite the blueprint for sustainable fiscal behaviour. Human intelligence generated revenue for government and now its artificial intelligence that interests the income tax department.

The challenge of regulating AI's role in intellectual property and work claims is a pressing global issue, requiring coordinated efforts to ensure fair and sustainable use across nations.

The illustration of the resume writing industry is good to recall to understand the role of AI in today's work output. The employer faced a tough time figuring out the truth from the fudge in a job seeker's resume. The hired resume writers created a portfolio for job seekers, and the higher the payment, the more favourable the resume could be. The Resume writing sector had its own "National Resume Writers' Association" in America.

So, we are witnessing an AI story after experiencing a civilization that has already practiced the resume-writing industry, digital cheerleaders, amplified narratives, and the diminishing shelf life of technological ideas.

Ultimately, AI is a pattern reader; it's a statistical model, it's not a mathematical model. Statistics provides multiple recommendations with probabilities attached, while a mathematical model usually provides a single, discrete recommendation. And so, its recommendations will always have a tail risk.

The greatest benefit AI offers is its power to democratize education and business, breaking down financial barriers and fostering inclusive growth across society.

The sustainable way is the decentralised way; the sustainable way is the customised way. AI is manoeuvring civilisation in that direction, and we welcome AI. It will be delightful to hear the prediction of the next buzz that's beyond AI. ❑❑

(Alok Singh has a doctorate in management from the Indian Institute of Management Indore and is a promoter of Transition Research Consultancy for Policy and Management.)

Breathing Self-Reliance – A Structural Solution to India's Air Pollution Crisis

Swadeshi 2.0 envisions development rooted in place, ecology, and people's well-being—recognizing that a nation's greatest strength lies not in its ability to import, but in its capacity to provide for itself sustainably.

Deepak Sharma

Introduction: Beyond Palliative Measures

India's annual winter air pollution crisis, particularly in northern cities like Delhi, Gurugram, and Lucknow, has elicited only episodic policy responses: odd-even vehicle schemes, temporary stubble burning bans, smog guns, and artificial rain. While necessary as immediate measures, the author argues these are fundamentally palliative rather than curative. They treat the visible symptom—the smog—while leaving the underlying structural disease untouched. While, India's air pollution crisis represents a symptom of a deeper "structural conflict" rooted in a specific post-liberalization development model characterized by three interconnected features: crippling dependence on imported fossil fuels; real-estate-driven urban expansion prioritizing infrastructure-led sprawl and car-centric design; and the peripheral re-location of polluting industries, which merely shifts pollution geographically rather than eliminating it. Here, it is argued that "Swadeshi 2.0" as a comprehensive framework designed to break this destructive cycle. Swadeshi, meaning "of one's own country," historically associated with the pre-independence movement for economic self-reliance, is reimagined as a "Third Way" that rejects both the extractive, ecologically blind model of development and reactive populist measures that fail to address structural issues. Energy self-reliance and indigenous green technology not merely as economic goals but as fundamental pillars of national security and public health. The central thesis holds that India's pollution crisis and economic vulnerability are twin products of a single structural flaw: a development path that transplanted foreign economic frameworks prioritizing growth without ecological balance.

India is the world's third-largest energy consumer. While domestic coal provides some energy security, its combustion remains a primary source of particulate matter. The more acute vulnerability lies in oil: over 87% of crude oil requirements are imported. This dependency creates a vicious cycle where billions of dollars drain from foreign exchange reserves to purchase fuel that directly undermines public health, representing massive opportunity costs for renewable energy infrastructure and healthcare investment. The pollution crisis is exacerbated by a specific model characterized by "real-estate-driven expansion, infrastructure-led sprawl, and the peripheral relocation of polluting industries." Driven by speculative real estate markets, cities expand outward in car-dependent patterns. Highways trigger commercial and residential development along corridors, locking in vehicle dependency. Simultaneously, industries pushed to urban peripheries create new pollution hotspots without reducing overall pollution load, disproportionately harming marginalized communities.

Underpinning this structural pathology is the adoption of Western, post-industrial economic frameworks that gained prominence after 1991 reforms. These frameworks prioritized rapid GDP growth, trade liberalization, and foreign direct investment while remaining blind to India's specific ecological and social contexts.

They treated pollution as an externality rather than a fundamental system flaw, resulting in development mimicking the most ecologically damaging phases of Western industrialization.

Philosophical Foundations

Swadeshi 2.0 draws from two towering Indian thinkers: Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Dattopant Thengadi.

Upadhyaya rejected both Western capitalism and Soviet-style communism as unsuitable for India. He proposed a vision integrating body, mind, intellect, and soul—the material and spiritual—in harmonious whole. The ideal economic system serves "Integral Man" within a moral framework guided by Dharma. He advocated decentralization and Swadeshi, arguing: "man, the highest creation of God, is losing his own identity. We must re-establish him in his rightful position... This is possible only through a decentralized economy." His principle of Antyodaya—the uplift of the "last man"—challenges growth models benefiting few while the majority choke on pollution. Thengadi articulated Swadeshi not as protectionism but as patriotic duty to build national economic strength from a broad base of small-scale entrepreneurs rather than large corporations. Gandhi's concept of Swadeshi built on Antyodaya and Sarvodaya (universal uplift). His statement that "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed" critiqued extractive consumerist logic. The charkha symbolized a decentralized, human-scaled system in harmony with local environment—a principle Swadeshi 2.0 operationalizes for contemporary contexts.

The Green Triad: Energy Sovereignty

Swadeshi 2.0 calls for scaling solar capacity while building domestic manufacturing for photovoltaic cells, batteries, and energy storage systems—reducing reliance on imported panels and creating virtuous cycles of employment, innovation, and energy independence. For sectors difficult to electrify, the model promotes utilizing agricultural residue—including stubble currently burned, contributing to winter smog—to produce ethanol and compressed biogas (CBG). This transforms a pollution source into domestic energy while creating economic incentives for farmers to collect and sell residue rather than burn it. As India aspires to become a global hub for green hydrogen, Swadeshi 2.0 frames this as strategic imperative for decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, and chemicals—positioning indigenous technology development as national mission for both economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

Sustainable Urbanism: Reimagining Cities

Instead of infrastructure serving cars, the model prioritizes compact, mixed-use urban development centered around high-quality public transit nodes—reducing private vehicle dependency, shortening commute distances, and fostering walkable communities. Swadeshi industrial policy incentivizes clustering industries in designated, well-regulated zones equipped with pollution control technology and powered by green energy, preventing chaotic unplanned sprawl into peri-urban areas. Promoting locally sourced, environmentally sustainable construction materials and methods—reviving traditional architectural principles adapted for modern needs—reduces embedded emissions in the building sector. Moving beyond linear "take-make-dispose" models involves mandating extended producer responsibility, designing for durability and recyclability, and building infrastructure for waste-to-energy and material recovery.

Using government procurement, subsidies, and tariffs to create domestic markets for indigenous green technologies—with specific focus on empowering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises—creates positive feedback loops where domestic demand drives innovation and cost reduction.

Shifting tax burden from income and production to pollution and resource extraction through

carbon taxes or taxes on polluting inputs accelerates transition to cleaner alternatives while generating revenue for green transition and compensating affected communities.

Policy Implementation Framework

Swadeshi 2.0 proposes phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, implementing carbon tax with revenue recycling, and mandating government infrastructure projects prioritize indigenous green technologies and materials—leveraging government's position as largest infrastructure spender to rapidly scale domestic green manufacturing. Shifting to sustainable urbanism requires empowering urban local bodies with fiscal autonomy and technical capacity to implement Transit-Oriented Development plans, shifting planning authority from state-level highway authorities to local governance. Land value capture mechanisms should leverage appreciation around transit corridors to finance affordable housing and public transit infrastructure. A dedicated National Mission for Non-Motorized Transport should build safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure across major cities.

Production-Linked Incentives should be expanded to cover entire green economy supply chains—from polysilicon for solar panels to advanced chemistry cells for batteries—focusing on complete domestic ecosystems rather than final assembly. MSME-centric green transition programs should provide subsidized loans, technical assistance, and common effluent treatment plants. Unified policy linking agricultural residue management with biofuel production should establish CBG plants in rural areas, develop biomass supply chains, and provide economic alternatives to stubble burning.

While concluding we can say that India stands at a critical juncture. The current path—defined by energy dependency, car-centric sprawl, and peripheralization of pollution—leads to worsening environmental crises, escalating public health costs, and persistent economic vulnerability. Palliative measures treat smog but not the systems creating it.

Swadeshi 2.0 offers a structural solution by confronting root causes: dependence on imported fossil fuels and extractive, transplanted development models. It provides a roadmap where economic growth, national security, and public health align—drawing strength from philosophical traditions from Gandhi's ecological wisdom to Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism and Thengadi's articulation of Swadeshi as patriotism.

The model presents a stark choice: continue extractive development that imports energy and exports health, measuring success in GDP while citizens gasp for breath; or build an indigenous circular economy where energy independence and clean air become two sides of the same Swadeshi coin.

This pivot requires redefining national strength. What if strength was measured not by GDP growth alone, but by the respiratory health of children? What if security was defined not by fossil fuel reserves, but by resilience of the energy grid? What if success was gauged by the fundamental right to breathe clean air, free from costs of imported dependency?

Swadeshi 2.0 envisions development rooted in place, ecology, and people's well-being—recognizing that a nation's greatest strength lies not in its ability to import, but in its capacity to provide for itself sustainably. The fight for clean air is inseparable from the fight for true self-reliance. To win one, India must commit to the other. ❑❑

[Conitnued from page no. 7]

Time to End Moratorium on Custom duty on ...

Moreover, we understand that while US, China and some other major economies have led the AI revolution and have the advantage of being the first mover, but India has also been trying very hard to develop its digital public infrastructure (DPI) and become an active player in AI. However, if we allow digital products via E transmission to enter Indian territory, free from custom duties, India would lose hugely, not only by discouraging, our domestic enterprises, mostly start-ups to emerge big, but also will lose an opportunity to tax AI services, which is also essential from the point of view of saving its population from unemployment.

It's now or never time for our government to stay firm and press for ending this moratorium, stop revenue losses; and open new vistas of growth in e-products for our start-ups, and blocking future exploitation by global giants by circumventing physical imports through 3D printing technology.❑❑

Can the US-Israel War on Iran Trigger an Agrarian Crisis?

The war declared by Israel and the United States against Iran, and its escalation, signal nothing less than Armageddon, and not just for the petro-dollar, but on global food security and agricultural production. One of several far-reaching impacts on India and other countries could soon be inflation, even hyper-inflation. The prices of chemical fertilisers such as urea, fossil fuels that form the power backbone of irrigated fields, critical minerals like sulphur, phosphate, and many other primary and secondary goods, face major impact.

The politics behind this crisis is one thing – the situation for farmers is yet another layer atop that one.

The ongoing strikes have been aimed at major oil and gas facilities in Iran and the Gulf region, disrupting oil and gas supplies as well as production from the world's major sources of fossil fuels. Oil and natural gas facilities in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Iran and Qatar to Israel are affected. The consequences are already revealing themselves as profound. A facility in Saudi Arabia, alone responsible for 12% of global production, and another in Qatar, have had to completely shut down the liquefaction of gas. Qatar produces 20% of the global Liqified Natural Gas (LNG).

The entire oil and gas economy has been pounded on the production side. A Qatari minister has said crude prices could cross USD 150 a barrel.

The secondary disruption, from the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil passes, has left hundreds of ships stranded in the Persian Gulf, awaiting safe passage. Global trade and commerce have drastically slowed. Shipping and insurances rates have spiked, and are yet to find a roof. In the high-risk situation, many cargo ships are also stranded, reducing the overall availability of ships even on alternative routes.

Unless the war stops, a deep agrarian crisis might manifest as hyper-inflation, fertiliser shortages and a food security challenge for the world and India.

Indra Shekhar Singh

Reports say the next round of strikes – which has already started – will target floating infrastructure on seas. Water desalination plants across the Gulf are at risk from Iran's retaliatory strikes. About 60% of the world's desalination infrastructure is installed in these parts and the Gulf countries rely heavily on them for water supply.

So how do these events influence agriculture and food security? It begins from the agri-chemicals. The world's biggest single unit urea production facility, in Qatar, has had to stop production. Other factories in the region are also experiencing reduced or no production. This is particularly alarming for India, as 60% of our LNG comes from Qatar. And a large proportion of it goes to urea producation factories in India, which feeds farms and fields across the country. Reports are already pointing towards a fertilisers shortage this kharif season.

India's agri-chemical fertiliser industry roughly produces 2.5 million tonnes of urea per month, and even if by some stroke of luck it is able to access adequate LNG supplies, given the soaring prices, the exchequer will be depleted by exponentially rising costs.

Besides, trouble is not brewing in just the Gulf and Persian peninsula region. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently declared he might stop gas supplies to the European Union due to the war, and that reportedly sent gas prices jumping by 10% on European exchanges. The ripple of the gas prices is being felt in India too: Indian consumers will have to pay an additional Rs 60 for domestic cooking gas cylinders.

Thrid, between 2020 and 2025, India reportedly imported 49% of its urea fertilisers from the Gulf region. In 2025 alone, the import bill was USD 3.7 billion for fertilisers from the region. Mixed fertilisers (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Kalium or NPK) accounted for USD 2.2 billion (31.1% of the imports), while nitrogen fertiliser imports totalled USD 1.5 billion (30.3%).

India's agri-chemical fertiliser industry roughly produces 2.5 million tonnes of urea per month, and even if by some stroke of luck it is able to access adequate LNG supplies, given the soaring prices, the exchequer will be depleted by exponentially rising costs.

If the war continues, Indian farmers could be staring at very low chemical fertiliser supply and Indian tax-payers a bigger fertiliser subsidy bill. Last year, farmers protested over severe shortages of fertiliser. Expect a repeat of that crisis, with urea fertilisers likely to cost much more again.

Rising fossil fuel prices will be the second driver of severe input cost inflation for the agrarian sector. Indian farmers and the food economy, from its tractors to diesel irrigation pumps to food trucks – heavily depend on diesel. The war and the US sanctions on India will together push up diesel prices – oil prices are already at USD 93 a barrel. This could raise the cost of food production and distribution, eventually making our thalis more expensive.

Similarly, India is a major importer of sulphur from the Gulf region, and that is another trade deeply affected by the crisis. Sulphur is used in many sectors, from textiles to agriculture, as a raw ingredient. Limestone and gypsum imports from the region will also be impacted. Phosphate, another important agri-mineral, which is supplied from Morocco via the Suez Canal route, will see higher landing rates due to the closure of the Persian Gulf. All of it will compound India's inflation, unless the hostilites end soon.

Many reports indicate a global food scare resulting from the conflict in West Asia. About 60,000 tonnes of Basmati rice destined for the Gulf, a major destination for Indian imports from rice to tea, are stuck in Indian ports. As one of the biggest exporters of rice, if Indian exports are shackled at bay, it could trigger a shortages in other parts of the world.

On the other hand, if shipping lanes remain blocked for longer, our record rice production of kharif 2025 might mean oversupply. From tea to spices, exports will be affected and over-supply could drive prices lower, affecting farmers, small and medium processors and consumers.

Furthermore, if India or other countries are forced to accept more US agri-imports, it could prove catastrophic for the domestic food economy. ❑❑

Indra Shekhar Singh is an independent agri-policy analyst and writer.

https://thewire.in/agriculture/can-the-us-israel-war-on-iran-trigger-an-agrarian-crisis

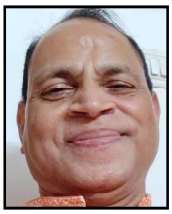
World on the threshold of World War-III

When On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched coordinated, major airstrikes against Iran, targeting nuclear, missile, and military infrastructure to force regime collapse, nobody had a clue when the war will end. The US's imperialism and expansionism and Iran's leadership of Islamic world based on religious fanaticism and its ambitions of ruling the world with sword, clashed. This war was imminent on geopolitical factors and war-fear was looming large for quite some time. The attacks, named "Operation Epic Fury," included a strike in Tehran that killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran retaliated by attacking US and Israeli personnel and allies across the region, including the UAE. The strikes specifically aimed at Iranian leadership, with the death of Ayatollah Khamenei, leading to the appointment of his son, Mojtaba Khamenei, as successor. Iran fired missiles and drones at Israel, US bases, and regional neighbours, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the UAE, causing disruptions to air travel and infrastructure. The operation aimed at "instant capitulation" of the Iranian establishment.

Now the whole world is slowing plunging into oil and gas crisis. There appears no possibility of mediation except when the US and Iran realise,they are bringing their ruination too close. Initially, Donal Trump anticipated the end of his operation in a week but it goes beyond his control. When Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, marking a massive escalation in the Russo-Ukrainian War, it was also supposed to end is week but the end looks too far.

Since 1946 since the UNO was established, there have been over 285 distinct armed conflicts globally, with roughly 30 to 50 active, smaller-scale conflicts occurring each year, making the post-WW-II era highly volatile. A record 56 active conflicts were reported in 2024, involving 92 countries.

It is imperative to go into flashback of World War-II.



The wars are destabilising the world. The United Nations was formed on the perils of League of Nations. There is a strong need of a powerful World Organisation without any veto power or domination of powerful countries.

Vinod Johri

Liberal Global Order

On October 30, 1943, the representatives from the UK, the US, China and the USSR met in Moscow and signed a declaration which recognised the necessity of establishing an international organisation, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states and open to the membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Tehran Conference, held from November 28 to December 1, 1943, was the first meeting of the "Big Three" Allied leaders: Franklin D. Roosevelt (USA), Winston Churchill (UK), and Joseph Stalin (USSR). The Tehran Declaration was issued on December 1, 1943, pledging to work together in war and post-war peace to banish the scourge of war for many generations and make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world. They coordinated final military strategies against Germany, including Operation Overlord(6 June-30 August 1944), the massive Allied invasion aiming to liberate Western Europe from Nazi control during WWII, and pledged to create an enduring post-war peace.[1]

The League of Nations had turned largely inactive and defunct during World War II. The stage was set for the creation of the successor institution of the League of Nations which formally ended on April 19, 1946. Following a final assembly in Geneva, the organization voted to dissolve itself, transferring its assets and mandate to the newly established United Nations (UN).

From April 25 to 26 June 26, 1945, the delegates from 50 nations, representing almost eighty percent of the humanity, met in San Francisco and founded the United Nations Organisation (UNO).[2]

UN Moving From Global Multilateralism to Guided Multilateralism

'We, the people of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind….'

Those were opening words of the preamble to the United Nations Charter, which was signed on 26th October 1945, by the representatives of fifty nations, who had gathered in the Veterans' War Memorial building in San Francisco. Not all 50 nations that came forward on that day were independent. Some of them including Bharat were still under colonial rule. But the two world wars that killed almost 40 million people in just 30 years had shaken their conscience.

The two leaders who were architects of the multilateral body, Franklin Roosevelt of the US and Winston Churchill of the Great Britain, were both unavailable for this historic event. While Roosevelt passed away earlier in the year, Churchill, British war hero was rejected by the people in the British Parliamentary elections held in July 1945. Harry Truman, the US President was there for the inauguration and gave scintillating speech, 'There were many who doubted the agreement could ever be reached by these 50 countries differing so much in race and religion in language and culture. But these differences were all forgotten in one unshakable unity of determination to find a way to end wars'.

The United Nations demonstrated highly idealistic objectives: fundamental human rights, the dignity and worth of the human person, the equality of men and women, the equal treatment and sovereign equality of all nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, the building of the international institutions to improve the living standards of the people of all nations and regions. Many such laudable goals guided the multilateral organisation aiming to build a liberal world order for the entire humanity.

The founding of the United Nations, with all its allied organisations, like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War was just as significant for the creation of the New World Order. The US took the lead in this great initiative to govern global security & the monetary policy.[3]

Unfortunately, the UN faced multiple challenges since its inception. Even at the initial stage, there were discords over the structure of the UN Charter itself, which centred on the insistence of the so called Big Five countries - the United States, the USSR, the United Kingdom, France and later China, demanding veto power in the decision-making deliberations of the United Nations Security Council. Many countries asserted that this right of veto should be eliminated or curtailed to a minimum. However, the five nations, which described themselves as permanent members of the Security Council, took a grandstanding position, arguing that the responsibility for maintaining peace in the world would rest primarily on their shoul-

ders. Therefore, they needed the veto regime. At the very outset, instead of 'global multilateralism' what emerged was 'guided Multilateralism'.

More and more voices were raised over the growing ineffectiveness and inefficiency of the UN. 'It has been said that United Nations was not created in order to bring us to the heaven but in order to save us from the hell', said Dag Hammarskjold, the Swedish diplomat who served as the second Secretary-General of the UN from 1953 to 1961.

Sadly, in the face of growing geopolitical tensions, wars and competing national self-interests, the UN has been struggling to keep up this role. The big powers routinely ignored or bypassed the UN and decided to act unilaterally or in the collaboration with the other powers.

The tragic reality of the past seven decades of the UN Security Council's existence is that the greatest threat to the global security has not stemmed from the external sources but from the unilateral actions of the Council's five security members states.

More and more voices were raised over the growing ineffectiveness and inefficiency of the UN. 'It has been said that United Nations was not created in order to bring us to the heaven but in order to save us from the hell', said Dag Hammarskjold, the Swedish diplomat who served as the second Secretary-General of the UN from 1953 to 1961.

Sadly, in the face of growing geopolitical tensions, wars and competing national self-interests, the UN has been struggling to keep up this role. The big powers routinely ignored or bypassed the UN and decided to act unilaterally or in the collaboration with the other powers.

The tragic reality of the past seven decades of the UN Security Council's existence is that the greatest threat to the global security has not stemmed from the external sources but from the unilateral actions of the Council's five security members states.[4]

Bharat Suffered Too: UN Failed on Kashmir

The division of the world into two power blocks and the global clash in the interests and ideologies represented by them, had made a realistic and firm approach to any question purely on the merit of the case by the UNO or any other agency created by it well-nigh impossible. These power blocks looked at every situation from the angle of their own advantage in the Cold War that had been raging furiously between them for a long time.

The interest of the Anglo-US bloc which dominated the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan because of its secured domination over the UNO, in Kashmir was well known. The Anglo-Americans worked for the partition of the undivided Bharat because of their fear that independent Bharat might follow an independent, and may be, anti-imperialistic foreign policy. They looked upon Pakistan as a pet and dependable horse in their struggle.[5]

Referring to the conduct of the United Nations on the question of Kashmir, Shri Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar, Guruji, former Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh said, 'Might is today the only basis of the behaviour of nations towards another. The United Nations talks tall of the high principles. But what is the stark reality? The reality is that it is backing the interests of the powerful and imperialistic nations. To these countries, the state we created by our uniquely, perverse ability is dearer than the country. And they love it for no better or higher reason, than that they can get from it, military bases, air bases and of course abundant cannon folder.'[6]

The US and British intervention in the UN on Kashmir issue and their overt and covert support to Pakistan in invasion on Kashmir post-independence cost Bharat with cessation of more than half of Kashmir to illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

The wars are destabilising the world. The United Nations was formed on the perils of League of Nations. There is a strong need of a powerful World Organisation without any veto power or domination of powerful countries. The splinters like G-7, G-20, EU, SAARC, BRICKS…. have not brought peace to the world. Bharat is in a position to lead the world with VasudhaivKutumbakam ideals. The hegemony of the superpowers and Islamic fundamentalism has to be brought to end, so that 8.3 billion people on the earth may live in peace and harmony. ❑❑

References:

1. United Nations website: https://www.un.org
2. The New World – 21st Century Global Order and India by Ram Madhav –Rupa Publications, New Delhi, 2025, pp. xxxi-xxxii
3. The New World – 21st Century Global Order and India, Ram Madhav, Rupa Publications, New Delhi, 2025, pp. xxxi-xxxii
4. The New World – 21st Century Global Order and India, Ram Madhav, Rupa Publications, New Delhi, 2025, p. 119
5. Organiser, 04.01.1950, Front Page
6. Organiser – 16 April 1951 – Front Page and page-2 - Guruji Shri Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar on Kashmir – UNO Bungling – The Task for Today

Food labelling isn't anti-industry, it's pro-health

Supreme Court's Feb 10 order on front- of-pack labelling (FOPL) of prepackaged foods will go down as a milestone. Reviewing FSSAI's compliance affidavit, the court stated that it was 'not satisfied' and observed, prima facie, that the exercise undertaken so far 'has not yielded any positive or good result', and asked FSSAI to consider using warning labels. This is a moment that warrants attention

Over the past few years, regulatory conversation has revolved around the proposed Indian Nutrition Rating (INR), a star-based system that aggregates positive and negative nutrients into a composite score. While the model was presented as aligned with global practice, public health experts noted that the system could be confusing for the public, and may not adequately identify unhealthy foods. It has not yet been operationalised in India. FSSAI's latest affidavit has referenced further consultations, additional research, mapping exercises and absence of stakeholder consensus.

Compliance with the court's direction would not be regulatory overreach. It would be constitutional stewardship. It would place India among the few major economies willing to act decisively in the public health interest.
Arun Gupta

This consensus is being sought between the public and food industry. What should we expect? The top court's reaction suggests that an incremental process without a visible outcome that should benefit people may no longer be acceptable, as it would defeat the purpose of regulation.

This matters because packaged and ultra-processed foods (UPF) are increasingly accessible across income groups. India is also experiencing a rise in obesity, early-onset diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases

FOPL sits at the intersection of consumer rights, public health and market regulation. It does not prohibit the sale of food products, nor does it restrict trade. It simply requires that risk be communicated clearly and prominently at point of purchase.

Distinction between 'information' and 'warning' is crucial. Numerical nutrition tables on the back of packages presume time, literacy and calculation. Star ratings presume that an averaged score can meaningfully represent complex health risks. Warning labels, by contrast, function as immediate alerts, signalling when a product is high in sugar, salt or saturated fat and, thus, ensuring well-informed choices.

Several nations have adopted interpretive warning systems. Evidence from these countries suggests two effects: consumers shift choices at the margin, and manufacturers reformulate products to avoid warnings. For industry, this should

not be read as anti-business. Clear warning frameworks create regulatory certainty. They reward reformulation, innovation and transparency. Companies that proactively reduce sugar or sodium content are better positioned in a warning-based regime than those relying on marketing or health halos.

For regulators, the challenge is constitutional as much as technical. The top court's reaffirmation that the matter concerns the right to health elevates the discussion beyond administrative discretion. When health risks are material and foreseeable, the state's obligation is not merely to facilitate information but to prevent concealment of the fact that these products may lead to overconsumption and related health harms.

The 4-week window granted to FSSAI is more than a procedural deadline. It's a supervisory checkpoint. The authority must now demonstrate that its response moves from consultation to the decision long demanded by public health experts. Of course, the food industry has never wanted it for reasons of commerce and profitability.

The debate should not be framed as public health v. industry. Nor should it be caricatured as paternalism. Modern consumer markets depend on trust. Transparent risk disclosure strengthens, rather than weakens, market functioning. When risks are clear, consumers can exercise choice meaningfully. Companies should compete on product quality, focus on real or whole food products, engage in local economies, and avoid chemical or cosmetic colours and flavours.

India stands at a regulatory crossroads. It can continue with extended consultations and incremental refinements. Or it can implement a clear, mandatory and enforceable FOPL warning system that aligns with constitutional expectations and global best practice.

The coming weeks will reveal whether India's food regulation framework rises to that expectation. The issue has been reframed around the right to health. For a country that's both a vast consumer market and a strategic growth frontier for global food corporations, this moment carries international consequences.

Compliance with the court's direction would not be regulatory overreach. It would be constitutional stewardship. It would place India among the few major economies willing to act decisively in the public health interest. This is an opportunity the health ministry should not miss. ❑❑

The writer is convenor, Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi)

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/food-labelling-isnt-anti-industry-its-pro-health/articleshow/129347567.cms

SWADESHI PATRIKA

Voice of Real Economy

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

SUBSCRIBE AND/OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

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

Name .....

Address.....

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

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

YEARLY Rs. 150/- **LIFE Rs. 1500/-**

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

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

National Council Meeting

7-8 March 2026, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

First Session (Inaugural Session)

The two-day Rashtriya Parishad Baithak began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and offering of floral tributes before the portraits of Bharat Mata, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Dattopant Thengadi Ji.

On the dais were respected V. Bhaggaiah Ji (Former Co Sarkaryavah and Member of the Rashtriya Executive, RSS), Sh. R. Sundaram Ji (Rashtriya Sanyojak, SJM), Sh. Kashmiri Lal Ji (Rashtriya Sangthak, SJM), Sh. Satish Kumar Ji (Rashtriya Co-Sangthak, SJM), Dr. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma Ji (Rashtriya Co-Sanyojak, SJM), Dr. Ashwini Mahajan Ji (Rashtriya Co-Sanyojak, SJM), Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal Ji (Rashtriya Co-Sanyojak, SJM), Dr. Rajkumar Mittal Ji (Rashtriya Co-Sanyojak, SJM), and Smt. Archana Meena Ji (Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Pramukh).

After the lamp lighting ceremony, the dignitaries were welcomed and introduced. Thereafter, the inaugural address was delivered by Sh. R. Sundaram.

He stated that this moment was extremely significant in his life, particularly when he reflects on the journey of the past 35 years. During this period, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch has expanded to nearly three-fourths of India's geographical Kshetras and has reached more than 500 districts across almost all states of the Country. Over the last three decades, there has also been remarkable expansion at the ideological level, as a result of which most Karyakartas have developed a deeper under- standing of global economic-systems as well as the Indian model of development.

Universities, Colleges and schools have also played an important role in spreading awareness and implementing the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan. Economiccircumstances change from time to time. For example, in 1991 India faced a severe debt crisis, but in the following decade the Country experienced wide-ranging economicreforms and development.

Today the Country is moving towards the resolve of "Viksit Bharat 2047." To achieve this goal, sustained and high economic growth will be necessary. A large population of about 350 million people-almost equivalent to the population of the United States-must be inspired and actively engaged in economic activities. By organizing this human resource, the nation can achieve its development goals.

Sh. Satish Kumar explained the main themes and procedures of the two-day Rashtriya Parishad Baithak. He stated that in recent days several programs such as the Swadeshi Sankalp and Swadeshi Sankalp Run were organized across the Country with wide participation from various sections of society. Under the Swadeshi Vyapari Jutaan program, efforts are being made in various Prants to form Swadeshi teams at the city and block levels. For this purpose, special empha-

sis has been laid on organizing programs at the locality and village level to mobilize Karyakartas.

To promote a decentralized economy, efforts must be made to mobilize local resources. Each district should formulate its own development plans, and at the Kshetralevel the program calendar should be determined independently.

A booklet Compiling programs Conducted in the North-Eastern Kshetra was released by the dignitaries on the dais, presented by Dr. Deepak Sharma.

Thereafter, reports from various Kshetras were presented.

- The report of the Southern Kshetra was presented by Sh. Satyanarayan (Prantiya Samanwayak).
- The South-Central Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Lingamurti (Prantiya Sanyojak).
- The Western Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Vinay Khatavkar (Prant Samanwayak).
- The Central Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Sudhir Date (Kshetra Sanyojak).
- The Rajasthan Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Satish Acharya.
- The Northern Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Rajesh Goyal (Kshetra Sanyojak).
- The Western Uttar Pradesh report was presented by Sh. Amitesh (Kshetra Sanyojak).

The session was Conducted by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Akhil Bhartiya Vichar Vibhag Pramukh.

Second Session

In this session, the remaining Kshetra reports were presented.

- The report of Eastern Uttar Pradesh was presented by Sh. Anupam Srivastava (Prantiya Sanyojak).
- The Bihar-Jharkhand Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Amarendra (Prantiya Sanyojak).
- The Eastern Kshetra report was presented by Sh. Prasanna Kshotri.
- The North-Eastern Kshetra report was presented by Dr. Deepak Sharma (Prantiya Sanyojak).

During the same session, the Coordinator of Jagriti Yatra and Member of Parliament from Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, Sh. Shashank Mani Tripathi presented a brief report on the Jagriti Mission Yatra. He especially shared information about the Swavalamban Centre in Gorakhpur, through which employment has been provided to more than 300 people. He also highlighted the need for the Bargad Kranti (Banyan Revolution).

Akhil Bhartiya Sah-Sanyojak and Coordinator of Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan, Dr. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma discussed the current global economic scenario. He stated that India's population of 1.47 billion is larger than the Combined population of fifty Countries and that the Country's GDP stands at about 117 trillion dollars. However, the per-capita income in the United States is around 92,000 dollars, in China about 14,000 dollars, while in India it is only about 343 dollars.

He noted that nearly 60 percent of the world's total production is dominated by just four Countries-China Contributes about 32 percent, the United States about 16 percent, while India Contributes only about 2.9 percent. He recalled that during the opposition to the Dunkel Draft and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1992, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch initiated a major ideological movement in the Country. Over time, Swadeshi thought and agreements helped guide the nation in understanding economic policies and their financial implications. He also stated that large global Corporations and powers are today influenced by the activities of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch.

Guidance was also received from Sangh Contact officer respected Bhaggaiah Ji. He said that Swadeshi is not merely a slogan but a way of life. Humanity has the responsibility to protect mankind, and the welfare of the entire creation has always been India's guiding principle. The essence of Swadeshi is to nurture nature rather than harm it. While dealing with Contemporary issues, we must also keep eternal principles in mind. In the true sense, efforts should be directed toward the welfare of the Common person.

He also emphasized strengthening the spirit of hard work and urged Karyakartas to follow the expected Conduct and style of work described by revered Dattopant Thengadi ji. By doing so, we can think not only about the welfare of India but also of the entire world.

Resolution

Artificial Intelligence and the Indian Perspective

The entire world is shaken by the impact of AI. There is intense deliberation on this issue because, on one hand, AI is making life easier, accelerating decision-making speed, making business analysis more accurate, improving and making medical diagnosis more affordable, enabling the creation of more digital products, and promoting a new economy commonly known as the 'Orange Economy,' while on the other hand, there looms a heavy threat of unemployment on Indian population, which is already grappling with a lack of employment opportunities it's youth. In this changing global scenario, a crucial question before India is whether it will remain merely a consumer of artificial intelligence, or play a leading role in this field based on its indigenous technological capabilities and innovation. While India cannot ignore technological changes like the AI-driven industrial revolution, with AI tools and infrastructure in the hands of a few large companies, the data that is strengthening these AI giants is coming from developing countries like ours. In such a situation, we cannot remain silent spectators to digital colonization. Not only that, because AI is under the dominance of large corporations and foreign companies, it is becoming a source of biased information. Private data is also being transferred to companies. The human values that children previously received from their parents are now being imparted through AI, increasing the risk of their confusion. AI is, in a way, becoming an agent for providing incorrect information. The safety of ignorant children is also being put at risk because of it.

Although large technology companies maintain control over AI tools and infrastructure, India has played a leading role globally in building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and in the large-scale use of AI/data technologies for identification and authentication. With the help of the JAM Trinity—namely Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar, and mobile banking—the government is facilitating the creation and implementation of welfare schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), housing for the poor, and many other schemes, and has succeeded in almost eliminating corruption and improving service delivery. AI can play an important role in many sectors including agriculture, health, education, urban and infrastructure development.

India's position is unique because it has three fundamental resources available for AI development that are present together in very few countries in the world – 1. Vast intellectual capacity and technical talent; 2. Extensive and diverse data structure and 3. A developed Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). It is only through the appropriate combination of these three resources that India can develop an indigenous and inclusive model in the field of artificial intelligence. Employment is a major victim of AI and wiping out jobs in all sectors has become a reality. Media, entertainment, call centers, and even the software sector have started feeling the impact of AI. Large factories produce goods with the help of AI-supported computer programs, leading to massive unemployment. This is creating fear in society that even bigger jobs may be lost in the future.

The Economic Survey 2025-26 released by the Government of India also states that due to India's size and its relatively low per capita income, the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be greater in the Indian labor market. It warns that indiscriminate adoption of AI by companies will worsen everyone's situation and harm the country's growth potential. The survey states, "The government will have to impose taxes on the profits from replacing labor with technology." Since the US and China dominate AI in terms of ownership and since most users are from developing countries including India, these users are also the source of the data being used by these AI platforms. Countries like ours remain dependent on foreign-owned AI platforms. In this process, developing countries are also losing data sovereignty. Due to the dominance of AI owned by these tech giants, small players—including small and cottage industries, service enterprises, and workers—are at a disadvantage. We also see undue influence of big tech companies in policymaking.

Despite its shortcomings, given the benefits of AI, the challenge before policymakers is how AI can serve humanity equitably. For this, there is a need for a strong Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the country, through which the development and use of AI technologies can be facilitated equitably for common people. High-speed internet connectivity, the first prerequisite for AI development, is essential to enable seamless data flow. The good news is that due to the communication revolution, India has the world's second-largest mobile network. Indigenous 4G networks have been expanded almost across the country and the country has also developed its own indigenous 5Gi network. India takes pride for being the land of the cheapest data. Further, for uninterrupted AI growth, the country needs a strong data infrastructure for collecting, storing, processing, and sharing data while ensuring data quality, security, and privacy. This is another form of digital Infrastructure for uninterrupted growth of AI. The country also needs indigenous AI platforms that do not depend solely on foreign technologies but provide indigenous frameworks for the development, deployment, and management of AI aligned with the country's data, languages, needs, and security interests. A cyber security framework is an essential part of the digital infrastructure for AI. There is a need to build a strong cyber security framework to protect AI systems, data and infrastructure from cyber threats and attacks. Finally, but most importantly, digital literacy programs are needed today so that citizens, businesses and governments can be informed about AI, its usage and benefits.

We must understand that promoting AI and harnessing its benefits for the good of society and the economy is essential, and for this, building the right Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is necessary, along with the need to regulate it through the right government policies so that we can promote healthy AI. Therefore, we must adopt a dual policy of development and regulation, so that AI can be democratized, made available equitably to everyone and can be utilised for the welfare of all. For self-reliant AI in India, it is necessary to swiftly adopt required measures such as semiconductors, chip design, data centers, infrastructure, energy integration, education, and skill development, etc. The democratization of artificial intelligence is essential, which means that AI technology should not remain limited to big companies or powerful institutions, but reach every section of society so that farmers and students as well as all other ordinary people can benefit from it.

The session was Conducted by Akhil Bhartiya Sangharsh Vahini Pramukh Sh. Ananda Shankar Panigrahi.

Women Karyakartas Baithak

After lunch, a brief Baithak of women Karyakartas was organized in which 56 sisters from different Pranton of the Country actively participated.

The Baithak was attended by Sh. Satish Kumar, Akhil Bhartiya Sah Sangathak Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Smt. Archana Meena Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Pramukh Swadeshi Jagran Manch and Dr. Jitendra Gupta (Akhil Bhartiya Sah Samanwayak, Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan and guardian officer for women's work). An interaction and introduction session was held with Prant-level Mahila Pramukhs from across the Country.

Discussions were held regarding the need for women's work in Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan, and the potential role of women in expanding Swadeshi thought. Archana Ji elaborated on the theme "Swadeshi Family - The Foundation of a Developed India." She urged all participants to study this book and promote its ideas for the welfare of the family, society, nation, and nature.

Considering present circumstances and changing social Conditions, she emphasized the significant role of women. The active participation of women from diverse Kshetras made the Baithak meaningful and inspiring.

Third Session

In this session, the heads of two traders' organizations discussed the growing challenges faced by traders due to online Commerce and the need for launching a major campaign on this issue. Shri Sandeep Bansal (Lucknow), President of Akhil Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal (Registered), informed that his organization would organize programs across the Country on 19 March on the occasion of the Hindu New Year.

Sh. B.C. Bhartia, President of the major traders' organization CAIT, stated that technological innovation and changes must be adopted and cannot be ignored. He emphasized that traders must seriously Consider online trade and learn how to reach every potential buyer.

Akhil Bhartiya Sah-Sanyojak Dr. Rajkumar Mittal presented his thoughts on the Concept of family systems and technology zone-free areas in the digital era. He explained that excessive use of technology is gradually reducing human creativity. Several Countries are experimenting in this field where children and adults are placed in technology-free zones for certain periods so that their natural creativity, social skills, and family bonds can be strengthened.

He also explained the MANAV Concept, which is based on human-centered development and ethics. The meaning of each letter is as follows:

- M - Moral and Ethical values
- A - Accountability
- N - Rashtriya Sovereignty
- A - Accessibility
- V - Validate and Legitimate

Akhil Bhartiya Sah-Sanyojak Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal presented a proposal on Artificial Intelligence and the Indian Perspective. He stated that the present era is the era of AI, and India must ensure its strong participation in this field; otherwise, it will fall behind.

He explained the realities of the global AI ecosystem:

- China is a major producer of silicon wafers.
- Taiwan manufactures about 80 percent of the world's semiconductor chips.
- The United States leads in AI design, algorithms, and GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) technology used for AI model training.
- The United States also dominates cloud Computing, and many Countries (even China) depend on American cloud services for AI development.

However, he emphasized that the most important factor is human talent. The true strength of AI lies not in hardware or software but in youth talent, innovation, and creativity. India possesses abundant human talent, and Indian youth, engineers, and scientists are already playing leading roles in the global AI sector.

By linking AI with the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat, India can strengthen itself technologically and contribute to ethical and balanced AI development at the global level.

After this, an open discussion was invited in which many participants shared their views and suggestions.

At the end of the session, Akhil Bhartiya Pracharak Pramukh respected Swant Ranjan Ji highlighted various activities being organized on the occasion of the centenary year of the Sangh. He stated that the Sangh will certainly achieve its set goals, but the journey is not yet Complete. The important question is how these goals should be achieved. Keeping the target of Viksit Bharat 2047 in mind, programs such as Vijayadashami events, door-to-door Contact campaigns, Hindu Conferences, social harmony dialogues, intellectual gatherings, youth programs, and various social initiatives are being organized.

The session was Conducted by Akhil Bhartiya Prayavaran Pramukh Sh. Deepak Sharma.

Fourth Session

In this session, reports from the various dimensions of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch were presented. Dr. Pradeep Chauhan highlighted the work of the Swadeshi Research Institute. Sh. Saket Rathore shared information about the various activities associated with the Swarnim Bharat Varsh Foundation. Mela Pramukh Sh. Shachindra Bariyar presented his views on the importance of the Swadeshi Mela and the framework for organizing it. Sh. Radheshyam Choyal explained the work being carried out through the portal mysba.co.in.

Dr. Ashwini Mahajan delivered an extensive address on "The Indian Model of Development." He explained that the current global development model Considers GDP growth as the primary indicator of a nation's development, and India has also accepted this to a large extent. However, he clarified that this model is fundamentally flawed. Dattopant Thengadi Ji had also stated that GDP growth alone cannot be the true measure of development.

Considering GDP growth as the sole yardstick of development is misleading because it ignores inequality, environmental degradation, and human values. Therefore, the Concept of development must be reconsidered.

The vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 should not rely solely on the existing economic framework. Indian culture reveres sacrifice-Bhamashah Ji is a living symbol of such sacrifice. In Indian philosophy, material progress and spiritual progress are given equal importance. The prosperity of ancient India was based on this balance between the material and the spiritual.

Today it must also be observed that poverty is increasing in the name of development. Therefore, policies must be formulated that ensure everyone's well-being, where everyone is satisfied, and where self-reliance, ethics, and environmental protection are prioritized along with public welfare services.

He advocated that development should not remain GDP-centred but must become human-centered, value-based, environmentally sustainable, and inclusive, so that India can truly emerge as a prosperous and happy nation.

The session was Conducted by Sh. Keshav Dubolia.

Fifth Session

This session Consisted of Kshetra-Baithaks in which Prants discussed their upcoming plans. Central-level officials were present in the Kshetra Baithaks.

The key topics discussed included:

- Appointment of full-time Karyakartas and district trainers
- Work related to Mahila, Yuva, senior citizens, and the Prayavaran dimension
- Organization of Prant-level thought sessions
- Fundraising campaigns
- District-level organizational expansion plans

New Prant-level responsibilities were also announced during this session.

The following officials were present in the respective Kshetra Baithaks:

- In the Southern and South-Central Kshetras - Sh. Deepak Sharma 'Pradeep'
- In the Western Kshetra - Sh. Jitendra Gupta
- In the Central Kshetra - Sh. Satish Kumar
- In the Rajasthan Kshetra - Sh. Balram Nandwani
- In the Northern Kshetra - Dr. Ashwini Mahajan
- In Western and Eastern Uttar Pradesh Kshetras - Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- In the Bihar-Jharkhand Kshetra - Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal
- In the Eastern and North-Eastern Kshetras - Sh. Ananda Shankar Panigrahi

The Baithaks were Conducted by the Kshetra Sanyojaks.

A separate Baithak was also held for representatives of allied organizations, other associate organizations, various dimension heads, and senior Karyakartas of the Swadeshi Research Institute. Respected R.

Sundaram Ji, Kashmiri Lal Ji, and Dr. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma Ji were present in this Baithak.

The Baithak was Conducted by Sh. Satish Chawla.

Sixth Session

Several important subjects were discussed in this session.

Firstly, an extensive discussion was held regarding the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan. Northern Kshetra Sanyojak Dr. Rajesh Goyal Ji discussed the operation of district self-reliance centers and emphasized establishing Coordination with various self-reliance initiatives operating at the district level.

Regarding the nationwide fundraising campaign scheduled from 20 March to 10 April, Shri Satishb Chawla Ji explained that the campaign would be Conducted in a Completely paperless and cashless manner. Lists of different categories of donors should be prepared, and teams of Kirakira's should reach out to them.

Regarding the Environment and Soil Nourishment Campaign, Sh. Deepak Sharma Pradeep explained that since the Industrial Revolution the Earth's temperature has been Continuously rising, which is an extremely alarming sign. Within the next hundred years, the very existence of humanity Could be at risk-this is not an exaggeration but a scientific reality.

On the topic of "Prosperous and Great India", Prof. Somnath Sachdeva, Executive Chairman of the Swadeshi Research Institute, informed the gathering about the research and initiatives being undertaken by the institute in this direction.

Sh. Ajay Upadhyay, Sangathak of the Bihar-Jharkhand Kshetra, expressed Concern regarding migration from villages to cities. He stated that employment opportunities must be created in villages themselves so that youth can find livelihoods without migrating.

The session was Conducted by South-Central Kshetra Sanyojak Sh. Lingamurti.

Seventh Session

This session also included discussions on several important subjects.

Akhil Bhartiya Vichar Vibhag Pramukh Dr. Rajiv Kumar presented the annual program calendar for the Coming year.

He presented the schedule of programs beginning with the Swadeshi New Year program on 19 March and extending up to Youth Day (Swami Vivekananda Jayanti) on 12 January 2027. All Kshetras were requested to prepare their own program calendars according to their Kshetra requirements.

Central Kshetra Sangathak and Tri-Kshetra- Yuva work head Shri Keshav Dubolia Ji called for accelerating youth activities across the Country and appointing Yuva Pramukhs at the district level.

Smt. Archana Meena highlighted the progress of women's activities across the Country and shared information about innovative initiatives being undertaken by women's units in different Kshetras.

Regarding organizational expansion and the full-time worker plan, Sh. Satish Kumar provided guidance on the following points:

- Organizational expansion should reach the city, block, locality, and village levels.
- A Team-11 unit should be formed in every district.
- Village-level units of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan should be established.
- After assigning responsibilities, district-level thought sessions or district Conferences should be organized.
- Programs should not remain merely ceremonial but must be purposeful and result-oriented.

The session was Conducted by Smt. Sunita Bharatwal.

Eighth Session (Valedictory Session)

The valedictory session began with the singing of Vande Mataram.

Firstly, Vyavastha Pramukh Sh. Lokendra Naruka introduced all the Karyakartas who had been involved in managing the arrangements for the event. Participants from various Pranton invited the entire organizing team onto the stage and expressed gratitude for their Contribution in making the program successful.

Sh. Kashmiri Lal announced changes in responsibilities and the assignment of new responsibilities. He motivated Karyakartas to effectively Conduct upcoming programs such as the fundraising campaign and the soil nourishment campaign. He also discussed strengthening the plans for these campaigns.

He urged all Karyakartas to expand organizational work up to the block level in their respective Prants, finalize the names of district-level trainers, and begin preparations for organizing thought sessions.

New Responsibilities

All India

1. Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh) - All India Co-Convenor (Formerly - Akhil Bharatiya (AB) Vichar Vibhag Pramukh)
2. Sh. Deepak Sharma 'Pradeep' (Delhi) - AB Vichar Vibhag Pramukh (with Environment Head)
3. Sh. Annada Shankar Panigrahi (Center Guwahati) - AB Samprak Pramukh and Prabhari of two regions and Andhra Pradesh (formerly - AB Sangharshvahini Pramukh).
4. Dr. Rajesh Goyal (Panchkula) - AB Co-ordinator, Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan.
5. Mrs. Sunita Bharatwal (Bhiwani, Haryana) - AB Sah Mahila Pramukh.
6. Sh. Radheshyam Choyal (Ajmer, Rajasthan) - Pramukh, Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan (Digital)
7. Sh. Rajkumar Chaturvedi (Bhilwara, Raj.) - Jansankhiyaki Labhansh Pramukh
8. Sh. Keshav Duboliya (Bhopal, M.P.) - Central and Western Region Organizer and Youth Dimension Member
9. Sh. Anupam Srivastava (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh) - Eastern & Western Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Sanyojak

Regional (Kshetriya)

South-Central Region

1. Sh. V. Sai Prasad - Kshetra Vichar Vibhag Pramukh (Telangana)
2. Sh. Vijay Krishna - Sah-Kshetra Vichar Vibhag Pramukh (Telangana)
3. Sh. P. Sainath - Kshetra Senior Citizens Dimension Head (Telangana)

West Zone

1. Sh. Ishwar Sajjan (Gujarat) - Sah-Kshetra Sanyojak

Central Region

1. Sh. Arushendra Sharma (Sehore, M.P.) - Kshetriya Vichar Vibhag Pramkh

Rajasthan region

1. Sh. Lokendra (Jaipur) - Kshetra Coordinator

North Zone

1. Sh. Satendra Sarout (Faridabad, Haryana) - Kshetra Sanyojak

Western Uttar Pradesh

1. Sh. Kapil Narang (Moradabad) - Kshetra Sah-Sanyojak
2. Sh. Kuldeep Singh (Moradabad) - Kshetra Coordinator
3. Sh. Vikas Chaudhary (Delhi) - Special Contact Head (North & West Region)

Eastern Region

1. Sh. Ramakant Patra - Kshetra Vichar Vibhag Pramukh
2. Dr. Deepak Sharma - Sah-Kshetra Vichar Vibhag Pramukh
3. Sh. Prasan Chotre - Prachar Pramukh
4. Sh. Shirish Khare - Sah-Prachar Pramukh

Assam region

1. Prof. W.C. Singh (Manipur) - Kshetra Sanyojak (Assam)
2. Sh. Amal Vaish (Nalwari, Assam) - Kshetra Sah-Sanyojak (Assam)
3. Sh. CA Ratan Das (Agartala) - Kshetra Samprak Pramukh (Tripura)
4. Sh. Partha Pratim Pathak (Guwahati) - Kshetra Sah-Samanvyak (North Assam)

Dimensions (Aayam)

Vyapari Jutan

1. Sh. Jitendra Gupta (Bhopal, M.P.) - Pramukh (Previous responsibilities will also remain.)
2. Sh. B.C. Bharatiya (Nagpur) – Sah-Pramukh
3. Sh. Sandeep Bansal (Lucknow) - Sah-Pramukh
4. Sh. Manohar Sharan (Center Hyderabad) - Sah-Pramukh (South, South Central & Assam Region)
5. Sh. Dharmendra Sharma (Noida, UP) - Sah-Pramukh
6. CA Harish Choudhary (Delhi)- Central Team Member
7. Sh. Rakesh Dwivedi (Madhya Pradesh Prabhari) - Karyalay Mantri

Swadeshi Vitt Salahkar Prishad

1. Sh. Balram Nandwani - Prabhari
2. Sh. Arpit Mittal - Sachiv
3. Sh. Kishore – Sah-Sachiv
4. Sh. Jatin Tehri - Sangthan Sachiv

Bharatiya Export Forum

1. Sh. Rajiv Setia (Gurugram) - Sanrakshak
2. Sh. Anil Verma - Central Team Member
3. Sh. Laxman Bhavsinghka - Central Team Member (Centre Delhi)
4. Sh. Vidya Sagar - Central Team Member
5. Sh. Amber Agarwal - Central Team Member
6. Sh. Premat Banerjee - Chief Advisor

Central Office (Swadeshi Jagran Manch)

1. Dr. Surendra (Delhi) - Kendriya Karyalay Pramukh
2. Sh. Abhayram - Sah-Karyalay Pramukh
3. Sh. Mahendra Varthawal - Sah-Karyalay Pramukh (also Head of the Foundation)
4. Sh. Amit Chaturvedi - Office Team Member (Also Head of Delhi State Office)
5. Sh. Amit Raikwar - Office Team Member

Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan

1. Prof. Deepak Sharma - Central Team Member
2. Prof. Chand Babu - Central Team Member

State

Delhi

1. Sh. Balraj Singh - Old Worker Contact Head (Delhi Prant)

Telangana

1. Sh. Srinivasula Reddy (Hyderabad) - State Co-Convenor

Andhra Pradesh

1. Sh. Rajesh - State Convener
2. Dr. Sheshagiri – State Co-Convener
3. Sh. Pavani - Prant Mahila Pramukh
4. Sh. Racha Srinivas - Prant Sangthak

Braj Prant

1. Sh. Manoj Agarwal - State Convener
2. Smt. Savitri Sharma - Prant Sah-Mahila Pramukh
3. Sh. Abhinav Kashyap – State Co-Coordinator

Meerut

1. Sh. Prashant Maharshi - State Convener
2. Sh. Sudhanshu Vishnoi - State Co-Convener

Goraksha

1. Mrs. Binny - Prant Mahila Sah-Samanvyak

Awadh

1. Sh. Ramkumar Dixit - Prant Sah-Samanvyak
2. Sh. Rahul Singh - Prant Sah-Samanvyak

Kanpur

1. Sh. Praveen Agnihotri – Prant Sah-Samanvyak
2. Mrs. Urmila - Prant Sah-Mahila Pramukh

North Bihar

1. Mrs. Sangeeta Jha - Prant Mahila Pramukh

Jharkhand

1. Smt. Neetu Sinha – Prant Sah-Mahila Pramukh

Odisha East

1. Sh. A. Srinivasa Rao - State Convener
2. Sh. Prashant Bhuyan – State Co-Convener
3. Sh. Aditya Mohapatra - State Co-Convener
4. Ms. Deepti Rekha Mishra - Prant Mahila Pramukh
5. Ms. Priyadarshini Pani – Prant Sah-Mahila Pramukh
6. Sh. Vijay Routray - Prant Samanvyak
7. Sh. Prabodh Badapanda – Prant Sah-Samanvyak

Odisha West

1. Sh. Manoranjan Routray - State Convener
2. Sh. Bhimsen Nayak – State Co-Convener
3. Ms. Bharti Panda - Prant Mahila Pramukh

North Bengal

1. Sh. Sudin Lama - State Convener

Central Bengal

1. Dr. Jaydeep Banerjee - State Convener

South Bengal

1. Shri Uttam Hui - State Convener
2. Sh. Tirthadeep Chatterjee – State Co-Convener
3. Ipsita Chatterjee - Prant Mahila Pramukh

Manipur

1. Sh. Roshni Kumar Singh - State Convener
2. Dr. Rajesh Singh - State Co-Convener
3. Dr. Kishorejit Singh - Prant Samanvyak
4. Dr. Binota Thokchom - Prant Mahila Pramukh

Sh. R. Sundaram described the Baithak as highly meaningful and grand. He remarked that the major industrialists of the Rajasthan Kshetra are enhancing India's prestige not only within the Country but across the world through their businesses and industries. He mentioned that in cities such as Chennai and Hyderabad many markets are dominated by entrepreneurs from Rajasthan, whose affordable, high-quality, and traditional products are widely appreciated.

He called upon Karyakartas to take the message of Swadeshi to every section of society so that the dream of making the nation self-reliant can be realized.

The valedictory session was Conducted by Dr. Rajiv Kumar. The Rashtriya Parishad Baithak Concluded with the Rashtriya Anthem. ❑❑

End customs duty pause on digital goods: SJM

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has called for an end to the pause on customs duties on e-transmission of digital products, stating that it is undermining the push for self-reliance, causing revenue losses and limiting the country's ability to tax emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI).

SJM's fresh demand for an end to the moratorium comes ahead of the 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the last week of March, where a decision on the extension of the e-commerce moratorium is expected to be one of the key issues. The e-transmission of digital products is the online delivery of products such as software, music, videos or ebooks.

SJM said the duty-free regime on digital imports is weakening India's Atmanirbhar Bharat ambitions by discouraging domestic production. "Our start-ups and software companies are able to make a variety of electronic products, where they can make movies and other entertainment products domestically, but if all such products are imported undeterred, without tariff, there is little incentive to produce them indigenously. This tariff moratorium on e-products is actually killing our efforts of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', benefitting US, European countries and China," SJM said in a statement.

SJM said the moratorium is also eroding India's ability to tax new-age digital sectors, particularly AI, and may further accentuate the monopoly of the US and China. "As is expected that in future, share of AI in GDP will be huge, moratorium on custom duty on e-transmission, will cause a huge revenue loss, and may further accentuate monopoly of US and China, which in turn will hit at the very heart of national economic sustainability, and thereby political sovereignty," SJM said.

"Today, the issue is no longer limited to traditional electronic transmissions. Artificial intelligence is emerging as a dominant force, and if AI products are allowed to enter India without any customs duties, we will lose a critical opportunity to tax these services and regulate their impact," SJM said further.

SJM warned that this will also have serious implications for employment and policy-making. If we allow digital products via e-transmission to enter Indian territory without custom duties, it will impact domestic enterprises, mostly start-ups, and it will also take away an opportunity to tax AI services, which is essential for saving the population from unemployment, SJM argued. Highlighting the risk posed by the growing adoption of 3D printing, SJM pointed out that India may lose huge customs duties, as designs will replace physical goods' imports, free from payment of customs duties.

"With widespread adoption of 3D printing, products like auto parts, medical devices, toys, and machinery components can be traded as design files instead of goods. Customs authorities may lose the ability to track and tax trade. Manufacturing may shift to distributed digital production networks," SJM said.

Citing NITI Aayog estimates, SJM said India's imports of digitally delivered services have grown sharply in recent years, but due to the moratorium, no customs duties are levied on these imports, resulting in significant revenue losses for the country.

"As per NITI Aayog's estimates, India imported USD 116.9 billion worth of digitally delivered services in 2024, up from USD 41.4 billion in earlier years, which shows an accelerated growth. Though for 2017, the revenue loss was estimated at USD 500 million but it's likely to be much higher now due to explosion in streaming movies, digital books, SaaS, AI tools, gaming imports (video games) etc. With rising import base of USD 117 billion, even the most conservative estimates put this loss to be USD 2 billion annually," SJM added.

Tracing the background, SJM noted that the moratorium was introduced in 1998 when digital trade was at a nascent stage and was meant to be temporary. "The moratorium made sense in 1998, when digital trade was limited. However, it has been repeatedly extended at successive WTO ministerial conferences despite the massive expansion of digital trade. It is now time to review and end this provision," SJM said.

https://newsarenaindia.com/economy/end-customs-duty-pause-on-digital-goods-sjm/72741

Youth must lead the way to realise martyrs' dreams: Saini

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that March 23 holds unparalleled significance in India's

history. It is not merely a day of remembrance, but a day of resolve, when Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev laid down their lives, elevating the nation's pride to new heights. He said the martyrdom of these immortal heroes continues to ignite the spirit of patriotism in every Indian even today.

Chief Minister Saini was addressing the 'Swadeshi Mela and Youth Conference' held in Nangal, Punjab, on Monday. He said this event is not just a programme, but a living resolve to build the India envisioned by our martyrs. He congratulated the Centre for Economic Policy Research and Swadeshi Jagran Manch for this inspiring initiative.

The Chief Minister said that the nature of revolution has changed in today's times. Revolution no longer comes through swords, but through ideas, determination, and positive efforts. He emphasised that today's revolution can be achieved through public awareness against drug abuse, providing youth with self-employment, and promoting the adoption of indigenous products.

He stated that 'Swadeshi' is the strong foundation of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. When citizens give priority to local products, they directly strengthen the country's economy and bring stability to the lives of millions of artisans and small entrepreneurs. The principle of Swadeshi empowers individuals to stand on their own feet. Swadeshi is not just a word but an economic philosophy. He said that 'Vocal for Local' is not merely a slogan, but a campaign for nation-building. This is not just an exhibition of products, but a celebration of our indigenous spirit, and the message of Swadeshi must reach every household.

Advising youth against the blind race to go abroad, the Chief Minister cautioned that illegal and risky routes such as the 'donkey route' pose serious threats to life and often shatter families' dreams. He said that India offers immense opportunities, and young people can achieve success within the country through their talent.

The Chief Minister said: "Shaheedi Diwas inspires us to remain committed to our duties and to work continuously for the unity, integrity, and prosperity of the nation." He called upon the youth present to take a collective pledge to adopt Swadeshi, fight against drug abuse, and actively contribute to the country's development.

The Chief Minister concluded by stating that the Swadeshi Mela and Youth Conference in Nangal serves as a powerful platform uniting patriotism, self-reliance, and youth power. He congratulated the organizers for the successful event and expressed confidence that this initiative will provide new direction and energy to youth in nation-building.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/nation/youth-must-lead-the-way-to-realise-martyrs-dreams-saini-653071

Swadeshi fair in Nangal

The five-day Swadeshi Fair at NFL Stadium in Naya Nangal, inaugurated on Wednesday night with traditional rituals and cultural performances, has emerged not just as a platform to promote indigenous products but also as a significant political signal from the BJP in the Anandpur Sahib assembly constituency. The event, organised by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, is being seen as an attempt by Punjab BJP vice president Subhash Sharma to assert his presence in the Anandpur Sahib assembly constituency.

Subhash Sharma appears to be positioning himself at the centre of this revival effort. By spearheading a large public event that blends cultural outreach with economic messaging, he has sought to reconnect with local voters while aligning himself with the BJP's broader national narrative.

Addressing the gathering, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh underscored the importance of adopting Swadeshi to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a self-reliant India. However, it was Sharma's remarks that carried clear regional and political undertones. Highlighting the economic potential of Nangal, he pointed to major establishments such as the Bhakra Nangal Hydel Project and National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) as engines of growth.

He advocated for the expansion of NFL, stating that it could significantly boost employment and economic activity not only in Nangal but also in adjoining areas, including parts of Himachal Pradesh like Una and Nalagarh.

He further stressed that promoting Swadeshi and supporting local industries could help address unemployment and curb the migration of youth, issues that remain politically sensitive in the region. His call to bring the concerns of the area to the Prime Minister's attention was seen as an attempt to project himself as a proactive leader capable of delivering development.

The fair itself reflects a mix of cultural celebration and political mobilisation. Stalls featuring traditional cuisines and indigenous products from across India have drawn large crowds.

https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/swadeshi-fair-in-nangal-signals-bjps-political-pitch-in-anandpur-sahib/

Bharat'sTFR must remain above 2.1: Satish Kumar

"If your population is not young and vibrant, your GDP will inevitably decline, no one can stop it. And if your demographic profile is strong and balanced, your GDP will rise, that too cannot be stopped. At present, Bharat's GDP growth rate is around 7.3–7.4 percent", said, Satish Kumar, National Co-Organizer, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, while addressing the Industry Leadership Conclave 2026 'Swadeshi for Abhyudaya' at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre, Bhopal on February 16, 2026.

"China's GDP is declining primarily because its population is ageing. The society is growing older, and not enough new children are being born, he said.

"If an individual, a society, a nation, or even humanity as a whole wish to progress, a definite goal must be set. A nation too must place a clear objective before itself, towards which society directs its efforts. That is why the government has used the term Viksit Bharat @ 2047", further said.

"What should be the Indian paradigm of development, and what is its philosophical source of inspiration? Pandit Deendayal Ji provided that in the 1960s when he coined the term 'Ekatma Manav Darshan'. From that evolved the idea of an Indian model of development," he said. "If Bharat wants to sustain its economic growth and prosperity rate consistently, the first and indispensable condition is that its Total Fertility Rate (TFR) must remain above 2.1," he said.

https://organiser.org/2026/02/16/340337/bharat/abhyudaya-leadership-conclave-if-bharat-wants-to-sustain-economic-growth-its-tfr-must-remain-above-2-1-satish-kumar/

SJM leader moots greater industry role in shaping country's future

India's economic future will depend on strengthening domestic capabilities, fostering innovation-led growth, and ensuring policy stability, according to eminent Chartered Accountant economic thought leader and National Convener of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch R Sundaram, who addressed industry leaders in Sri City.

Welcoming the guest, Dr Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director of Sri City, underscored the value of continuous interaction with domain experts to help industry leaders stay aligned with evolving policy and economic environments. He also commended the efforts of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch in promoting local manufacturing and reducing dependence on imports.

Speaking on *"Indian Economy: The Way Forward in a Changing Global Scenario,"* R. Sundaram outlined major global economic transitions while highlighting the structural strengths of India. He emphasised self-reliance, resilient supply chains, and stronger domestic value creation, while urging greater industry participation in shaping the country's future growth path.

He described the US–India trade relationship as evolving cooperation balancing market access, domestic protection, and long-term strategic economic interests globally. He observed that India's sustained economic strength will depend on empowering local industry and aligning policy, innovation, and entrepreneurship with global opportunities, while maintaining balance between global integration and national priorities.

He also stressed prioritising advanced manufacturing, digital technologies, renewable energy, healthcare innovation, agri-tech, and strong infrastructure to ensure competitiveness, resilience, and long-term economic growth. The session drew CXOs and senior executives from across Sri City, reflecting strong industry interest in understanding global shifts and their implications for Indian manufacturing, trade, and investment. The programme concluded with an interactive discussion, where participants exchanged perspectives on emerging opportunities and challenges.

Sundaram, who serves as National Convener of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, brings over four decades of experience in taxation, corporate law, and economic policy. ❑❑

https://www.bizzbuzz.news/national/andhrapradesh/sjm-leader-moots-greater-industry-role-in-shaping-countrys-future-1385651

Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Mela

Pictorial Glimpses

Naya Nangal, Punjab

Ludhiana, Punjab

Swadeshi Patrika Posted on 7-8 March 2026
at LPC Delhi, Delhi PSO, Delhi RMS, Delhi-06

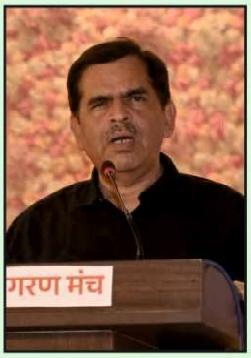
Regd. RNI No. 65799/97, DL-SW/01/4073/2024-26
Publishing Date: 2-3 Every Month

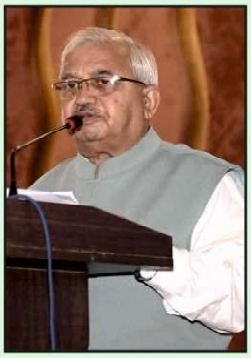
Swadeshi Activities

National Council Meeting

7-8 March, 2026 (Jaipur, Rajasthan)

Pictorial Glimpses





Printed and published by Dr. Ashwani Mahajan on behalf of Swadeshi Jagran Samiti and printed at Competent Binders, Naveen Shahdara Delhi-32, published at Dharmakshetra, Sector-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022, editor Ajey Bharti