

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

SEPTEMBER 2023

Chandrayaan-3: Special Issue

India's Competitiveness in Research and Innovation





नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

मध्यप्रदेश सरकार ने कसा माफिया, गुंडे, बदमाशों और आतंक पर शिकंजा

मध्यप्रदेश शांति का तापू है, यहाँ अशांति फैलाने वालों की खेर नहीं। मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान के कड़े फैसले और प्रशासनिक कसावट से प्रदेश में कानून का राज स्थापित है। प्रदेश की शांति व्यवस्था में खलल डालने की कोशिश करने वालों को कड़ी कार्रवाई का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। माताओं, बेटियों की ओर गलत नजर उठाने वालों के घरों पर बुलडोजर चल रहे हैं। बच्चियों के साथ दुराचार करने वालों को मृत्युदंड दिया जा रहा है। प्रदेश में एंटी माफिया अभियान चलाकर भू-माफिया, चिटफंड माफिया, शराब माफिया, खनन माफिया, राशन माफिया, मिलावट माफिया और दबंगों के विरुद्ध सख्ती से कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

□ तोड़ी माफिया की कमर

प्रदेश सरकार ने भू-माफियाओं से हजारों एकड़ से ज्यादा सरकारी भूमि मुक्त कराई है। अतिक्रमणकारियों के विरुद्ध 1 हजार 161 प्रकरण दर्ज कर 605 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। शासकीय भूमि पर अवैध कब्जा करने वाले 227 व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध सख्ती से कार्रवाई की जा रही है। 582 आरोपियों के विरुद्ध जिला बंदर की कार्रवाई की। आंदोलन अपराधियों और गुंडों पर भी पुलिस की कार्रवाई लगातार जारी है।

□ पुलिस कमिशनर प्रणाली

कानून-व्यवस्था में वर्ष 2022 ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धियों वाला रहा। भोपाल और इंदौर की कानून-व्यवस्था को सुस्त-दुरुस्त बनाये रखने के लिये पुलिस कमिशनर प्रणाली लागू की गई।

□ नवसली उन्मूलन

पिछले 23 वर्षों में पहली बार वर्ष 2022 में एक वर्ष में एक करोड़ 14 लाख रुपए के 6 इनामी नवसली मार गिराये गये। इतिहास में प्रथम बार डिवीजनल कमांडर स्तर के नवसली को मार गिराया गया और 2 एके-47 जब्त की गई।

□ खनन माफिया: 13 हजार 178 अपराध दर्ज। 24 हजार 092 से अधिक चार पहिया वाहन 3 लाख 54 हजार 528 घन मीटर अवैध रेत जब्त। 04 रासुका एवं 34 जिला बंदर।



गांजे की खेती करने वाले धराए

अवैध शराब बेचने वालों को पकड़ा



□ राशन माफिया: 1626 अपराध दर्ज कर 1780 आरोपी गिरफ्तार कर लगभग 91 करोड़ रुपये के खाद्य पदार्थ जब्त एवं 68 व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध रासुका की कार्रवाई।

□ चिटफंड माफिया: 1 लाख 47 हजार 532 से अधिक निवेशकों को करोड़ों की राशि वापस दिलाकर राहत पहुंचाई गई। 860 प्रकरण दर्ज।

□ शराब माफिया: 4 लाख 21 हजार से अधिक प्रकरणों में 3 लाख 57 हजार से अधिक आरोपी गिरफ्तार। 40 लाख 72 हजार लीटर अवैध शराब एवं 4005 वाहन जब्त।

□ ऑपरेशन मुस्कान

प्रदेश में जोर-जबरदस्ती, बहला-फुसलाकर विवाह और धर्म परिवर्तन को रोकने के लिए धर्म स्वातंत्र्य विधेयक लागू। इसमें 110 से अधिक प्रकरण दर्ज कर कार्रवाई की जा रही है। वर्ष 2018 से अब तक बच्चियों से दुष्कर्म करने वाले 42 दोषियों को मृत्युदंड की सजा। ऑपरेशन मुस्कान में वर्ष 2022 में अपराध 9 हजार 413 बालिकाओं और 2 हजार 205 बालकों को मुक्त कराया गया।

□ साइबर अपराधों पर अंकुश

राज्य सरकार साइबर अपराधों से निगटने के लिए सज्ज। सोशल मीडिया पर निरंतर नजर। देश को कमजोर करने की गतिविधियों में सलन संगठनों पर लगातार कार्रवाई।

□ डकैतों का हो गया सफाया

प्रदेश में डकैतों का आतंक अब पूरी तरह खत्म। डकैतों के सभी बड़े लिस्टेड गैंग का खात्मा करने में पुलिस को बड़ी सफलता मिली। सुदखोरो पर पुलिस ने शिकंजा कसा। नशे और इसकी लत को रोकने के लिए अभियान चलाए जा रहे हैं।

□ मिलावट: 4392 प्रकरण दर्ज एवं 657 आरोपी गिरफ्तार। लगभग 27 करोड़ रुपये के मिलावटी खाद्य पदार्थ जब्त। 85 व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध रासुका की कार्रवाई।

(01 अप्रैल 2020 से 31 मार्च 2023 तक)

पुलिस की पैदल गश्त से अपराधियों में खौफ, प्रधानमंत्री ने भी पहल को सराहा

प्रदेश पुलिस द्वारा मूलभूत पुलिसिंग में शुरू की गई पैदल गश्त की प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने भी प्रशंसा की है। वीट व्यवस्था, माइक्रो चीट सिस्टम, ओचक निरीक्षण, कोचिंग ऑपरेशन और रात्रि गश्त व्यवस्था को बनाए रखने के लिए आवश्यक है।

पुलिस के सड़क पर मौजूद होने का असामाजिक तत्वों पर नियंत्रण के साथ सामान्य व्यवस्था बनाए रखने में प्रभावी होता है। सोशल मीडिया या अन्य माध्यमों में चल रही भ्रांतियों और गलत जानकारी का तत्काल खंडन किया जा रहा है। आवश्यकता होने पर उपयुक्त कार्रवाई भी तत्काल सुनिश्चित की जा रही है।



असली हीरो को सम्मान

मध्यप्रदेश में अपराधियों का सामना करने में साहस और वीरता का परिचय देने वाले नागरिकों को असली हीरो सम्मान से सम्मानित किया जा रहा है। इनमें बड़ानी की वर्षा बाई बोरला, कमला बाई और भूरी बाई, सुरना के मुकेश सिंह गुर्जर, दमोह की मोनिका पिंकी अहिवाल, इंदौर की प्रगति शिवनी, सुरी और छतरपुर के शिवम तिवारी को असली हीरो प्रमाण-पत्र प्रदान किए गए हैं।

पुलिस को मिले पुरस्कार

प्रदेश को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय द्वारा डिजिटल इंडिया अवार्ड 2022 से सम्मानित किया गया है। प्रदेश को ई-विवेचना एप के उपयोग के लिये **इनिशिएटिव हट ग्रास रूट** लेवल केटेगरी में प्रथम पुरस्कार मिला। एन्युअल इन्फोमेशन सिक्योरिटी समिट में मध्यप्रदेश साइबर पुलिस को पुलिस की क्षमता निर्माण में प्रथम पुरस्कार और **साइबर कॉप ऑफ द ईयर में दूसरा पुरस्कार मिला है।**



LETTERS

3

NEWS

37-38



CONTENTS

COVER STORY

8

India's Competitiveness in Research and Innovation

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



1	Cover Page	
2	Cover Inside Page	
08	CHANDRAYAAN-3	
	The meaning of Chandrayaan-3 and the twin goals of R&D and Rural Development	Sridhar Vembu
10	DISCUSSION	
	ISRO spends 13 times less than NASA!	Shivaji Sarkar
12	ENVIRONMENT	
	Global Warming and Green Technology	Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal
14	DISCUSSION	
	BRICS: Bigger, But better?	KK Srivastava
16	WOMEN	
	Supreme Court and Gender stereotyping	Dr. Jaya Kakkar
18	SCIENCE	
	Investigation Regarding Dumping	Abhijit Das
20	GEOPOLITICS	
	Changing Landscape of Our International Trade	Vinod Johri
23	OPINION	
	New India-Middle East-Europe Corridor an historic initiative	Sandhya Jain
26	AGRICULTURE	
	Perils of privatising agricultural research	Devinder Sharma
28	POLICY	
	Restricting imports to boost domestic production	Swadeshi Samvad
30	SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
	Legendary Social Entrepreneur: Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak	Alok Singh
32	FARMING	
	Soil Testing Labs, More Cold Storages: Farmers Propose Ways to Heal Himachal Pradesh's Apple Economy	Indra Shekhar Singh
34	HISTORY	
	Mewar as Locus of Guhila State (Part-XIV)	Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha
39	Back Inside Cover	
40	Back Cover	



Chandrayaan-3

Chandrayaan, an incredible series of moon explorations by ISRO, the Indian Space Research Organization has brought us closer to the mysteries of the Moon. The first mission Chandrayaan-1 launched in 2008, was a breakthrough as it discovered water on the moon. Chandrayaan-2 launched in 2019 was designed with an orbiter, a lander and a small rover. Unfortunately, during its landing attempt, the lander lost contact and couldn't reach the Moon's surface as planned due to a small error. The setback was not only disheartening for the ISRO scientists, but also a poignant moment for the entire nation. But, ISRO didn't succumb to despair. Instead, they embraced the challenge, learned from their mistakes, and immediately embarked on their next venture Chandrayaan-3.

On the remarkable day of July 14th 2023, the powerful LMV-3 heavy lift rocket lifted off flawlessly from Sriharikota Space Station in Andhra Pradesh, carrying the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft with the Vikram lander and the Pragyan rover on board. This aircraft had a special mission: a 41-day journey to the moon. As projected, on 23rd August at 6:04 pm IST, the Vikram lander gently touched down to the moon's surface perfectly. Following this historic moment, India became only the fourth country in the world after America, Russia and China to land its spacecraft on the moon. It also became the first country to land on the moon's south polar region, a spot that no one had ever touched before. The rover Pragyan studied the elements available on the South Pole of the moon and confirmed the presence of Sulfur, Oxygen, Aluminium, Calcium and more. The detection of Sulfur, a relatively uncommon element suggests the potential existence of water ice, a critical factor for future lunar missions and potential human settlements. Chandrayaan-3 also discovered a temperature drop from around 500C on the Moon's surface to -100C just 80 mm below it.

This whole mission underscores the point that undeterred by the setbacks of Chandrayaan-2, ISRO learned from their mistakes, adapted Strategies, and overcame challenges with determination. This achievement is a testament to India's resilience against adversity.

— Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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

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

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

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

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

Disclaimer

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

Quote-Unquote



I believe that the success of Chandrayaan is a great achievement for the entire mankind. It shows how India has used its rich traditional knowledge base along with modern science in the service of humanity.

Droupadi Murmu, President, Bharat



Till now no one had landed on the south pole of the Moon. After years of hard work, our scientists achieved the feat of making India the first country to land its lunar mission on the South Pole of the Moon, not only for the country but for humanity around the world.

Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak, RSS



"India's successful Moon mission is not India's alone... Our vision of One Earth, One Family One Future resonates across the world... The Moon mission is based on the same human-centric vision. Therefore, this success belongs to all humanity."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



This is the journey that we started with Chandrayaan-1, continued in Chandrayaan-2 also. All the teams that contributed to the creation of Chandrayaan-1 and 2 should be remembered and thanked while celebrating Chandrayaan-3.

S. Somnath, Chairman, ISRO

India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor: Countering Chinese BRI

In 2013, China rolled out the Belt Road Initiative (BRI) as a very ambitious infrastructure plan before the world and invited more than 100 countries to participate and act on this scheme. This project was started with the ongoing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan's illegally occupied Kashmir territory and many more projects were added to it. The BRI was introduced as an initiative to improve connectivity between different countries of the world through road, rail and sea routes with an aim to promote international trade and cooperation. China claimed that the Belt Road would be based on the Silk Road, a route developed by China's Han Dynasty 2,000 years ago. This Silk Road was expected to provide connectivity between China, South-East Asia, Gulf countries, East Africa and Europe, which would help in accelerating the movement of goods and people and reduce the transportation time and cost, through road, rail and sea routes. It was said that the BRI would help increase trade and benefit people all over the world. Although the total cost of this project was said to be \$1 trillion, in essence, it could cost several trillion dollars. As the project progressed, its ill effects began to surface. Many of the developing countries that participated in it faced a paucity of resources and saw their debt soar due to huge expenditure on this project. Today, many countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Asia and Angola, Ethiopia, Zambia, Congo and Sudan in Africa are neck deep into debt due to this project. However, the Chinese government has not made any attempt to resolve the payment difficulties through any defined process. In such a situation, due to a lack of rules and debt resolution mechanisms, a large number of countries included in the Belt Road are trapped in the vortex of debt. Significantly, China is not a member of the Paris Club, a group of officials from various creditor countries that is trying to find a coordinated and sustainable solution to the payment difficulties experienced by the debtor countries. There is hardly any doubt that BRI is nothing but 'debt trap diplomacy'. The real intention, which is turning out to be very obvious, was to occupy the strategically located ports and other assets of the countries with debt vulnerabilities. Many countries have now started viewing China's Belt Road Initiative with suspicion. India and the US did not approve of the Belt Road Initiative from its very beginning. Although the US representatives continued attending the Belt Road meetings, India completely boycotted it.

In contrast, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) announced by prime minister Narendra Modi at the G20 summit will enhance economic integration between India, Western Asia and Europe. India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US are involved in this project. In addition to boosting trade among the countries involved, the IMEC will also give an effective counter to China's Belt Road Initiative, which was in essence, meant to pave trade routes between China and other countries. The involvement of many like-minded countries in the IMEC may put China's Belt Road project in jeopardy. Comparing the IMEC with China's BRI, we see that the BRI is a China-centric project, where the responsibility of investment was China's but the investment turned into debt of those countries that were responsible for repayment. In comparison, the IMEC is a project based on cooperation. Not only does this project open up new transport routes, it also opens up avenues of cooperation between its member countries in terms of technology, design, finance and regulatory standards. It also seeks electricity and digital connectivity between these countries. There is also a plan for a pipeline for the flow of clean hydrogen.

The European Commission president believes that the IMEC will make trade between India and Europe 40 percent faster, and it will not only reduce costs and transportation time but also boost trade and economic development. Many member countries would prefer IMEC over the Belt Road for several reasons. Firstly, the IMEC has been planned keeping in mind the interests of the member countries while the BRI has been planned to benefit China. Secondly, the BRI was prepared by China, while IMEC was designed after discussions among the member countries. Thirdly, the Belt Road project is giving contracts only to Chinese companies and employment to Chinese people while the IMEC scheme will provide employment at the local level. Fourthly, the Belt Road project is threatening the sovereignty of member nations, the IMEC project respects it. Fifthly, China provides loans to member countries under the Belt Road Project at high interest rates and unfair terms while the IMEC project proposes to implement best international debt practices.

India's Competitiveness in Research and Innovation

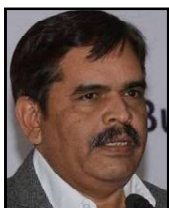


On 23rd August 2023 India created history by successful landing of Chandrayan-3 on South pole of moon, making India to be fourth nation in the world to have successfully landing at moon and first country for landing on the south pole of the moon. This is neither the first nor the last achievement of India's space program. In the past India has made major strides in the field of space. Though India did launch its first satellite, Aryabhata, in the space's orbit, with Russia's help; but it never looked back since then. Not only India today has 17 INSAT satellites in the space, it has developed capability to launch any number of satellites in the space's orbit by PSLV.

In 1993, India launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for the first time. Though it was launched to place India's remote sensing satellites in sun-synchronous orbit, it has launched 58 flights till date, of which 55 were completely successful, one partially successful and two unsuccessful. The cost of each launch varies between Rs 130 crore and Rs 200 crore depending on its carrying capacity. But by launching the satellite of our country and other countries, the revenue made by ISRO is much more than that. It's notable that PSLV's 37th flight had created a history by putting 104 satellites in the space simultaneously.

No doubt the success in the space program speaks tons about India's capabilities in space technology. The very fact that the most developed countries of the world also launch their satellite with the help of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), because of the economy with which ISRO is able to perform the task. But apart from transporting satellites from most developed countries, ISRO has been able to demonstrate its superiority in successfully performing the most difficult space expeditions with unbelievable economy. Expressing surprise about the economy of India's space mission many people have posted on social media. Though, India had been working on its space mission with utmost efficiency with the most economical fashion, right from the beginning, but this has caught global attention very recently. It is important to know that India transports satellites of different countries at a fraction of the charge made by the established space players, NASA (Space agency of USA).

There is yet another technological achievement of India, which has caught attention of the world, namely, Unified Payment Interface (UPI). Significantly, in the year 2022, a total of Rs 149.5 lakh crore worth of online transactions took place in the country. In these payments worth Rs 126 lakh crore were done only through UPI. A total of about 88 billion online transactions were recorded in the country last year. According to a report by Price Waterhouse Cooper, the number of online payments could reach one billion per day by 2026-27. More importantly, India accounts for more than 40 percent of all online transactions in the world.



it is necessary to promote scientific outlook in the country and encourage innovation. The achievements so far are encouraging and there is a need to continue the current endeavours.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

It is notable that payments made through UPI are almost free. None of the service provider can make a charge for facilitating payment. Recently, the government has introduced the charge on UPI transaction of more than Rs. 2000 to a wallet, however, there is no charge on any amount of transaction through UPI made to a bank account. There is no parallel of UPI in the whole world. Prior to introduction of UPI online transactions for all payments used to be through credit and debit cards. Prior to 2014 all credit and debit cards used to be of two international giants Visa and Mastercard. Transactions through these cards were subject to a sizable commission, which ranged between 1 percent to 2.5 percent. At that time online transaction were very limited, even than huge amount of foreign exchange used to go abroad. Introduction of UPI and Rupay card generally replacing Visa and Mastercard has not only reduced the business of these international giants, but has also saved the country from outgo of valuable foreign exchange, apart from facilitating huge number of online transactions. A new feature has been added to UPI, called UPI International, for use of UPI by international payers. Due to which payment can be made from Indian Bank accounts to foreign banks, with the help of QR code. UPI payments were already possible in Bhutan, Nepal, Singapore, UAE and Mauritius, and now France has joined the list.

If we talk about the economy of online transaction through UPI we come to know that budget provisions of hardly Rs 1500 crore has been made for the digi-

tal payments industry for 2023-24 under the expenditure budget of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity). Looking at the quantum of transactions, this is hardly 0.0001 percent of the same. This number speaks loud about the cost effectiveness of our indigenous payment system and it's underneath technology.

Preparing for Industrial Revolution 4.0

We are living in the era of Industrial Revolution 4.0. It is a matter of misfortune that India missed the bus in first three industrial revolutions. In Industrial Revolution 1.0, production was mechanized with water and steam, Second Industrial Revolution was centred at mass production from electric energy. Third Industrial Revolution was of electronics and information technology. At the time of the first industrial revolution in the world, India was under alien rule, and the colonial government was hardly interested in the development of India. The Second Industrial Revolution which introduced the use of electric powered mechanisation, didn't achieve much success in India. The main reasons are the lack of substantial growth in power generation in the country and the lack of agricultural research and development. When the use of electronics and information technology increased in the world, initially it gained momentum, but later the lack of innovation and the indifferent attitude of the government hindered the production of IT related products in the country. However, software companies developed in a big way in the country and they were developing

and servicing software, both for domestic as well as for international markets.

Today is the time of Industrial Revolution 4.0, which is associated with rapid technological development. It has artificial intelligence, drones, robotics, gene editing and through all kinds of smart technology, production is conducted on a large scale through machine-to-machine communication and Internet of Things. It has to be understood that even though India had lagged behind in the first three industrial revolutions, India has the promise for emerging as a major player in the world in the fourth industrial revolution. Our youth, software engineers, digital experts, engineers, experts in various fields, all are engaged in the effort that India reaches the first row in the world in Industrial Revolution 4.0. India has showcased its talent to the fullest in space and payments infrastructure. The youth of India are doing remarkable and commendable work in many fields including robotics, drones, digitalization in medicine. Nearly one lakh startups with new ideas are engaged in the development and innovation of various technologies. Our experience so far shows that we can easily excel in Industrial Revolution 4.0 with our new ideas, intelligence and skills of Indian youth. Technologies like 5G are surprising the world, challenging established foreign technologies. Today is the time to give impetus to these ongoing efforts in the country. For this, it is necessary to promote scientific outlook in the country and encourage innovation. The achievements so far are encouraging and there is a need to continue the current endeavours. □□

The meaning of Chandrayaan-3 and the twin goals of R&D and Rural Development

India made history yesterday, safely landing the Vikram lander on the till-then-unexplored south pole of the moon. ISRO demonstrated to the world our growing technology capabilities.

The Chinese call their period of subjugation a-century-of-national-humiliation, and for India, it was a millennium of national humiliation, so it is particularly poignant to see India emerge steadily as a confident and independent nation, powered by R&D.

R&D has a far deeper meaning for me. I believe that to wipe out poverty in our vast nation, India will have to become an R&D superpower; in my mind, the twin goals of Rural Development and Research & Development are inextricably linked.

Why R&D? The problems India faces cannot be solved by merely importing technology, know-how, systems, and processes “context-free”. While we must learn from the experiences of Silicon Valley, Japan, China, Switzerland, Germany, and Taiwan, we must also accept that we cannot import solutions wholesale. First of all, those solutions are extraordinarily expensive and unaffordable for a poor nation. NASA would have spent 50 times the money spent by ISRO to achieve the same feat ISRO achieved.

UPI, Aadhaar, our Vande Bharat trains—these are all examples of home-grown technological solutions well adapted to our conditions. These are very low-cost innovations, for a nation where the vast majority of our citizens still struggle to earn \$5 a day. We need a lot more of these low-cost innovations, and that can only come from deeper investments in R&D.

How is this R&D linked to Rural Development? India’s major cities are already stretched beyond reason, and we cannot keep growing their population.



NASA would have spent 50 times the money spent by ISRO to achieve the same feat ISRO achieved.

Sridhar Vembu



Our rural areas have fairly high population density already - in fact, India's rural areas, on average, have about as many people per square kilometer as a typical suburb in America. So it is ruinous to try to move everyone to our already super-over-crowded cities. The scale of the infrastructure needed to support that kind of density is beyond what any country has ever built, and it will also be ruinously expensive even if we could build it. Japan has come the closest with Tokyo, but in the process of urbanizing Japan on that scale, Japan has lost its soul and its drive. We do not want to lose the soul of India.

A far better solution, as our beloved President Abdul Kalam repeatedly emphasized, is to help develop our rural areas, so that the population does not have to migrate. He called his vision PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas). The operational meaning of that vision for me is to spread R&D centres to rural areas. From our experience, we know that each rural centre needs one strong team as an anchor, with leadership that is local, and then we can have other teams present. We have started to build them out, and that will be our vision going forward.

The R&D jobs we create are very critical to the prosperity of these rural areas. Every job we create directly leads to 10 other jobs in the local economy, as our people spend their incomes in the local economy. This effect is already very visible in Tenkasi and it will be visible in other areas.

I strongly believe we cannot separate R&D from support, R&D from manufacturing, soft-



ware engineers from housekeeping staff, and so on. It is that separation, that dualism, that leads to social problems on a vast scale. Our R&D people must be connected to the society we live in, and that society involves a vast number of fellow citizens who are poor. That is why I live in a small village. My living here has enabled me to think of solutions like digging ponds to improve our water table, so we can employ more farm workers - my BMW is the earth mover we buy to dig ponds! I get to enjoy the pond by swimming in it, so in that sense, the earth mover is far more important than a BMW for me.

That brings up the most important point. Western Civilisation, as it exists today, does not have any solution to the existential threat to humanity posed by climate change. Fundamentally, the Western way of life requires extraordinary amounts of energy per person. If India adopts the same lifestyle, if the average Indian were to spend the same amount of energy as the average American, the planet would be finished. People like Bill Gates dream of technology-based quick

fixes ("suck CO2 out of air"), but those "solutions" involve even more energy. I don't see how any of those proposed solutions work.

We, in India, have to invent a better way of life that combines prosperity arising from R&D with a vastly simpler way of life. When we dig ponds to restore the water table, when we plant trees for shade and a cooler micro-climate, we get to enjoy those ponds and the woods we create, we can work peacefully on our R&D projects, and we also end up helping the earth. That is the meaning of prosperity for me.

That spiritual sense of contentment is essential for us to live in harmony with Mother Earth. The soul of our nation, which considers everything part of the Divine Reality, worships trees and rivers and mountains and animals and snakes and rocks, worships Mother Earth herself, can create this synthesis of prosperity and contentment.

That is the meaning of Chandrayaan 3 for me. □□

<https://blog.zoho.com/general/the-meaning-of-chandrayaan-3-and-the-twin-goals-of-r-d-and-ri.html>

ISRO spends 13 times less than NASA! Frugal India and Giant Leap

The Chandrayaan-3 is a testimony that most government departments can effectively function at a far lower cost. The country possibly does not need big ticket projects for constructions and demolitions as rare coveted landing at moon's south pole exemplifies. The budgeting and costing method needs a review. It can be simpler Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) pattern. The ISRO, one of the premier world organisations, has it simple and frugal. The payload of Mangalyaan in 2013 was about 15 kg while NASA's Curiosity mars project weighed about a 1000 kg. This explains the cost difference. For studies the concept and reach of equipment matters not the size.

The ISRO has achieved its feat for abysmally low annual budget of \$1.93 billion against \$25.3 billion of NASA in 2023-24 budget. The White House enhanced it to \$27.2 billion. Even the crashed Russian Luna project cost over \$190 million against \$75 million or Rs 615 crore for Chandrayan3. European Space Agency spends Euro 7.08 billion or \$ 9 billion in 2023.

Indeed it is a feat to achieve so much for a cost that is 13 times less than that of NASA. The lion's share of the NASA's \$8.1 billion, four times more than the total ISRO expenses, is provided for its lunar activities, including sending the Artemis-II mission to the moon next year and sending man to Mars.

In fact, the 2023-24 budget has ISRO allocation at Rs 12543 crore against Rs 13700 crore a year back. It's a Rs 1093 crore cut on space projects.

The ISRO is not a spender like the highways or urban development. Its Antrix earns an average of Rs 200 crore or \$25 million a year from its launches. Besides, it earns from its transponder and other communication services. The department of space (DoS) and its arm NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) earned Rs 2780 crore in 2022-23, up from Rs 929 crore in 2020-21.

It is steadily engaged in providing options to reduce imports by 40 to 50



The ISRO has bigger plans in the coming years and is likely to give many surprises with increasing its income and enriching the space journey.
Shivaji Sarkar



percent. The ISRO has prioritised homegrown components and technologies over costly imports. It pursues the indigenisation programme for critical components, materials and subsystems with industry participation to reduce import dependence.

Indian highways collect almost 13 times more than its need of Rs 60,000 crore through tolls and cess. It spurts inflation. The collapse of ILFS with Rs 91000 crore dumps testifies mega overspending. The ISRO model reduces costs and inflationary pressure.

The government should review expenses of departments not only under its control but also of the major private sector organisations that sustain on outsourced government work. The recent CAG report on a series of road constructions instead of being justified, need a scrutiny at expenditure escalation beyond the sanctioned bills. The exercise may yield generous funds to reduce national debt burden.

The ISRO's impressive cost-efficiency in space exploration is strikingly evident when compared to other space agencies worldwide. In 2022, India's space programme budget ranked seventh globally. Even in lunar missions, Chandrayaan-3's budget remains notably lower than most others competitors. For instance, Russia's Luna-25, which tragically crashed on the moon shortly before Chandrayaan-3's successful mission, reportedly had spent almost four times more.

The ISRO precision achievement at such low cost calls for showcasing of its performance as also study its working pattern as to how it achieves the feat at a budget of Rs 13479 crore in 2020

and Rs 12500 crore in 2023, almost a Rs 1000 crore less. The ISRO earned Rs 1100 crore or \$ 94 million in the last five years from the launch of foreign satellites, according to a statement of Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh in Rajya Sabha on December 16, 2022. It is in addition to its earnings from other communication services.

The ISRO launched 177 foreign satellites through its commercial arms Antrix between January 2018 and November 2022. These satellites were from 19 countries — Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. It has earned \$ 223 million or Rs 1830 crore from launching foreign satellite aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV).

The ISRO generates its major share of revenue by the sale of satellite data, leasing the INSAT/GSAT transponders along with various other services to national and international clientele.

Meanwhile, Antrix had dealings with EADS Astrium, Intelsat, Avanti Group, WorldSpace, Inmarsat, and other space institutions in Europe, Middle East and South East Asia. At present, there are about 1,100 operational satellites orbiting earth while there are about 5-6 PSLV launches every year.

The latest figures include revenue from PSLV and launches aboard the Geo Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-MkIII), now renamed as LVM-3) launchers under commercial agreements.

The LVM3, launched 36 One-Web satellites in a single mission

and for the first time an Indian company — Skyroot Aerospace — sent Vikram S, a 545-kg rocket privately-developed rocket into space on November 18, 2022 as part of a mission called 'Prarambh.'

Antrix's turnover kept rising over the years. It was Rs. 884 crore in 2009-2010, Rs. 1924 crore in 2015-2016 while its profits have surged from Rs. 108 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 209 crore in 2015-16. ISRO's earnings from its commercial space missions have been growing continuously.

In 2017, ISRO launched 104 small satellites through a single payload and set a new world record shattering Russia's record of launching 37 satellites simultaneously.

While the highway system has created a system of tendering and a genre of sub-contracting, creating cartels, ISRO has developed a large ancillary that enriches its products and builds up critical national resource. It ensures competitiveness of the Indian space industry. Its launch services have the most competitive rates.

A dozen industries contributed to the ISRO from L&T, BHEL, Hindustan Aeronautics, National Aeronautics, Keltron, Godrej & Boyce to not so big Walchand, Infinite Technologies, Centum Electronics, MTAR Technologies, Himson Industrial Ceramics, Sri Venkateswara Aerospace to Midhani that provided the alloys for the heat shield of the lander and the wheels of the rover, and Paras Defense and Space Technologies contributed to the navigation system.

The ISRO has bigger plans in the coming years and is likely to give many surprises with increasing its income and enriching the space journey. □□

Global Warming and Green Technology

Green tech is for mitigation and adaptation to the changes emanating from climate change and decarbonisation. Therefore there are two aspects of green technology one is to face the resultants which have already been caused due to the global warming which has hitherto already occurred in the atmosphere over the last two century since the beginning of the industrialisation by adaptation and the other one to mitigate the future challenges by decarbonisation.

The IPCC AR-6 Report is the authentic and reliable evidence of the human induced increase in temperature of Mother Earth by about one degree Celsius and its impact on melting of glaciers, cyclones, drought, floods and on human life, animal life, plant life including the impact on bio-diversity and the agricultural output.

There are however certain natural phenomena which affect global warming. El Niño is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface water in the eastern Pacific- Ocean. El Niño and La Niña are climate patterns in the Pacific Ocean and the same can affect weather worldwide. Generally, El Niño and La Niña occur every five years and El Niño is more frequent than La Niña. However, the uncertain behaviour of El Niño in recent years as per the expert views of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) poses the danger of temperature change and also causes cyclones due to changes of air pressure at sea level in various parts of the world. El Niño and La Niña are natural phenomena and are generally not anthropogenic in origin. Similarly, eruptions of volcanoes are also natural phenomena and not due to any human induced activities.

IPCC Report also tells about the warning about the increasing temperature and therefore suggest to adapt to new green technology in order to limit the temperature by 2050 at maximum tolerance limit of 1.5 degree above the earth temperature which was measured in the pre- industrialised period (1850-1900) at

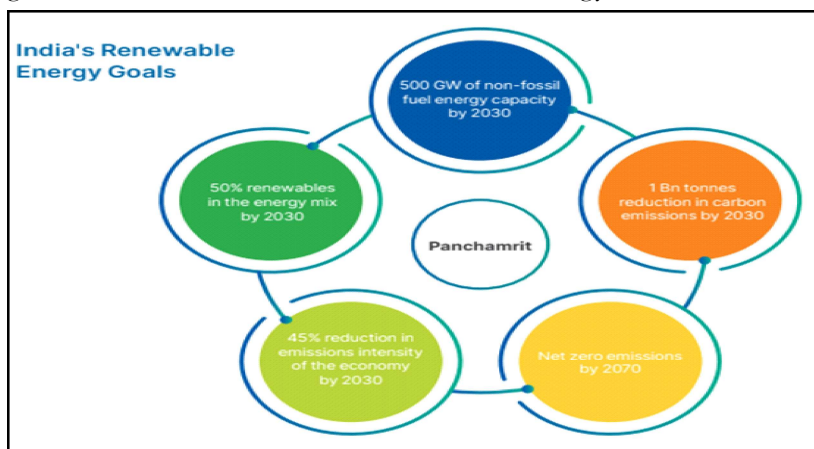


According to a recent Report of McKinsey an estimated investment of \$ 2 trillion annually will be required in five major areas of green technology by 2025 in order to achieve the net zero target by European countries alone in order to reduce 5 GtCO_{2e} abatement by 2050.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal



291 ppm level and is measured at 397 ppm in 2011-2020 and the limit for the maximum allowable temperature if 1.5 degree Celsius is 445 PPM. PPP means carbon particles per molecules. In order to do that it is essential to gradually reduce the use of fossil fuels which is the primary source of the greenhouse gases. Therefore in order to adapt to the changes required for the impact of the climate change and the increasing level of global warming various measures have been suggested for achieving the Net Zero target by 2050 or latest by 2070 as suggested by India in COP 26 in Glasgow. Indian Prime Minister has promised for a five pronged strategy to be adopted by 2030 popularly named as Panchamrit as mentioned in the diagram below.



Therefore on the one hand the countries need to reduce the green-house gas(GHG) emissions and on the other hand need to create Carbon Sink through forestation and several other means including changing the life style which has to be environment friendly by way of solid waste management, circular economic measures and by restraining the wasteful consumption. In order to adapt to the challenges of the climate change, each country need huge amount of finance and the technology for the alternate sources of renewable energy and also for the investment in the new types of energy efficient automobiles and other machineries, equipment etc.

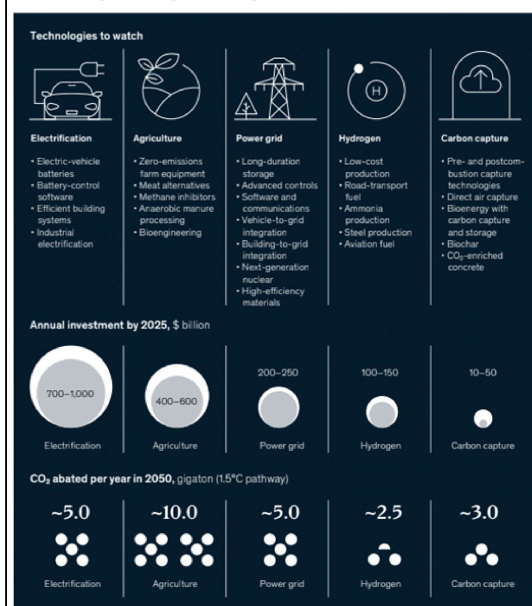
There are several efforts and initiatives for development of green technologies and mechanisms for decarbonisation that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low- carbon economy. Renewable energy technologies, such as Solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, and bioenergy are some of the

underground or reuse them for industrial applications. Electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and biofuels can reduce emissions from transportation. In addition environment friendly life style such as developing the habit of walking and biking can reduce the use of fossil fuel-powered vehicles.

Green hydrogen is a type of hydrogen fuel that is produced using renewable energy sources such as wind or solar power through a process called electrolysis. In electrolysis, water (H₂O) is split into its constituent elements of hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) using an electrical current.

The adoption of Green Technology involves not only invention of new technology but also huge amount of investment. According to a recent Report of McKinsey an estimated investment of \$ 2 trillion annually will be required in five major areas of green technology by 2025 in order to achieve the net zero target by European countries alone in order to reduce 5 GtCO₂e abatement by 2050. □□

Five groups of technologies could attract \$2 trillion of capital per year by 2025 and abate 40 percent of greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050.



underground or reuse them for industrial applications. Electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, and biofuels can reduce emissions from transportation. In addition environment friendly life style such as developing the habit of walking and biking can reduce the use of fossil fuel-powered vehicles.

Green hydrogen is a type of hydrogen fuel that is produced using renewable energy sources such as wind or solar power through a process called electrolysis. In electrolysis, water (H₂O) is split into its constituent elements of hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) using an electrical current.

The adoption of Green Technology involves not only invention of new technology but also huge amount of investment. According to a recent Report of McKinsey an estimated investment of \$ 2 trillion annually will be required in five major areas of green technology by 2025 in order to achieve the net zero target by European countries alone in order to reduce 5 GtCO₂e abatement by 2050. □□

BRICS: Bigger, But better?

After the latest summit of original BRICS nations the grouping has expanded to include six more nations – Saudi Arabia, Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE. Note that it was China and Russia which has been pushing hard to include new members. India was somewhat reluctant, but finally relented.

After the 6 members are inducted, the expanded grouping will represent 46% of the world's population and 30% of its economic output. Presently the 5 member grouping controls 40% of the world's population and generates 26% of the global GDP. However, the biggest impact will be in terms of the share of global oil production which will increase to 40% from the current 18%. On the other hand the group's oil consumption share will jump from 27% to 36%. Similarly their share in global merchandise trade will rise from 20% to 25%, and that of global services trade will increase to 15% from 12%. Finally their share in the global forex reserves will increase from 39% to 45% of world's total.

Thus this, in a way, signals the rise of a new global south which will offer a balancing challenge to the hegemony of the Global North in all matters, particularly global trade, energy security, global affairs, and international currency. If the group members work in cohesion then the global trade will tilt in favour of South under newly set terms of trade; there could be a new global order indeed. Ofcourse within the group, China and India together will contribute 74% of the group GDP. However, a positive development will be that China, which controls 70% of the BRICS GDP will be responsible for only 62% whereas the corresponding numbers for India will fall from 13% to 12% only. The new group will be home to 3.7 billion people.

The alliance has become one of the most ambitious one due to the membership of the world's highest potential large economies. Besides, it is an important bulwark against the west's hegemony. Indeed the block was born as early as



BRICS has served only a limited purpose, given its divergent composition. India has both opportunities and challenges before it once it expands in near future.

KK Srivastava



in 2009 to challenges the existing (and somewhat unfavourable to South) global economic landscape. It was set up to promote cooperation among the significant 4 emerging economies (BRIC), to which S (South Africa) was added later. Purely from Indian perspective too things appear to be promising as far as economic potential is connected. But before we dwell on that what about some more intra group implications?

Well, like we said earlier, a new world order is under way, the bloc representing more forcefully the voice of developing countries. It will have oil under its control, the members together being both major producers and consumers. While there was a talk about setting up a BRICS currency during the lead up to the summit, for using in trade among members, nothing came of it eventually. However, there is now an increased possibility (though one cannot comment at the present juncture about the probability) of the de-dollarisation.

But we cannot turn our eyes away from many discomfiting facts. Despite its original ambitions, the bloc has largely failed to live up to its promise, nor has it succeeded in striking mutual cooperation. By way of comparison there is the G7. Chinese President Xi-Jinping said that the BRICS could offer a challenge to the G7. But remember, the G7 is a political alliance of developed countries heralded by the US. They hold similar views on political and diplomatic issues and have few conflicts among them.

On the other hand the BRICS has a mix of governance models, from democracy (in India) to a one

party rule (in China). Besides, China and India, the neighbours, have an uneasy relationship, with distrust towards each others in many matters. The border issue between the two is not settled. The two countries have fought war. Moreover, Russia and China have recently become great pals, much to India's discomfiture.

Iran has a long history of being under Western sanctions. And though of late Saudi Arabia and the UAE are trying to free themselves from undue Western influences, within the (expanded) group Iran has an uneasy relationship with the Arab Kingdoms.

Potentially speaking, focusing an economic growth will help the enlarged BRICS look beyond these long lasting conflicts and work to face common challenges. This should include securing funds for development activities, encouraging increased intra group trading, working for challenging the might of dollar, and providing synergistic support to one another. Economic and trade should be the basic platform to strengthen the group.

As far as India is concerned, there exists scope for increasing the bilateral trade between India and the 6 new countries. For example, India can increase its imports of wood, food products and plastic/rubber from Egypt. Similarly there are a whole lot of products (metal, Chemicals, consumer goods) that India can export to them. Presently India runs a negative trade balance with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and even Argentina.

With the inclusion of Saudi Arabia and the UAE the revamped BRICS has around 30% share in India's total trade in 2022-23. New

India can push its trade ties with mineral rich Ethiopia, with whom trade is negligible, and double down on trade with Saudi Arabia. Besides, India, now a member of a more powerful BRICS, can confront western interests on global trade forums also.

On the political front, besides aiming to resolve the Sino. Indian border issues on a bilateral basis, now India can work with other BRICS countries to reach an understanding with China on the issue of cross border terrorism.

Again, since of late China is struggling on key financial parameters, the alliance offers a great opportunity for India to strengthen its presence in the global market. China has multiple adversities – lowering economic growth, declining exports, troubled property market, waning consumption demand, etc.

Given the past record of the bloc, however, one cannot be over optimistic. There are many political economic contradictions, as pointed out above that mar the core five; these remain unresolved and are likely to get accentuated. China is in increasingly confrontational mood with India (the latest indicator being Xi deciding not to attend G20 submit at New Delhi). Also China and Russia both together aspire to transform BRICS into a counter to what they see as US led multilateral system, since they maximally face the Western sanction and pressure.

Given these issues, India has to prevent the expanded group from becoming a China dominated forum. Is it worth the effort? Well, the last words have not been said, certainly, on the group and its utility for India. □□

Supreme Court and Gender stereotyping

India has a patriarchal mindset. Majority members, and this unfortunately includes women as well, believe that all women want to have children; women are overly emotional; they cannot take decisions; women ought to be submissive or subordinate to men; wives should do all household chores; they should look after husband's parents; working women do not care about their children well the list is endless. What does it mean in practice? Well, let's take only select examples since space here is limited.

In India women are less likely to be taught to read and work, not to talk of securing employment. A majority of them don't use internet. There is a huge gender gap between men and women in terms of economic independence, equal wages, equal opportunity, social status, employment possibilities, indeed the respectful existence in the society. In engineering and technology courses; these are only 1.1 million women (2.6 million men), and in the emerging and promising area of IT and computer science, as against 5 lakh men there are 3 lakh women. Why? Because women don't have a suitable mindset for STEM courses, it is believed (but untrue).

In fact, fewer than 10% of women were literate in India in earlier time. Appreciably this number has risen to 71.5% (2019-21). But the figure for men is 84.4%. Women have fewer opportunities than men if one includes all forms of employment. The women labour force participation rate is merely 24%. Only 37% women, out of a total of 100%, have PAN cards, as against the remaining 63% for men. Only 33% women use internet.

Not only economic deprivation, other statistics are equally telling. India's top publicly traded companies saw a 70% surge in sexual harassment complaints during FY23 from the previous year. Gender justice is a far cry indeed for most India women, married or unmarried, employed or not, young or old. In this background every step taken, however, small, to ameliorate the situation is welcome



While SC handbook of gender neutral terminology is a welcome initiative, deep seated patriarchal biases will take much more than that to pave way for gender equality.
Dr. Jaya Kakkar



indeed. So the Supreme Court's initiative to combat gender stereotypes is laudable. When in America smoking was more a socially acceptable practice (showing how cool one was) than a serious health hazard, a cigarette company ran an ad campaign aimed at women which featured a slogan: You have come a long way baby. Nobody objected to the use of the word baby, as none had objection to equating gender liberation with adopting smoking as a habit. Women always have been the 'second sex'. Indira Gandhi was called a gungi gudiya (dumb doll) by the Indian patriarchy when she became the first (and the only, so far) women PM of India. Words used for and thought about women, are indeed pernicious; they need to change. But more importantly gendered attitudes need to change. The problem of course is not just words; rather it is the mindset and thinking behind them. The problem arises when the judges counsel rape survivors to marry their rapists or see the dereliction of household duties by wives as grounds for divorce. Women need the language of autonomy and equal rights; words must see these women as citizens not daughters dependent on the protective umbrella of any sort.

Women are often seen as wily, unscrupulous, and promiscuous; if the 'no' is 'feeble' to attempts of a rapist then convictions become hard. Likewise women who are accustomed to intercourse then sex with them may not be a big issue. However, this is not to say that words don't matter. Supreme Court has taken a significant step by unveiling a handbook which combats stereotypes based on gender.

In the quest for equal rights for all, it has released guidelines to take on harmful gender stereotypes that promote inequalities between gender – of all kinds, economic, social, personal As a first step the judges identify language that promotes archaic and false notions about women; then they offer alternative words and phrases. Thus a lady is no more adulteress but one who has engaged in sexual relation outside of marriage. A housewife is a home maker. Stereotypes (a stereotype incidentally is a fixated idea that people have about someone or something, especially an incorrect idea) which lead to exclusion and discrimination are sought to be demolished since these lead to common presumptions about the way sexual harassment, rape, assault, and other crimes which are skewed against women. Hopefully, no more judgments like the one by the Madhya Pradesh High Court which asked a sexual harassment accused to get the victim to tie him a rakhi and vow to protect her.

The Supreme Court, rightly, suggests that courts should take social realities (such as the fact that women who are sexually assaulted may not be able to immediately report the traumatic incident) and other challenges facing women seriously. It emphasizes that it is wrong to assume that women are overly emotional, illogical and are incapable of taking a decision. It admits that Indian women faces considerable hardships in deciding for herself as to what they should do in life (say, to have a child or not; ofcourse court demolishes the view that all women want a child). In a largely patriarchal society, a girl may be forced to get married to

avoid a social stigma; what she may have really wanted could be decent education and financially secure career.

To be sure, things we changing; the pace, however, is agonizingly slow. To achieve gender equality, fundamental changes need to be administered in the society to kill all stereotypes. That women (housewife who is a loving mother) are more nurturing and better suited to care for others, and should do all household chores are abhorrent notions and need to be discarded. The hand book issued by the highest court may have the express purpose of guiding the lawyers and judges to be gender neutral sensitive, but we must look at it from a larger perspective of it being a catalyst for change at the societal level. Not that it has not happened earlier.

Courts in India have contributed significantly towards a gender just social order even when deep rooted patriarchal values oppose such 'correction'. Thus it has decriminalised adultery and homosexually. It has framed guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at workplace. This is not to suggest that the society has shed its biases against 'second sex' or that majority of courts have unshackled themselves from having a patriarchal mindset. Yet, a **begging** has been made.

An insistence on using the appropriate expression is not merely rhetorical or an engagement with semantics. Rather it is a significant step in building a new mindset that is more inclined towards a nuanced gendered attitude towards women and the issues afflicting them. The path is strewn with hurdles but the steps need to be taken, firmly and swiftly. □□

Investigation Regarding Dumping

Something unusual, perhaps inexplicable, has been happening in the arena of anti-dumping duties in India. For many years, India was one of the leading users in the world of this policy instrument to counter the unfair practice of dumping. However, over the past 1-2 years, the number of cases in which India has imposed anti-dumping duties has declined rather sharply. This requires an examination.

At the outset, it should be noted that based on an investigation regarding dumping and the consequent injury to the domestic producers, the directorate general of trade remedies (DGTR), under the department of commerce, recommends the imposition of anti-dumping duties. Thereafter, it is up to the department of revenue under the finance ministry to decide whether to impose the anti-dumping duties. Generally, the department of revenue is expected to take a comprehensive view of overall public interest, before accepting the recommendations of the DGTR.

To appreciate the reversal in the trend in imposition of anti-dumping duties by India, it should be noted that during January-December 2019, the department of revenue accepted the findings of the DGTR and imposed anti-dumping duties in all the 13 cases in which the latter had recommended imposition of the duties. This was in keeping with the overall trend since 1995, where under the department of revenue agreed with the recommendations of DGTR to impose anti-dumping duties in almost all cases. In sharp contrast, during January-December 2022, the department of revenue imposed these duties in seven cases, while rejecting the DGTR's recommendations in 29 cases. These figures are based on India's semi-annual notifications to the Anti-Dumping



At the outset, it should be noted that based on an investigation regarding dumping and the consequent injury to the domestic producers, the directorate general of trade remedies (DGTR), under the department of commerce, recommends the imposition of anti-dumping duties.
Abhijit Das



Committee of the WTO. What could explain this reversal in trend?

First, an argument could be made that unlike the distant past, the incidence of dumping has declined in the past 1-2 years. However, this argument does not bear scrutiny. The detailed investigations undertaken by the DGTR and its findings clearly demonstrate the existence of dumping which caused injury to India's domestic producers in each of the 29 cases in which its recommendations were rejected by the department of revenue.

Second, another argument could be that there has been a sudden decline in the quality of investigations and findings of the DGTR, which has created a doubt with the department of revenue regarding the credibility of the recommendations. However, this, too, does not appear to be borne out by facts. A comparison of the findings of the DGTR over the past 1-2 years, with those of an earlier period, does not reveal much difference in the level of details and the legal explanation of the recommendation to impose anti-dumping duties.

Third, it could be argued that the department of revenue has decided to show deference to the interests of downstream users of products by rejecting the recommendation of the DGTR to impose anti-dumping duties. As imposition of anti-dumping duties on a product raises the costs for its downstream users, this argument may appear appealing. However, even this strand of reasoning does not appear consistent with facts. Some of the products on which the department of revenue agreed to impose anti-dumping duties

Rejection of the recommendations of the DGTR by the department of revenue in a large number of cases should not be treated lightly as a 'case-by-case' decision. It appears to be a manifestation of fundamental difference between two different arms of the central government on an important matter. The cabinet secretary needs to step in to resolve the impasse. Two important systemic improvements could be considered.

during 2022 include stainless steel pipes and tubes, electro-galvanised steel, polyurethane leather etc. These products have important downstream uses. Hence, it would not be completely correct to argue that the reluctance of the department of revenue in imposing anti-dumping duties stems from the concern that these duties raise the costs for downstream users.

In short, there does not appear to be any reasonable explanation for the department of revenue's reluctance in accepting the recommendation of the DGTR to impose anti-dumping duties in a large number of cases. What should be the way forward?

Rejection of the recommendations of the DGTR by the department of revenue in a large number of cases should not be treated lightly as a 'case-by-case' decision. It appears to be a manifestation of fundamental difference between two different arms of the central government on an important matter. The cabinet secretary needs to step in to resolve the impasse. Two important systemic improvements could be considered. First, the DGTR could provide more details of how its investigation took into account the

interests of downstream industrial users of the product on which anti-dumping duty is proposed. On its part, the department of revenue could provide a comprehensive and reasoned explanation of how the larger public interest is served in the cases where it rejects the recommendation of the DGTR to impose anti-dumping duties.

For many years, the resort by India to anti-dumping duties in many cases has drawn the ire of many. Questions have been raised regarding the robustness of investigations undertaken by the DGTR. Apprehensions have also been aired that anti-dumping duties are being used by a handful of industrial houses for protectionist purposes. Some prominent economists have even gone to the extent of arguing for dumping anti-dumping duties. Following this dictum would be tantamount to throwing the baby out with the bath water. The departments of commerce and revenue need to work hand in hand in ensuring that this important policy instrument for protecting the domestic industry from the unfair trade practice of dumping is preserved, and also used judiciously. □□

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/with-no-plausible-explanation-for-the-department-of-revenues-reluctance-to-impose-anti-dumping-duties-what-should-be-the-way-forward/3223267/>

Changing Landscape of Our International Trade



With the stupendous performance by exports, the contribution to our GDP ambitiously meets the ambition of becoming a US\$5 trillion economy. There is optimism that exports can grow much faster, especially in services, given the emphasis on digitisation across the globe.
Vinod Johri

Our country's goods export basket and destinations have seen a major shift in recent years. While it is ceding market area in traditional sectors, gains are being made in areas like electronics and machinery. In early 1990s, primary commodities such as tea, coffee and spices accounted for bulk of Bharat's exports, there has been a major shift towards manufactured goods such as textiles, gems and jewellery and engineering goods. The share of primary commodities has declined from over 70% in early 1990s to around 20% at present, while share of manufactured goods rose from 30% in early 1990s to over 80%. There is a shift towards higher value-added goods such as engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and petroleum products. Our goods, services exports to cross \$760 billion in FY23.

The trade landscape itself is changing dramatically with three defining drivers shaping trade of the future—technology, geopolitics and global exigencies, and climate change. While all three drivers will be critical in redefining the trade landscape, the role of technology in trade is intriguing. As trade takes multiple leaps forward with changing technology, it is redefining what we trade, how we trade, and who trades what.

There has been major reign in global trade too. World trade has grown from \$70 billion in 1950 to \$28 Trillion in 2022. In past, the primary commodities such as coal, oil, farm products etc. accounted for the large share of world trade. With the advent of technology, there has been a shift towards manufactured goods.

India's business services exports have grown so rapidly of late that their incremental impact is now as large as that of IT services exports. While their base is smaller, they grew by \$21 billion last year, whereas the growth in IT services exports in 2022 was \$27 billion. There is a global tide in services trade, and India is gaining market share. This growth is nearly as significant as the growth in IT services exports. The rise in business services exports is driven by structural factors such as the disaggregation of services value chains and the ability to deliver services remotely. There are both structural and cyclical reasons behind these trends. The most important structural reason for India gaining service trade market share is disaggregation in service value chains. This fosters specialisation and innovation and boosts trade.

These factors have meant that the global trade in financial, communication, computer, technical, legal, advertising and business services, is growing faster and now accounts for 40% of global service trade. Given that these dominate India's service export mix, being 75% of total, its service trade is growing faster than the world. Additionally, India's share of global financial, communication, computer, technical, legal, advertising and business services, has also picked up from 6% in 2018 to 8% last year, nearly 2.5 times its share of global GDP.

In India, growth for both imports and exports started rising from 2017



onwards and accelerated further during Covid. Exports have done better, driving doubling of net invisibles including remittances as a part of services exports. At this pace, the net invisibles will grow to \$265 billions in three years, higher than the largest annual goods trade deficit India has ever seen.

Service exports can create around 3 million direct new jobs over next three years, 2 million of them high paying. If this continues, it could be as transformative for India's aspirations as well as its middle class and cities as IT Services has been over the past three decades.

It can be seen that business services exports have risen from minus \$0.3 billion in 20-21 to \$7.3 bil-

lion in 21-22 to \$14.7 billion in just the first nine months of 22-23.

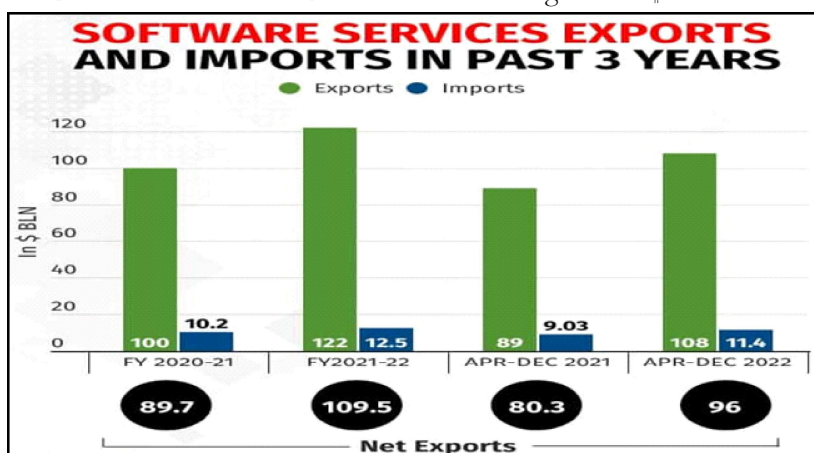
The FM Nirmala Sitharaman recently said the focus of the government is on four Is — infrastructure, investment, innovation and inclusiveness — to make India a developed nation by 2047. Government initiatives, such as export promotion schemes and sector-specific Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, are enabling Bharat to become a high-value commodity exporter. We have achieved a momentous growth in electronics exports due to a strong domestic manufacturing landscape. For instance, Bharat's smartphone exports, which were nearly non-existent in 2014, have reached a record figure of \$11 billion in

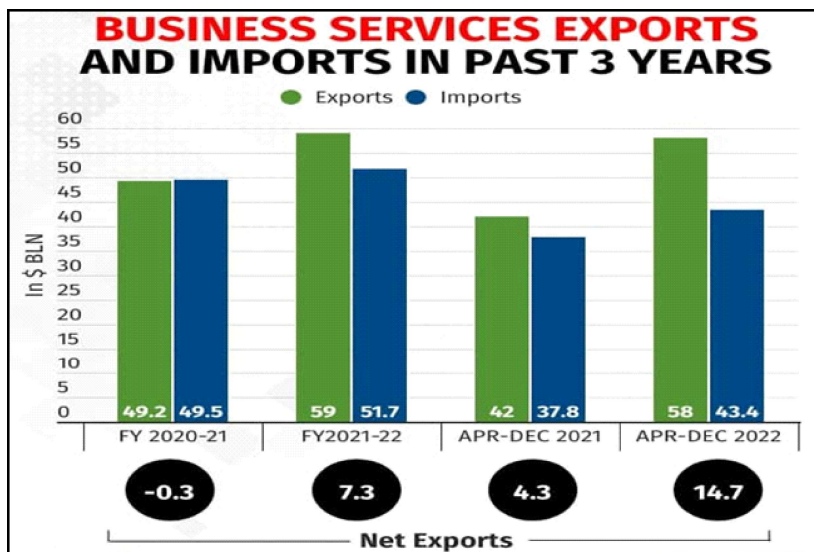
FY2023 due to the increasing presence of global electronics manufacturers. The drugs and pharmaceuticals industry has also benefited from PLI schemes for pharmaceuticals, bulk drug parks, active pharmaceutical ingredients, etc. However, exports also surged in the pandemic-induced years due to increased global collaborations and donations of critical drugs. While a spike in oil prices led to an increase in petroleum exports, it remains to be seen how easing inflation may affect the value of this going forward.

Certain factors have catalysed the manufacturing capabilities —

1. Strengthening manufacturing capabilities: Since the launch of the 'Make in Bharat' movement in 2014, annual FDI growth has doubled from \$45 billion in 2014–2015 to \$84 billion in 2021–2022, leading to an improvement of the manufacturing sector. Further, numerous PLI schemes across sectors—such as automobile, textile, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and food products—are empowering domestic manufacturers to become globally competitive. Bharat has also been focusing on improving logistics. Recent reforms such as PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy have been implemented to further reduce logistics costs and increase the competitiveness of our products. Bharat's rankings in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index improved significantly over the years, rising from 54 in 2014 to 44 in 2018 and further advancing to 38 in 2023.

2. Trade regulations: The government has focused on export-specific regulatory developments, which has helped export-





ers gain global recognition. The introduction of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible schemes, such as the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) and Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL), continue to be beneficial. Recently, the government expanded the list of items applicable under the RoDTEP scheme from 8,731 to 10,481 to boost their shipments globally. These include products across sectors of chemical, pharma, and textiles.

3. Changing global landscape: The growing sentiment of the 'China plus one' strategy among developed economies is putting the commodities on the global map. The country is also experiencing growing demand from new markets, such as the Netherlands, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia, which is leading to considerable export gains. Additionally, Bharat has been proactive in signing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with strategically significant countries to boost economic activities. Recently, Bharat concluded FTA deals with Mauritius, Australia, and the UAE, which are expected to further provide

impetus to our exporters. For instance, the Bharat-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement is expected to increase the total bilateral trade to USD45–50 billion by 2035.

4. Key learning from South-east Asia: Bharat needs to make itself more prominent in global trading patterns, as the country's share in global exports was 2.1 per cent in 2022. The government can consider drawing strategic lessons from Southeast Asian countries that are capitalising on the global trading opportunity. Low labour costs, reduction in tariffs and a significant growth in trade ties have enhanced these countries' export competitiveness. Additionally, Hong Kong (SAR) China, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam have been consistently focusing on the production and export of high-value products. For instance, high-technology exports as a percentage of manufactured exports for Hong Kong (SAR) China is around 71 per cent whereas for Bharat, it is just around 10 per cent.

5. Regulatory reforms: Bharat has implemented significant structural changes to improve its

export patterns. For instance, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) will provide a necessary boost to Bharat's trade. Key features of this policy include internationalisation of our currency rupee, digital transformation, enhanced collaboration, and a dynamic period for policy upgradations. Bharat also plans to establish a single trade body, replacing the existing multiple export promotion councils, to facilitate efficiency and accountability in trade. Moreover, corrections in input tariffs to maintain a stable cost structure can also be considered.

For years, Bharat has been trying to be an integral part of global value chains. The Rs. 1.97 Trillion Production linked incentives have given a tremendous boost to various sectors of the industry. Tariff adjustments too have facilitated exports. Bharat exported \$ 10.9 billion worth of smart phones in Financial year 2022-23 and \$ 3.7 billion in first quarter of current financial year FY 24 while imports attract 20% tariff.

Leveraging on the G20 Presidency and the edge Bharat has today, the need of the hour is speedy and aggressive outreach to global markets with focus on investment, trade, technology and tourism, the minister said.

With the stupendous performance by exports, the contribution to our GDP ambitiously meets the ambition of becoming a US\$5 trillion economy. There is optimism that exports can grow much faster, especially in services, given the emphasis on digitisation across the globe. □□

(Sources – Economic Times, Times of India, Financial Express, Live Mint, Money Control)

Vinod Johri: Retd. Additional Commissioner of Income Tax

New India-Middle East-Europe Corridor an historic initiative



The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will include a rail line that, upon completion, will provide a reliable and cost effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing multi-modal transport routes for transit of goods and services between South East Asia through India to West Asia/Middle East and Europe.

Sandhya Jain

Only the churlish can deny the unqualified success of India's stewardship of the G20 Summit (September 8-10, 2-23), from its evolution to G21 with the grant of full membership to the African Union at New Delhi's suggestion; to the adoption of the G20 declaration by consensus early on September 9, without any last minute glitches; the announcement of a Global Biofuel Alliance; and above all, the launch of a new India-Middle East-Europe Corridor to enhance trade and economic integration between West Asia, including Israel, and Europe.

Quite a bouquet of diplomatic coups and a feather in the cap of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Sherpas involved in this gigantic feat. Although the Cassandras had predicted gloom after Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping recused themselves due to domestic issues, their respective delegations cooperated with the aims of the summit and helped finalise the declaration. Sherpa Amitabh Kant was jubilant, "With 83 paras and absolutely no dissent, no footnotes, no chair summaries, the #NewDelhiLeadersDeclaration symbolises unparalleled global consensus." It is possibly the most important document on multilateral governance in recent years.

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) includes the United States, India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union, and is expected to trigger considerable regional investment. Prime Minister Modi said, "As history unfolds, may this corridor be a testament to human endeavour and unity across continents." The corridor will establish seamless trade routes and ports connecting India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel, and the European Union and parallel the INSTC with Iran and Russia, reinventing the old land and maritime routes of the early centuries BC.



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has been single-mindedly focused on transforming his nation by diversifying its oil economy, unveiled the signing of the memorandum of understanding to establish the corridor. Indeed, the leaders of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar are keen to connect with India and the European markets. US President Joe Biden thanked UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed for raising the idea of the project with the US administration six months ago.

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will comprise two separate corridors (i) East corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and (ii) Northern corridor connecting the Arabian Gulf to Europe. It will include a rail line that, upon completion, will provide a reliable and cost effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing multi-modal transport routes for transit of goods and services between South East Asia through India to West Asia / Middle East and Europe. Greece has a central role in the Corridor. The participating nations are keen that the Corridor does not burden any nation with unsustainable debt, while maintaining ecological and environmental standards.

The Corridor places India on the route of trade flows from South East Asia to the Gulf, West Asia and Europe, with opportunities in the logistics and transportation sector. Once ready, it will strengthen supply chains, generate jobs and improve trade facilitation and accessibility. It will boost clean energy and hydrogen production and energy transmission infrastructure, besides enhancing infrastruc-

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will comprise two separate corridors (i) East corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and (ii) Northern corridor connecting the Arabian Gulf to Europe.

ture in the logistics and transportation sector.

Known as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment, the project could potentially boost trade between India and Europe by up to 40 percent. It could help to normalise relations between Israel and the Gulf states, a major goal of the Biden administration. US President Joe Biden called it a “game-changing investment,” and the European Commission’s Ursula von der Leyen noted that the initiative is “a green and digital bridge across continents and civilisations.”

President Biden’s principal deputy national security adviser, Jon Finer, outlined three reasons for developing the corridor: (i) to increase prosperity among the countries involved through increased flow of energy and digital communications, (ii) help deal with the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations, and (iii) help reduce the “turbulence and insecurity” in the Middle East.

US national security adviser

Jake Sullivan said the enhanced infrastructure would establish the Middle East as a hub for economic activity instead of as a “source of challenge, conflict or crisis” as it has been in recent history. The White House began discussions with regional partners in January, and Sullivan, and senior White House aides Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk visited Saudi Arabia in May to meet with their Indian, Saudi and UAE counterparts. Though Riyadh does not yet have diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv, Israel and Jordan were included in the project.

Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh commended India’s stand on Russia-Ukraine war, saying India has done “the right thing in putting our sovereign and economic interests first while also appealing for peace. The G20 was never envisaged as the forum for settling security-related conflicts. It is important for the G20 to set aside security differences and keep its focus on policy coordination to tackle the challenges of climate, inequality and confidence in global trade”.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said, “I am very glad that India’s rotational chance for the Presidency of the G20 came during my lifetime and I am witness to India hosting world leaders for the G20 summit. Foreign policy has always been an important element of India’s governance framework, but it is fair to say that it has become even more relevant and important to domestic politics today than earlier. While India’s standing in the world should rightfully be an issue in domestic politics, it is equally important to exercise restraint in using diplomacy and foreign policy for party or personal politics.”

At the G20, the United States and Europe also announced new investments in a rail line linking Angola with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. President Biden said, "This is a game-changing regional investment. And both of these are huge, huge steps forward, but they're far from the only ones. We're continuing to make big investments in infrastructure around the world."

Global Biofuel Alliance

PM Modi, along with the leaders of Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius and the UAE, launched the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) on September 9, 2023, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

The Global Biofuel Alliance is an initiative by India as the G20 Chair. It proposes to expedite the global acceptance of biofuels through facilitating technology ad-

vancements, intensifying utilization of sustainable biofuels, shaping robust standard setting and certification through inputs from a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The alliance will act as a central repository of knowledge and an expert hub.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Thakur, said GBA is a milestone in the world's quest for cleaner and more sustainable alternative energy sources. As climate and earth protection are the need of the hour, the world must shift gradually to sustainable bioenergy having zero emissions, to reduce carbon footprint and promote the bio-economy. India has successfully experimented with fuel blending and solar energy; the National Green Hydrogen Mission is a step towards clean energy.

To help the countries of the Global South, India proposed to

launch a G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation. □□

<https://www.sandhyajainarchive.org/2023/09/10/new-india-middle-east-europe-corridor-an-historic-initiative/>

References

1. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor Sealed at G20 Summit: Why it Matters, The Quint, September 10, 2023.
<https://www.thequint.com/news/world/india-middle-east-europe-economic-corridor-g20-summit-new-delhi-why-it-matters#read-more>
2. G20 Summit: 'India-Middle East-Europe' economic corridor, a modern-day spice route, announced, Livemint, 09 Sep 2023.
<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/g20-summit-india-middle-east-europe-economic-corridor-announced-rail-ship-links-to-be-launched-soon-11694262483342.html>
3. Manmohan Singh lauds PM Modi's leadership, says 'India did the right thing...', Mint, September 08, 2023.
<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/manmohan-singh-lauds-pm-modis-leadership-says-india-did-the-right-thing-11694149172009.html>
4. At the G20, Biden joins forces with India and the Middle East, sidelining China, NPR, September 9, 2023.
<https://www.npr.org/2023/09/09/1198644841/biden-g20-india-saudi-arabia-corridor>
5. Launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), PIB, September 09, 2023.
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1955963>

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)

Perils of privatising agricultural research



The ICAR needs to rejuvenate itself and change with the times. Instead of setting up new research centres for fertilisers and pesticides, it must move away from toxic food systems towards regenerative agriculture. Instead of a collaboration with the industry, the ICAR must demonstrate renewed leadership and rebuild public confidence.
Devinder Sharma

As a young student of plant breeding and genetics, I was fascinated by the Plant Breeding Institute (PBI) at Cambridge. By the mid-1970s, this public-funded institute had acquired the status of a world centre for excellence in plant breeding, and subsequently in molecular genetics.

Before it was privatised by then PM Margaret Thatcher in 1987, its overpowering performance in wheat research had enabled the institute to cover 90 per cent of the UK farmlands with its crop varieties and occupy 86 per cent of the total cereal acreage. Drawn by the admirable accomplishments, almost every second student of plant breeding in India at that time aspired to be at the PBI for higher studies.

In the quest to privatise agricultural research, this profit-making institute was sold to Unilever for £68 million; later, Monsanto acquired it for £350 million. Subsequently, when a fellowship brought me to the Cambridge University in 1996, I met Sir Ralph Riley, a fellow of the Royal Society, who had been the director of the institute from 1971 to 1978. He later became the Secretary of the Agriculture and Food Research Council, which was responsible for putting public funds into basic farm research. One day, he took me around the sprawling research farms of the institute, stopped his car, and in what was probably a strong expression of his dismay at the privatisation of agricultural research, lamented: "This is where plant breeding died."

After it was privatised, the world hasn't heard of any laudable achievement by the erstwhile PBI, whose ownership changed a number of times before it moved to its new location in Essex.



When the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced in July its decision to open the doors for collaborative research with private companies, it didn't come as a surprise. In 2007, the ICAR had acknowledged tremendous possibilities to work with the industry and had called for agricultural transformation through public-private partnership. Collaborative research with the private sector was, therefore, waiting to happen.

Prior to that, the US-India Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Education, Teaching, Research, Service and Commercial Linkages, signed on July 18, 2005, had created an investment environment for agribusiness. It had laid down the template for public-private partnership and 'market-oriented' agriculture.

Working with the industry and taking advantage of its strength in research, marketing and dissemination of technology is one thing, but whether we like it or not, taking up joint research projects will gradually shift research priorities to products and technologies that are profit-oriented. For an umbrella organisation, with one of the largest networks of agricultural research and educational institutes in the world, the challenge instead should have been to lead the way on farm research at a time of climate emergency to fix the broken food systems, thereby setting a research agenda for the private sector to follow.

No matter how the ICAR and the global agribusiness industry may try to justify the collaboration, the private sector has always had its sights on the profits it can extract. This reminds me of what

Dr Ismail Serageldin, a former Chairperson of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research — a global consortium of 15 publicly funded agricultural research centres — had said during a visit to India in the mid-1990s. He had explained how no private company was willing to undertake research on cassava, the staple food of Africa. The private sector refrained from research on cassava as it feared that there would hardly be any buyer for the improved seed varieties, given the low income of the largely subsistence farming community. But as soon as some US studies found that cassava could be a good source of feed for the \$28-billion pig industry, the industry swung into action, launching numerous research projects.

Simply put, for the industry, pigs became a priority when actually the poor farmers needed research support for enhancing their livelihood security.

Nothing seems to have changed. Corporate greed for high profits has, in fact, grown over the years. Even during the Covid pandemic, an analysis by international charities Oxfam and Action Aid showed global food prices increasing by 14 per cent because of greedflation — a deliberate attempt to raise prices for garnering more profits. With hardly any sensitivity towards billions hit by the pandemic, 18 top food and beverage companies walked away with a windfall profit of \$28 billion in just two years, 2020 and 2021. Nine fertiliser companies made a profit of \$57 billion in 2022.

To expect the agribusiness companies that made profit from hunger to undertake research projects with ICAR for the bene-

fit of small and marginalised farming communities in India would be a gross folly. In any case, I can't imagine a massive research infrastructure — 64 central research institutes, 15 national research centres, 13 project directorates, six national bureaus, 63 agriculture universities, four deemed universities and three central universities — seeking the help of the private sector to build research partnerships. It only shows that "the link between science and agriculture" had somewhere got snapped, as Dr MS Swaminathan, hailed as the father of India's Green Revolution, had once remarked.

Coming after the 2021 withdrawal of the three contentious farm laws and recent news reports indicating how a task force was constituted by the Niti Aayog at the suggestion of an NRI businessman to corporatise agriculture, the ICAR initiative to join hands with private companies for collaborative research seems to point to the underlying intent — privatising the entire farm-to-fork chain. You can be sure the efforts to privatise research will be back in one form or the other to drive the system away from public good.

The ICAR needs to rejuvenate itself and change with the times. Instead of setting up new research centres for fertilisers and pesticides, it must move away from toxic food systems towards regenerative agriculture. Instead of a collaboration with the industry, the ICAR must demonstrate renewed leadership and rebuild public confidence.

At the same time, let's not forget the classic fable of the camel in the tent. □□

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/perils-of-privatising-agricultural-research-539794?hid=1uAR3-WiKE9MJGccokRa0J5jZWpuXjD1188-b8V5EeqX0e17eFwscF5GpAyY>

Aatmanirbhar Bharat:

Restricting imports to boost domestic production

Recently the Government of India has restricted the open import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers (PCs), ultra-small form factor computers and servers. Under the new rules, importers will have to obtain a license from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to import these products. These restrictions will come into effect from 1 November 2023. In this regard, DGFT will issue licenses on a case-to-case basis.

Many types of products which were earlier produced in India, are no longer being produced due to lagging behind the competition from Chinese products. In this regard, Narendra Modi's efforts to promote 'Make in India' first and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' after Covid19, as well as 'Start-up India' after taking over as Prime Minister are notable in this regard. Production of various types of products including mobile phones, electronic items, toys, solar panels, chemicals etc, has now restarted in the country. Despite that, imports are also increasing in the country. If we take account of the last five years, it is noted that our total exports of goods and services have increased from \$ 426.5 billion in the year 2017-18 to \$ 767 billion by 2022-23. In which a major share of the increased exports has come from the export of services; and our services exports have increased from \$117.5 billion in 2017-18 to \$322.7 billion in 2022-23. That is, in the growth of our exports, services exports have been the major contributors. The reason for the low growth in exports of goods was that manufacturing in the country had been lagging behind.

But on the other hand, increase in our imports were more than the increase in exports, and a major part of the increased imports was of merchandise. Our trade deficit (difference between value of imports and export of merchandise) has increased from \$160 billion in 2017-18 to \$266.8 billion in 2022-23.

Generally, economists who are supporters of 'free trade' argue that we should not put any kind of barriers on imports and exports, whether they are tariff barriers or non-tariff barriers. They argue that doing so, is against consumers as they are deprived of cheap goods. They also argue that lack of competition reduces efficiency in the production in the country. But the reality is that in the name of free trade, the average weighted tariffs (import duties) were reduced from 22.96 per cent in 2005 to 6.19 per cent by 2020. As a result cheapened imports made way to India, causing huge decline in manufacturing in the country for more than two decades, because our industries could not stand the competition with the goods coming from abroad, especially from China, and they gradually closed down. While the country's target was to increase the share of manufacturing in GDP from 19.60 per cent in 1990-91 to more than 25 per cent, it was actually reduced to just 16.35 per cent by 2018-19. Many economists call this trend, 'de-industrialization'.

The goal and modus operandi of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' that is, self-reliant India, policy is not to create inefficiency in the country, but it's only a policy of 'tree gaurd' to let the industry grow.

Swadeshi Samvad

Argument of free trade supporters proved to be false

The argument of the supporters of free trade that imports and exports, free from tariff and non tariff barriers, creates efficiency in the country and industries flourish, proved wrong. In essence, after adopting free trade policies, manufacturing declined in the country. Factories were closed, the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP continued to decline. At the same time, the possibilities of increasing employment through manufacturing also ended, and India's economic growth remained a jobless economic growth.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

From the year 2020 itself, during Covid19, the government announced the policy of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. A list of 14 such industries was prepared which needed rehabilitation. These industries included electronics, medical devices, bulk drugs, pharmaceuticals, telecommunication products, food products, air conditioners (ACs), LEDs, high-efficiency solar PV modules, automobiles and auto accessories, textile products, special steel, drones, etc. To increase the production of those items, 'Production Linked Incentives' were started. India has limited scope for increasing import duties due to free trade agreements with some other countries, including ASEAN countries. In such a situation, the option of non-tariff barriers is mostly left to prevent imports.

Most of our imports are of intermediates. The import of intermediates is justified by saying that it can make the finished goods competitive. But about 85 percent of the country's imports are of intermediates, indicating that a big

chunk of the goods manufactured from imported spare parts are for domestic consumption.

Although 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' or Self Reliant India does not mean restricting imports through tariff or non-tariff barriers, it also aims to increase the production of all those items in the country, which are yet being imported. But this will not be possible by allowing imports to flow in normal fashion. For this, it is necessary that the market be secured for domestic producers to encourage the production of those goods in the country, so that in future it would be possible to make good quality goods by the manufacturers of India, capable of exporting.

Some people are opposing this decision of the government saying that due to this the prices of laptops will increase and its availability will also be affected. But these restrictions on imports of laptops, tablets and servers, is not without a plan. 38 electronics companies, (including six in the last few hours, before the closure of applications under the scheme) have applied to India's incentive programme to make laptops, tablets and servers in the country.

The applications by the electronics companies were made under the PLI scheme of nearly rupees 17000 crore for technology hardware. The government believes that in the long run this decision will increase the domestic production of laptops and in the benefits will be much bigger than pains accruing from the supply constraints in the short run. In the past, we have seen that through tariff and non-tariff barriers, the production of many goods increased in our country and the country not

only became self-sufficient in the production of those goods, but also started exporting those goods in large quantities, by bringing in efficiencies. Automobile sector is a great example in that context. Today we are not only manufacturing world class automobile products, but also exporting automobiles in large quantities. Significantly, in the year 2022, automobiles (not including railway equipment) worth \$ 19.3 billion were exported. (It's notable that since automobile sector was protected with high tariffs, no efforts were further required to promote them). Similarly, toys, solar panels, chemicals and mobile phones were also benefited from higher tariffs since 2018. Today all these products are also being exported in large quantities from the country. We have to understand that before taking any industry to the level of excellence, it is necessary to establish and develop that industry. Today, there is a need to protect those industries in the country, which are taking birth now due to government efforts including 'Production Linked Incentives'.

It has to be understood that the goal of today's self-reliant India is to move the country forward with manufacturing, technology and innovation, so that Indian products can make their place in markets around the world. The recent restrictions imposed by the government on imports of laptops and computers are aimed at increasing their production in the country. The goal and modus operandi of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' that is, self-reliant India, policy is not to create inefficiency in the country, but it's only a policy of 'tree gaurd' to let the industry grow. □□

Legendary Social Entrepreneur: Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak

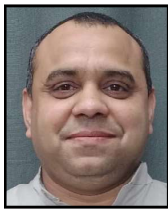
Entrepreneurship is the buzzword of doing rounds among the younger generations. The scarcity of jobs in the government sector and the diminishing growth rate of jobs in the private sector have enabled the change in mindset to look for an entrepreneurship opportunity.

The arrival of artificial intelligence and its variants are killing job opportunity which is not only repetitive in nature but also those jobs that demand critical decision-making. The battle between the jobs that can be done solely by humans and the jobs that can be done by machines has reached an extreme point.

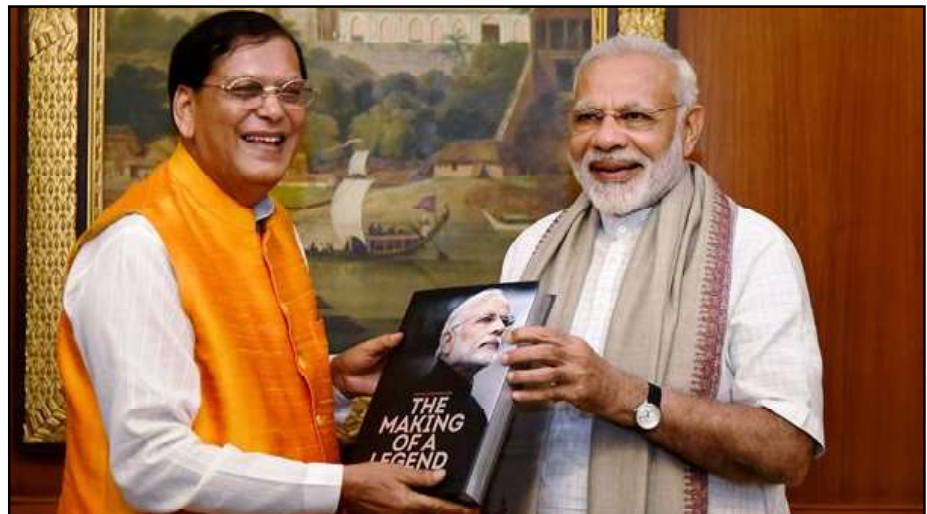
For a few countries, the arrival of artificial intelligence and its variants is a boon, and for a few countries, it needs to be regulated without any delay. The demographics of the population are the determinant of whether the artificial intelligence-enabled job replacement is a boon or a bane. Anyway, it's the best alternative for a country depending on the scale of availability of efficient human resources. If there is no young generation to do the job then there is no way other than to engage machines for the job, choice is limited and the work needs to be done.

Let's talk about Bharat. Our country is young and will remain the youngest country in the world till the year 2047. Currently, we have 74 crore people who are less than 30 years of age and 37 crore people who are in the age group of 15 to 29 years. These are looking for jobs and many are in the pipeline for jobs, almost one crore additional people will be added every year to hunt for jobs. It's simply impossible to imagine for job for all of these. But the solution has to be explored. The path has to be followed. Otherwise, the government will provide them with free feeding, living, health, and other necessities for survival including entertainment for a healthy mind. But such unemployed youths will be a burden to society.

The solution lies in self-employment and cooperatives, the solution lies in a contemporary variant of barter system, the solution lies in entrepreneurship, and



The Prime Minister of Bharat Sri Narendra Modi worked closely with Dr. Pathak, recognized his work and acknowledged Dr. Pathak to be one of his leading sources of inspiration for mass sanitation and cleanliness programs.
Alok Singh



the solution lies in thinking innovatively for oneself to fill the gap which makes life easier for people. The solution lies in value addition at a local level. The solution lies in an idea that can add value, which can make life easier, which is acceptable to the audiences for which it has been created. There are many success stories of powerful ideas that have been executed well.

Facebook is an idea; Twitter is an idea and both these ideas have become the biggest corporates of the world. When the ideas are powerful, then the financials and other business necessities follow. It's the idea that needs to be powerful. The young population of our nation has to be innovative to create jobs for themselves and be courageous enough to take risks and be successful. The livelihood of the youngsters in the coming future will be either self-dependent or state-dependent. When it is state-dependent then they will get free food, health, and survival necessities, and their mental and psychological health will be compromised which will be a threat to family, society, and the nation. Social entrepreneurship is something which provides huge scope for our youngsters. The youth need to think of the idea first. The development of products and execution will follow as the time moves ahead.

The biggest social entrepreneurship idea that the world ever witnessed is Sulabh International. No one could imagine, visualize, or dream of a social entrepreneurship journey that Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak could. He took a huge risk, not in terms of sustainable social entrepreneurship but huge risk in terms of support from family, support from society, and support

The biggest social entrepreneurship idea that the world ever witnessed is Sulabh International. No one could imagine, visualize, or dream of a social entrepreneurship journey that Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak could.

from his target audience. But he did it and he did it so successfully that Sulabh spread its wings beyond the boundaries of Bharat.

There is uncertainty in every entrepreneurship and there is no funding from the organized financial sector. There is no sustainable profit for even a not-for-profit organization. But Dr. Pathak managed to survive his dream. It took almost fifty years for the prime minister of Bharat to acknowledge from the rampart of the Red Fort that Swachh Bharat is the mission of every citizen of the nation. The mass movement started by an individual named Dr. Pathak was joined by every citizen of the country.

The commitment to a powerful idea without bothering about success or failure, with no intention to create huge personal wealth is what social entrepreneurship is all about. A person can think of an idea of a mass sanitation movement, starting from 'pay and use' toilets at bus stands and railway stations, and after fifty years the prime minister is acknowledging the commitments of the individual and the depth of the idea and spreading the idea of Swachhta to everywhere, and to everyone.

Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak can be

a synonym for social entrepreneurship. A person can think of toilets as a business model. It's a motivation for youngsters to think outside of the box and create an innovative social entrepreneurship business that is sustainable, profitable, and at the same time makes the life of society easier, is valuable to the users, and is replicated worldwide. The turnover of Sulabh International which is a not-for-profit organization is more than 500 crores today. The research and development on executing the idea are equally important as important is the idea itself. The enthusiasts' entrepreneurs should read the life story of Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak and the way the idea of mass sanitation was executed starting from convincing family and friends about the work for his livelihood, correct and affordable product development through research, financial management, human resources training, satisfying statutory requirements, convincing bureaucrats, influencing local to national policymakers, creating awareness among the users of the products, the execution of the project, scaling up of the product, going international with the product, and diversifying the product portfolio.

Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak was born on 2 April 1943 at the village Rampur Baghel in Vaishali district of Bihar and died on 15 August 2023 at New Delhi. The Prime Minister of Bharat Sri Narendra Modi worked closely with Dr. Pathak, recognized his work and acknowledged Dr. Pathak to be one of his leading sources of inspiration for mass sanitation and cleanliness programs. □□

(Alok Singh is a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Management Indore and a freelancer academician.)

Soil Testing Labs, More Cold Storages: Farmers Propose Ways to Heal Himachal Pradesh's Apple Economy

Heavy rainfall, heatwaves and erratic weather have jolted Himachal Pradesh's apple economy, resulting in an estimated loss of over Rs 1,000 crore. However, it is not just climate change that has badly hit the state's apple economy. According to ground reports, crores worth of apples were stuck in transit, due to which the stock deteriorated.

Coupled with bad weather and a lack of transportation infrastructure, farmers nearing harvest have to deal with labour shortages and pests attacks. August and September are critical months for apple producers.

In August, Himachal Pradesh declared the incessant rains as a 'natural calamity' as torrential rains, floods and landslides killed around 330 people, and damaged over 12,000 houses. The state has suffered a loss of over Rs 10,000 crore.

Crop losses were the final straw. For the new government these only indicate growing challenges for the first time chief minister. The biggest challenge, perhaps, comes from the horticulture farmers who are a major vote bank.

The declining apple economy

Note that apple harvests in the state have encountered ongoing challenges throughout the current year. Furthermore, on a closer look, it appears that Himachal Pradesh's apple economy is decaying.

Apple production has sharply declined, along with soil fertility. Each year the bill for agri-chemicals and fertilisers is doubling but production for even the most progressive farmers is falling.

Warmer temperatures are shifting the apple belt to higher mountain plains, and some of the old apple growing belts can no longer grow apples. They are forced to diversify by nature.



Himachal Pradesh's apple economy has suffered an estimated loss of over Rs 1,000 crore. However, it is not just climate change that has badly hit the state's apple economy.

Indra Shekhar Singh



In addition, there is a dearth of infrastructure such as cold storages and mini-processing plants at the village or block level. This increases the post-harvest losses for apple farmers.

There is an ever-widening gap between the current best practices in apple farming and the methods used by apple growers. However, the public agriculture university system has been working to bridge this gap.

Farmers have been using excessive fertilisers, pesticides and fungicides, which have contaminated the soil and water. Therefore, at this point, the damage to Himachal Pradesh's biodiversity appears to be irreversible. This situation has also affected the rural communities and their health, resulting in increased cases of cancer and other food-style diseases such as diabetes, obesity, infertility, etc. across the state's villages.

As the apple economy is declining due to agronomic, changing climate or economic reasons, rural Himachal Pradesh is reporting higher crime rate and drug use. If the apple economy crashes, it will have a grave impact on the state's rural economy. Hence, the government needs to take corrective steps to rejuvenate the rural economy.

Solutions to healing the apple economy

Although one should be concerned by the declining apple economy in Himachal Pradesh, the path to recovery begins with farmers. To gain an understanding on their concerns and proposed solutions, The Wire spoke to some of them.

"Our apple farmers are plagued with many issues. Be-

cause of growing soil contamination, our fungicide usage has doubled, and fertiliser usage is also increasing each year. However, production has been declining, even after professionally using the prescribed inputs," said Tikkamram Thakur, progressive apple farmer.

"Today, our farmers need the weather predictions and hail and rain alerts. This can be done via a simple SMS. The other urgent need is to have soil testing labs at the block level, so that farmers can get their soil tested for organic matter and other minerals, too. Currently, many farmers cannot get to the soil testing labs. And fungicide makers should be made responsible for their products. The state agriculture university should have to prescribe the fungicide/pesticide to the farmers, so that there is no overuse," he added.

Commenting on the agriculture university, he said, "There needs to be more involvement of extension officers and the university in farmers' training. We need to make aware about the new technologies and varieties in apples, so that we can remain competitive in the market. At present, the relationship between horticulture officers and farmers is broken. There is a need to build on it," he said.

The next big challenge is the post-harvest losses.

Luder Chand, 45, an apple farmer, said, "We need to have mini cold storage or a large public-private-owned cold storage at the block level. And the districts or blocks that cannot have cold storage should be supplied with mini processing plants. We can make chips to wine from apples. With

the right incentives and policy changes, the government can turn the apple economy around and reduce post-harvest losses."

Yograj Thakur, 41, an apple farmer with five acres of land, said, "There is a need for diversification in the area. Otherwise climate change and supply and demand challenges can never be met. At the time of harvest Himachal is flooded with apples, which causes the prices to crash. As there are no cold storages available at the village levels, farmers have to sell their apples as soon as possible. If we diversify into plum, kiwi or even think of organic farming we could produce fruits, vegetables in other months, too."

Among the various discussions this author had with farmers, one innovative idea emerged: to explore agro-tourism and establish partnerships with hotels and Airbnb accommodations in popular tourist destinations like Manali. These partnerships could involve providing guests with cartons of apples alongside their room bookings. The associated costs could be incorporated into the room rates, especially for mid and upper-range hotels. This could be seen as a "green tax" directly contributing to the revival and support of the local apple economy, considering the millions of people who visit Manali and other Himachali tourist spots each year.

Some believed that if this initiative is successfully implemented, a substantial portion of Himachal's apple production could be consumed within the region. □□

Indra Shekhar Singh is an independent agri-policy analyst and writer. He was the former director of policy and outreach at NSAI. He also hosts The Wire's agri-talk show 'Krishi ki baat' (Farm Talks). He tweets @indrasshingi

<https://thewire.in/agriculture/soil-testing-labs-more-cold-storage-farmers-propose-ways-to-heal-himachal-pradesh-apple-economy>

Mewar as Focus of Guhila State (Part-XIV)

Thirdly, this particular genealogical list provides us with four more princes in the royal family, between Arisimha and Hammira-Sri Bhuvanasimha, son Sri Jayasimha, Laksmasimha (no kinship term appears), son Sri Ajayasimha and brother Sri Arisimha) -indicating continuity in kinship relations. Also, we find a clue to what possibly caused Mokal's successor Kumbha to resume the use of the title of râna and to trace direct descent without any break from previous Guhila kings of Mewar in the same genealogical list. In this context, it is significant that Sultan Alauddin is introduced between Guhila King Samarasimha and Prince Bhuvanasimha. Since the genealogical list came from the Jains, the elite perception of the sovereignty of Mewar and its political history led to the inclusion of Sultan Alauddin Khalji in its own world. Perhaps, to diminish the importance of the Khalji interregnum at Chittaurgarh and to highlight the political power of the regional kings, Kumbha chose to utilize their erstwhile title of râna to explain their actual kinship relations with the Râval Guhilas of Mewar.

Thus, Kumbha elaborated upon his kinship with previous Guhila rulers by claiming Raval Khummâna as a direct ancestor. As already noted, Khummâna had always figured in the line of royal succession in the royal records between the tenth and the thirteenth centuries and Laksmasimha (titled mahârâna) was said to be a scion of Khummâna- vamsa. Significantly, Râval Khummana is introduced right after Râval Guhadatta without specifying the actual relationship between the two." The motif of Râval Khummâna gets magnified as he is provided with an elaborate prasasti. Raval Khummâna is nayaka (chief)" and not king as the rajavarnana (description of the kings) section of the Kumbhargarh Prasasti begins only



In the fifteenth century, royal kinsmen do not seem to have played a significant role as their thirteenth century counterparts did in the consolidation of royal power and in controlling territory.

**Prof. Nandini
Kapur Sinha**



after the account of Khummana. Hence, the fifteenth-century kings of Mewar gradually affiliated themselves to the erstwhile Guhila rulers by claiming direct descent from one of the ancient Guhila kings, Khummâna. In spite of the implication that the nayaka status of Khummâna would hint at their junior political status in earlier days, such motifs smoothened their transitory entry into the Guhila royal family of Mewar. All the same, they never referred to themselves directly as a junior branch of the Raval Guhilas in the fifteenth century. Even in the Puranic section (possibly composed in the post-fifteenth century) of the *Ekalīngamâhātmyam*, the mahârânâs of the fifteenth century were introduced only as *aparaúâkhâ* (mahârânâs were the other branch of the Guhilas) and not as a junior branch of the Guhila family.

The problem seems to have been tackled by introducing the legends of Mahap, the elder brother, and Rahap, the younger brother, in the Puranic section of *Ekalīngamâhātmyam* in which Râhap is said to have obtained the title of râna. Similar legends with elaborate motifs were extended to seventeenth century royal records such as the Jagannatharaya Temple Inscription of Râna Jagatsimha, Rajaprasasti and the Amarakavyam. It is significant that Kumbha introduces Mahârânâ Lakmasimha in the royal genealogy right after the last of the ravals, Ratnasimha. Thus, claiming kinship relations with the ravals was away of legitimizing power through dynastic continuities. Last, but not the least, the question of the importance of royal kinsmen in the fifteenth century remains to

be answered.

The royal title of mahârânâ presumes the presence of râna (kinsmen close to the king) in the political hierarchy. But there is a significant absence of royal reference to *uâkhâs* (branches) and *prâuâkhâs* (sub-branches) of the royal family in fifteenth-century royal records. Unlike the thirteenth-century Guhila kings, the fifteenth-century kings of Mewar mention neither branches nor sub-branches of their family, nor do they eulogize them. Hence, royal kinsmen do not seem to have played as significant role as their thirteenth-century counterparts did in the consolidation of royal power and in controlling territory.

The fact that political and social linkages of fifteenth-century Guhila kings with non-Guhila Rajput chiefs of Eastern Mewar possibly played a more important role in the exercise of Guhila power is amply demonstrated by the contemporary royal references (see following section). I feel that the shift in the importance from royal kinsmen to non-Guhila Rajput chiefs of eastern Mewar in Mewar polity the fifteenth century was due to the political-military problems of the Guhila state of Mewar that compelled the state to broaden its social base.

II. Guhila Political and Social Linkages with non-Guhila Rajputs and other Political Groups in Mewar

The Cahamânas in Mewar hills The Cahamânas continued to appear as major non-Guhila Rajput chiefs in the Mewar hills in the thirteenth century. The Kadmal Copper Plate Inscription of Mahârâjâ-dhirâja Tejasimha of AD 1259

records the grant of land to Brâhmana Tribikrama, located in the domain of Rao Chand, Cahamâna Râo Sihasu's son. It is evident from this record as well as Padmasimha's late twelfth-century records that Kadmal village and its surroundings were essentially the domain of the Cahamânas of the Mewar hills (see Map 7). The title of *râo* testifies to their political integration into the political structure through ranking in the samanta hierarchy. The fact that royal records continued to refer to the location of the royal land grant as the *râjya* of Cahamâna samanta indicates the prominence of the Cahamâna families in Kadmal near Nagda-Ahada. The presence of the Cahamânas in the Mewar hills core-area becomes an obvious factor in making royal land grants to brâhmaGas in the Cahamâna domain. Since the donee, brâhmana Tribikrama, is the son of Sivaguna (donee in Padmasimha's land grant charter) the royal dynasty strengthened links with a samanta domain by patronizing the same family of brâhmanas through the generations.

Further down the samanta hierarchy, the presence of lower samantas such as thakkuras is also attested by a late fourteenth-century inscription. The Sitalâdevi temple inscription of AD 1366 from Gogunda village records the renovation of a temple and the installation of an image of Visnu by Thakkura Dâlâ, Thakkura batala's son, in the reign of Râna Ksetrasimha. Gogunda is a pass connecting the Nâgda-Ahada belt with the Abu-Sirohi region, traversing a part of the Bhil country.

[To be continued....]

Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan Sets Up Livelihood Centres In Madhya Pradesh



Livelihood centres aimed at enhancing employment opportunities for the locals, using artificial intelligence-powered platforms, are being launched by Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), a groundbreaking initiative spearheaded by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch in collaboration with over 40 esteemed organisations. The platforms are powered by Sapio Analytics, a technology and operations partner of the initiative, supported by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India, to promote self-reliance and create opportunities for jobs, self-employment and entrepreneurship.

“Citizens need to be empowered. We understand their potential using AI-based systems and direct them to the right jobs or self-employment opportunities based on their potential. In the process, we are building a lifetime livelihood enhancement guide for all citizens. The outreach of these guides will happen through these livelihood centres”, said the Madhya Pradesh head of MySBA.

As part of its nationwide plan to launch physical centres in every district of India, the start has been made with Bhopal. The launch of the centres is planned in all of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Haryana.

The core vision of the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan is to cultivate a nation teeming with skilled professionals and entrepreneurs. MySBA, its digital arm, uses technology to achieve its objectives. This journey began with a deep understanding of India's demographic dividend and the imperative to channel the energy of its youth. MySBA recognized the barriers that hinder many from accessing meaningful employment and realising their entrepreneurial aspirations.

“MySBA is an innovative AI-driven platform poised to revolutionise the landscape of career and entrepreneurial development. The platform leverag-

es Conversational AI to provide users with dynamic and personalised mentorship. Whether it involves identifying skill gaps, presenting real-time job openings, or nurturing entrepreneurial dreams, MySBA is at the forefront of this transformative journey”, adds Hardik Somani, COO of Sapio Analytics.

These livelihood centres can be accessed by any citizen, and they will get real-time registration and skill evaluation done. Their CVs shall be created and they will be provided with intelligent matching of the right jobs. The centres shall also be used for regular job fairs and skill development courses. Citizens will also be encouraged to be self-employed, with appropriate financing options. Entrepreneurs shall also be guided towards the enhancement of their businesses. Guidance shall be provided through the use of digital technologies, supported by experts in various fields, reached through registrations and continued engagement at these centres.

Hardik Somani added, expressing the organization's enthusiasm for this groundbreaking venture, "MySBA is not just a platform; it's a movement. It's about empowering individuals, creating opportunities, and driving the nation forward. With MySBA, we are bridging the gap between aspirations and accomplishments." As Phase I of MySBA unfolds, it is expected to herald a new era of possibilities for career aspirants and budding entrepreneurs across Bharat.

<https://menafn.com/1107014401/Swavalambi-Bharat-Abhiyan-Sets-Up-Livelihood-Centres-In-Madhya-Pradesh>

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit honours budding entrepreneurs

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit felicitated budding entrepreneurs during an Entrepreneurship Sammelan here today.

The event was organised at Kanya Maha Vidyalaya in collaboration with the Swadeshi Jagran Manch. The Governor highlighted the pivotal role played by entrepreneurship in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and generating employment opportunities within Punjab.

He released a book ‘Skill development and entrepreneurship for Strong India’ and also launched a portal. He honoured young entrepreneurs by recognising their innovative ventures, offering them words of motivation, and presenting them with token of appreciation. They included Shubhneet Kaur, who has come up with a product Immunosnacks, Simran Suri, who runs Suri's Art, and Nishu Rani, who has a star-



tup Anish Makeover. Other awardees of Young Entrepreneur Award were Mehar Vrishti, Namya Arora and Nikhil Miglani. Along with this, Neha Waraich, Rantej, eye specialist Dr Rohan Bowry and realtor Rajan Chopra were honoured with Outstanding Entrepreneur Award. Hotelier Gautam Kapoor was honoured with Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award.

The Governor also took a keen interest in the entrepreneurial spirit on display by visiting various stalls set up by different departments of KMV. He also visited the Hall of Fame of KMV.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch said this collaborative effort between KMV College and Swadeshi Jagran Manch underscores their shared commitment to nurturing an environment conducive to entrepreneurship in Punjab and empowering the youth to realise their potential as successful entrepreneurs. Earlier, Chander Mohan, president, Arya Shiksha Mandal, and Principal Atima Sharma Dwivedi, welcomed the Governor. Pankaj Jindal, state co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, gave a vote of thanks to all the eminent dignitaries. Having earlier skipped the Republic Day function this year presided over by Governor Purohit, Commissioner of Police Kuldeep Chahal was spotted at KMV College during his visit on Monday. Chahal, who had earlier remained SSP, Chandigarh, is facing CBI inquiry into the alleged 'misconduct and corruption' allegations against him on a reference from Governor Purohit, who is also the Chandigarh Administrator.

<https://www.triibhucindia.com/news/jalandhar/punjab-governor-hanurilal-purohit-honours-budding-entrepreneurs-541489>

SJM celebrates Entrepreneurship Day in Ferozepur

Under Independent Bharat Campaign, Swadeshi jagaran Manch celebrates Entrepreneurship Day was celebrated at local Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nursing College. In this program, Vinay Kumar representing three provinces of Swadeshi Jagran Manch -Punjab, Jammu Kashmir, Himachal and Guru Sevak of Pun-

jab Province organization and Chairman of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nursing College Dharmapal Bansal addressed the distinguished gursts and students present and inspired them to recognize their skill potential during their studies and make India a world leader.

He advised them to Start manufacturing small products so that India's economy is made strong and instead of going abroad to work, we should stay in our country and give employment to people around us so that our country and our society may also be strong. There is only one dream that after studying and writing, he can either get a job in a multinational company or get a government job or spend millions of rupees and get a job abroad. One can build a very big business by staying in India by quoting the example of prominent students of the country in which



the owners of Flipkart, Lahori Zeera, and boAt companies etc. Vinay Kumar said that India has the potential to become a World Guru and lead all countries. The youth of India should not run away from India's talent and do less for India by staying in India. Today, a large number of Indians are working abroad as doctors and engineers and if their talents are used for India, then India can become a World Guru.

<https://www.babushahi.com/view-news.php?id=170500>

Jammu celebrates world entrepreneurship day with focus on self-Reliance and women empowerment

The city of Jammu in the province of Jammu and Kashmir observed a vibrant celebration of "World Entrepreneurship Day" at Mandal. The event, organized with the theme of promoting self-reliance and entrepreneurship, saw the active participation of Self-Help Group (SHG) members and small-scale industries. The occasion aimed to create awareness about the "Self-Reliant India" campaign, highlighting the importance of adopting indigenous products and ideas.



The event featured Mr. Sanjay G. Sharma as the chief speaker and guest, who emphasized the significance of embracing locally made products and encouraging self-reliance.

The event witnessed the presence of Jammu Mahanagar Toli and Swadeshi Jagran Manch Jammu Mahanagar Sangathan's Sunil Parchha, who passionately addressed the attendees, particularly the women, on the topics of self-employment and entrepreneurship.

The program included detailed information sessions on self-help groups, shedding light on their functions and benefits. The occasion also recognized and awarded innovative women entrepreneurs, inspiring them to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

The event sparked an incredible wave of enthusiasm among women, with their eyes shining brightly with plans for a promising future.

Mr. Sunil Parchha elaborated on various administrative, government, and non-governmental schemes that offer support to the local population. The event left participants convinced that extensive assistance would be provided to mothers and sisters in the Jammu metropolis through the "Self-Reliant India" campaign. The significance of self-employment was emphasized by Mr. Ravi Kumar and Mr. Naresh Kumar, the Jammu Metropolitan Officers, who assured the attendees of the possibilities and benefits of self-reliance. The celebration of World Entrepreneurship Day in Jammu not only highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship but also paved the way for a brighter and self-reliant future for the region.

<https://www.earlytimes.in/newsdet.aspx?q=355476>

Mutual recognition between Russia and India leads to de-dollarisation of global economy

Russia's disconnection from the SWIFT international payment system could result in unexpected consequences, as several countries are now considering

the development of alternative instruments. Eleven countries have already joined the Russian MIR payment system, and more than 15 have expressed their readiness, India among them. India and Russia are already in talks to integrate their respective payment mechanisms to ensure trade between the two nations does not suffer. The two countries need to develop a financial system which would not be affected by Western sanctions on Russia.

In July, for the first time, goods from Russia were shipped to India by land. The new trade route, which allows goods from Russia to pass through Central Asia and Iran, solves two problems at once - the tedious transport by ship through the Suez Canal and the fear of malicious sanctions. Russian ambassador to India Denis Alipov predicts 40 per cent increase in trade volume this year. Oleg Deripaska, the founder of En+ Group and RUSAL, declared a similar position in his recent interview. He assesses the potential of bilateral trade volume between the two countries at \$120-150 billion over the next decade.

Mutual recognition of the Russian and Indian payment systems looks like a logical step. Though the rupee-ruble trade has not been successful in the past, the ongoing geopolitical shifts have prompted both countries to work on resolving the bottlenecks. The countries are already in talks to expand the use of national currencies in bilateral trade payments. The arrangement essentially facilitates the settlement of payment between the two countries in their currencies, instead of the US dollar, the euro or the British pound. "The payment system is strategic now, given the current situation and sanctions against Russia. It is of utmost importance to have self-reliance in the payments system and we need to work towards that," SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan told India Narrative. "We have our own payments system, we need to see how to expand its global acceptance," Mahajan said, adding that India must attempt to integrate its own payments system with Russia's indigenous MIR. Thus, the US move to cut off Russia from SWIFT has only brought the focus back on the necessity of de-dollarisation of global trade.

In the current geopolitical and economic context, the formation of new strategic alliances and the development of local market-oriented systems is a prerequisite for India and other countries in the East to reap the benefits.

□□

<https://www.sarkarintel.com/mutual-recognition-of-mir-and-rupay-between-russia-and-india-another-step-towards-de-dollarisation-of-global-economy/>



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

सुराज से होंगे जनता के सपने साकार

मध्यप्रदेश में सरकारी जमीन को अतिक्रमण से मुक्त कराने के बाद खाली हुई भूमि पर आवासहीन, आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (ई.डब्ल्यू.एस.) के लिए आवास निर्माण के लिए सुराज नीति-2023 लागू की गई है।

सरकार ने माफिया से मुक्त कराई गई सरकारी जमीन पर सुराज कॉलोनी बनाने का निर्णय लिया है। यहाँ लोगों को सभी जरूरी सुविधाएँ प्रदान की जाएंगी। नीति का उद्देश्य बिना सरकारी बजटीय सहायता के पुनर्धनत्वकरण नीति के अनुरूप सुराज कॉलोनी के तहत ई.डब्ल्यू.एस. श्रेणी के आवासहीनों के लिए किफायती आवास प्रदान करना और अतिक्रमण से मुक्त की गई भूमि का शहर के विकास के लिए सर्वोत्तम उपयोग करना है।

सुराज नीति के मुख्य बिंदु...

- 1 अप्रैल 2020 के बाद अतिक्रमण से मुक्त कराई गई शासकीय भूमि पर आवासहीन तथा आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों के लिए आवास निर्माण की योजना।
- अतिक्रमण से मुक्त कराई गई भूमि का एक टुकड़ा निजी डेवलपर को सौंपा जाएगा, जिसके बदले शेष भूमि में ईडब्ल्यूएस आवास के लिए सुराज टॉवर बनेगा।
- निजी डेवलपर को दिए जाने वाले भू-खंड के आरक्षित मूल्य की गणना लोक परिसंपत्ति प्रबंधन विभाग की स्थापित नीति के अनुसार खुली निविदाओं के आधार पर की जाएगी।
- छोटे शहरों में मल्टी स्टोरी के स्थान पर 450 वर्ग फीट तक के आवासीय पट्टे भी कॉलोनी विकसित कर दिए जा सकेंगे।
- सुराज कॉलोनी में सड़क, जल-प्रदाय, बिजली, बगीचा आदि की सुविधा होगी।
- निर्माण होने के बाद इकाइयों का आवंटन कमजोर आय वर्ग के आवासहीन को नगरीय निकाय द्वारा किया जायेगा।
- संबंधित भूमि के एक भाग का उपयोग आवासहीन आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग के लिए सुराज कॉलोनी के अंतर्गत भवन/प्रकोष्ठ/भूखण्ड के निर्माण के लिए किया जायेगा। सुराज कॉलोनी की अनुमानित परियोजना लागत के अनुरूप मूल्य के सीएलपी को निजी विकासकर्ता द्वारा 'भू-स्वामी अधिकार' में उपयोग किया जायेगा।
- योजना के क्रियान्वयन के लिए अन्य सभी प्रक्रियाएँ राज्य में स्थापित रिडेंसीफिकेशन नीति-2022 के अनुसार की जाएगी।
- सुराज टॉवर/कॉलोनी का निर्माण समय-सीमा और गुणवत्ता से करने के प्रावधान किए गए हैं। सुराज टॉवर कॉलोनी निर्माण के बाद अगले पाँच वर्ष तक डिफेक्ट लायबिलिटी पीरियड का दायित्व और 3 वर्ष तक कॉलोनी का रख-रखाव संचालन एवं मरम्मत का दायित्व निजी डेवलपर का रहेगा।



मुख्यमंत्री आवासीय भू-अधिकार योजना के अंतर्गत गाँव में चिन्हित करके हर परिवार को जमीन का टुकड़ा उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा। मध्यप्रदेश में 23000 एकड़ से ज्यादा जमीन माफियाओं से मुक्त कराई गई है। हम उस जमीन पर सुराज कॉलोनी की स्थापना कर गरीबों को उस जमीन पर बसाएंगे।

- शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

35000 लोगों को मिले भूखंड

टीकमगढ़ और सिंगरोली जिले में सरकार ने माफिया से मुक्त कराई जमीन भूमिहीनों को दी है। मुख्यमंत्री भू-अधिकार योजना में दोनों जिले में 35 हजार से अधिक लोगों को योजना का लाभ दिया गया है।

सरकार के प्रयासों से बढ़ता मध्यप्रदेश



मुख्यमंत्री लाइली बहना योजना

₹ 3000 तक बढ़ेगी राशि



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

21 वर्ष से ही मिलेगा लाभ



1 करोड़ 25 लाख बहनों को हर महीने ₹ 1000



राजकुमारी

चकरपुर गांव, निवाड़ी
"योजना के एक हजार में अपने परिवार पर खर्च करूंगी। मेरे खाते में पैसा होगा तो जय जरूरत पड़ेगी तब खर्च करूंगी।"



मृदुलेश शुक्ला
बड़ा बाजार, पन्ना

"मुख्यमंत्री जी इस योजना में जो राशि हमें दे रहे हैं उससे बच्चों की पढ़ाई और घर में पोषिक खाने के खर्च में मदद मिलेगी।"



मोनालिसा मिश्रा
कुदरा टोला, शहडोल

"हम बहनों के लिए एक सीधी सच्ची योजना की जरूरत थी। सीधे हमारे खाते में पैसे आएंगे। हमारा मान-सम्मान बढ़ेगा।"



अनीता मिश्रा

राकटागोचन कॉलोनी, राजगढ़
"मेरे पास आय का कोई साधन नहीं है। ऐसे कठिन समय में मुख्यमंत्री जी की यह योजना मेरे लिए करदान से कम नहीं है।"



चाहना

बिरसा मुण्डा वार्ड, कटनी
"मेरे अपने बच्चों को पढ़ाना चाहती हूँ। मुख्यमंत्री जी की इस योजना से हमारे पूरे घर में खुशी है।"

संपर्क : ग्राम पंचायत, वार्ड कार्यालय और जिला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग, हेलपलाइन नंबर 0755-2700800