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Poisonous Politics

Hanging of Mumbai blast convict Yakub Memon has been made an issue in an effort to polarise the society. The politics surrounding Yakub Memon has gone out of hand. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Asaduddin Owaisi who was advocating in favour of the terrorist has said that Memon has received a raw deal because he is a Muslim. Owaisi is not alone. Several self proclaimed 'eminent persons' including jurists, MPs, leaders of political parties and individuals from different walks of life submitted a petition to President Pranab Mukherjee to request him to consider the mercy plea against the execution of the death sentence of Yakub Memon. Among those who endorsed the petition were: Shatrughan Sinha MP, Mani Shankar Aiyer, MP, Ram Jethmalani, MP, Majeed Memon, MP, Mr. N. Ram, Sitaram Yechury, MP, G.S. CPI(M) D. Raja, MP, CPI, K.T.S. Tulsi, MP, H.K. Dua, MP, T. Siva, MP, Prakash Karat, CPI(M), Member, Polit Bureau, Dipankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary, CPI(ML)-Liberation, Brinda Karat, CPI(M), Member, Polit Bureau; various academicians, members of the legal fraternity, activists and filmmakers and actors like Naseeruddin Shah and Mahesh Bhatt; and Tushar Gandhi. This is really unfortunate. These people are mixing religion with politics and terror. It is not the first time - such controversies were created in the past also when Parliament attack mastermind Afzal Guru and 26/11 gunman Ajmal Kasab were hanged.

These people accuse others of being biased, while they indulge in naked unfairness. They did not raise voice when it came to Sadhavi Pragya. Nor are they ready to appreciate CJI who asked 3 Supreme Court judges to sit at 2.00 a.m. to give a condemned terrorist fair hearing, something of which any one shall be proud of. In the 225 days since the APS School attack in Peshawar, Pakistan has executed 188 death row prisoners -- that's 5 every 6 days; nobody raises issues these. These people need to be isolated.

– Manish Sehgal, Chandigarh

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Quote-Unquote



Bharat Ratna

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. In this world, fear has no place. Only strength respects strength.

Let me define a leader. He must have vision and passion and not be afraid of any problem. Instead, he should know how to defeat it. Most importantly, he must work with integrity.

You have to dream before your dreams can come true.

Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work.

Let us sacrifice our today so that our children can have a better tomorrow.

Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident.

Let's Acknowledge the reality

"Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message."

— (Malcolm Muggeridge)

Without going into controversy over who has essentially said it for the first time, they saying "Figures don't lie; but liars do figure" is the initial thought that comes to mind after recent clamour over farm suicide figures released by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) and provisional data from the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 for Rural India. This process is also termed as massaging the data by manipulation, alteration, recalculation etc. Idea is to paint a not so terrifying image, if not an entirely rosy picture to reduce the adverse impact of reality. But more frequently this attempt boomerangs. Therefore let us overlook for the moment accuracy of the data; read the numbers as have been provided and try to put them in perspective. NCRB in the very beginning accepts that 'India is an agrarian country with around '48.9%' of its people depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture'. Considering the paramount importance of farmers' suicides, the NCRB- it claims, for the first time, has collected detailed data on farmers' suicides. It further says that Farmers include those who own and work on field (viz. cultivators) as well as those who employ/hire workers for field work/farming activities. It excludes agricultural labourers. According to its data a total of 5,650 farmers have committed suicides during 2014, accounting for 4.3% of total suicides victims in the country. Five states; Maharashtra, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka together accounted for 89.5% of the total farmer suicides reported in the country during 2014. Coming to reasons behind these suicides NCRB says 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (20.6%) and 'Family Problems' (20.1%) are major causes of suicides. The other prominent causes of farmers' suicides were 'Failure of Crop' (16.8%), 'Illness' (13.2%) and 'Drug Abuse/Alcoholic Addiction' (4.9%), it adds. Similarly, small farmers and marginal farmers together accounted for 72.4% (4,095 out of 5,650) total farmer suicides during this time. This means that even by this very data 89.5% farmer suicides have taken place in the Big 5 states which amounts to more than two-thirds of all farmers' suicides in the country. Hence, there are no changes in the pattern there. Similarly , as pointed out by eminent subject experts like Dr. Devinder Sharma and P. Sai Nath, in spite of the NCRB effort to segregate the farm suicides figures into two categories - farmer, and agricultural workers -- to perhaps show that farm suicides rate has fallen, the fact remains that historically farm labourers have been counted as part of the farming category. Adding both the figures - 5,650 farmers and 6,710 agricultural workers - the death toll in agriculture for 2014 comes to 12,360, which is higher by 5 per cent over the 2013 farm suicide figures. Coming to the causes behind these suicides NCRB data accepts that in 57.5% cases 'Bankruptcy or Indebtedness' (20.6%) , 'Family Problems' (20.1%) and 'Failure of Crop' (16.8%) are major causes of suicides. In another 18.1% factors like illness is prominent cause. that means inability to treat because of low income. Again the major significance of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census data which has created so much of controversy in the country is that it once again underlines the fact that India still remains predominantly poor. In spite of all the glamour and glitter which surrounds us, the majority of the people of India remain in circumstances where the deprivation is very large indeed. The figures also clearly show that the people in India are dependent upon agriculture as their means of livelihood even today. This Census also shows that the state of our villages is extremely precarious and sad. It is apparent from the figures which have been thrown out that development in this country has been restricted to only a few and has excluded large sections of the people. In fact the majority of the people of this country have had no share of the inordinate amount of wealth which has been generated especially since liberalisation. Political parties as usual are busy in blame game with hardly any interest in bringing in the required change. Their roles may change with the benches on which they sit in the Parliament. But they essentially will like to play down the real message by shifting bad numbers in one column to another less dreadful one, since erasing them altogether is not possible. It is now upto the people of this country to take a lead from icons like Bharat Ratna Dr. Kalam and create a situation where our entire effort is channelized in one direction- elevating life standards of the people of India, not selected few but entire population more so of the deprived and vulnerable sections.

Bomb on One Hand, Gita on Other



We have often asked ourselves and others why India in its several thousand years of history has rarely tried to expand its territories or to assume a dominant role. Many of the experts and others with whom we had dialogue referred to some special features in the Indian psyche which could partly explain their greater tolerance, less discipline, the lack of sense of retaliation, more flexibility in accepting outsiders, greater adherence to hierarchy and emphasis on personal safety over adventure."

This is what Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, with the co-author SY Rajan, wrote in the famous book "India Vision 2020 A Vision for the New Millennium" [1998]. Kalam had raised these profound issues that are sourced

in our national confusion over couple of thousand years since Ashoka became the role model of India by giving up war altogether. Kalam is being profiled by his millions of admirers as a 'People's President, teacher, scientist, visionary, thinker, and patriot.' He is certainly all these and more. He had bombs and missiles on the one hand with veena and Gita on the other. The huge bandwidth of the man brings out the complete philosopher-nationalist that he was. Dr Kalam introspected and posited for the nation critical issues which mirror the lessons our history has taught us but we have not learnt and still refuse to learn. Each of the issues raised by Kalam is profound. As we did not expand them, our territories contracted. As we were not disciplined, our tolerance was a mere vanity. Accepting outsiders at the cost of kinship has divided us. Preferring personal safety over adventures has made us victims of adventurers. How true Kalam was? Yet, there was, even now there is, no effort to reorient our education or national discourse on Kalam's lines, even though he wrote his famous work in 1998. Even today, Kalam, the man, is being discussed — personally and anecdotally. But there is very little focus on what he said or envisioned for India. Encomiums are being paid to him as a visionary without discussing what his vision is. Kalam's introspection should be the concern, even active enterprise, of the entire nation and its establishment — government, media, academia and intellectuals. Even now it is not too late. In the memory of Kalam, work on what he had envisioned for India can begin. But there can be no beginning unless there is honest introspection by Indians about the role and purpose of India.

Kalam's Pokhran bomb and missiles have undoubtedly put India in a different league geopolitically and strategically. In his book Challenge and Strategy: Rethinking India's Foreign Policy, Rajiv Sikri, India's former foreign secretary recalled how despite Jawaharlal Nehru's well-known but little publicised attempts to get closer to the US in the 1950s, India's relations with the US remained at a low level for 50 years. According to Sikri, it was only after India became a nuclear weapons power in 1998 that the nature of India's relationship with the US underwent a qualitative change and the US was jolted into taking India, and indeed the



Dr. APJ Abul Kalam's Pokhran explosion cleared the confusion and transformed India into a global power, though it is yet to be internalised by our elites and intellectuals, explains
S. Gurumurthy

whole of South Asia, seriously from a security and geopolitical perspective. Pokhran-II coincided with India's growing economic weight and the increasingly influential role of the Indian-American community in the US. Both factors added to India's importance in US eyes. Kalam's bomb showed what the West-centric world respects. Power. Nuclear weapons power is indeed fearsome. When the first atom bomb was exploded, its author Dr Robert Oppenheimer, a great admirer of Hindu spiritualism, quoted this verse in Bhagawad Gita to describe its power: "If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky, That would be like the splendour of the Mighty One... I am become Death, The shatterer of Worlds." And this is how the Gita-studying and vee-na-playing Dr Kalam described the Pokhran bomb in 1998. "I heard the earth thundering below our feet and rising ahead of us in terror. It was a beautiful sight. It was a triumph of Indian science and technology." Power is indeed dangerous. But being without it is more dangerous. A democratic India, with 1/6th of humanity, humanistic philosophies of Sankara, Buddha and Gandhi and no record of invading others, high tolerance and flexibility in accepting outsiders was not respected. It was actually trivialised. See the contrast. In the 1970s, Henry Kissinger waited in Beijing for days for authoritarian China, which had 30 million people dying of hunger and was deep in poverty to agree to meet him! Why? A hungry and poor China had hundreds of nuclear warheads. That the world respects power is what the world has taught India — which is eight out of 10 populat-



ed by Hindus whom Mahatma Gandhi had described as "gentlest" of people on the earth.

The geopolitical stature of India which started to rise with Pokhran has been on the escalator ever thereafter. The National Intelligence Council attached to the Central Intelligence Agency [US] reported [Dec 2012] that India will be among the three world powers in 2030 along with the US and China. But for Kalam's bomb and missiles India would never have been seen as a candidate for a global power. Japan has trillions of dollars of assets. But that does not make it a world power. Power is comprehensive. Mere economic power is no power. Merely being an economic power without being a military power will invite invasions, like India did. We were the leaders of the world economy for 1,700 years, according to Angus Maddison who studied the world economic history on behalf of the OECD nations. But our wealth only invited invasions of barbaric peoples. We were conquered because we had no sense of the importance of power. We even detested power as uncivilised.

The national confusion about, even bias against, military power, started with Ashoka giving up wars

after he was shocked by the scale of destruction in the Kalinga war. Ashoka, after the Kalinga war, was in the same state for mind as Arjuna was before the Kurukshetra war. One cried after the war, and the other, before the war. But Sri Krishna with Bhagawad Gita cleared the confusion of Arjuna and made him a warrior. But Ashoka did not have the benefit of a Krishna to clear his confusion. And his confusion became our national pride. We paid the price for that high-cost pride with invasions and destruction of India. Kalam's Pokhran explosion cleared the confusion and transformed India into a global power, though it is yet to be internalised by our elites and intellectuals. The Economist magazine [March 30, 2013] in its cover story asking "Can India become a great power?" answered it at the end of its editorial: "That India can become a great power is not in doubt. The real question is whether it wants to be." This is what the nationalist-philosopher Dr A P J Abdul Kalam wanted this nation of 1.25 billion to say in once voice: "yes we want to be". Instituting an in-depth study of our history to learn and internalise the lessons from it is the greatest tribute to this great man. □□

(The author is an economic and political commentator)



Bharat has lost its Ratna

Bharat has lost a Ratna, but the light from this jewel will guide us towards APJ Abdul Kalam's dream destination: India as a knowledge superpower, in the first rank of nations. Our scientist-President — and one who was genuinely loved and admired across the masses — never measured success by material possessions.

For him, the counterpoint to poverty was the wealth of knowledge, in both its scientific and spiritual manifestations. As a hero of our defence programme, he shifted horizons; and as a seer of the spirit, he sought to liberate doctrine from the narrow confines of par-

tisan tension to the transcendental space of harmony.

Every great life is a prism, and we bathe in those rays that find their way to us. His profound idealism was secure because it rested on a foundation of realism.

Every child of deprivation is a realist. Poverty does not encourage illusions. Poverty is a terrible inheritance; a child can be defeated even before he or she has begun to dream.

But Kalamji refused to be defeated by circumstances. As a boy, he had to support his studies by earning money as a newspaper vendor; today, page after page of the same newspapers are filled with his obituary notices.

He said that he would not be presumptuous enough to say that his life could be a role model for anybody; but if some poor child living in an obscure and underprivileged social setting found some solace in the way his destiny had been shaped, it could perhaps help such children liberate themselves from the bondage of illusory backwardness and helplessness.

He is my marg darshak, as well as that of every such child.

His character, commitment and inspirational vision shine through his life. He was unencumbered by ego; flattery left him cold.

*Abdul Kalam's light
will guide us to his
dream destination:*

*India as a
knowledge
superpower,
believes Prime
Minister*

Narendra Modi

He was equally at ease before an audience of suave, globe-trotting ministers and a class of young students. The first thing that struck one about him was that, uniquely, he combined the honesty of a child with the energy of a teenager and the maturity of an adult.

He took little from the world, and gave all he could to society. A man of deep faith, he epitomised the three great virtues of our civilisation: *dama*, self-restraint; *dana*, sacrifice; and *daya*, compassion.

But this persona was powered by the fire of endeavour. His vision for the nation was anchored in freedom, development and strength.

Given our history, freedom had a political context of course; but it also included freedom of the mind and expansion of intellectual space. He wanted India to leap out of the underdeveloped trough and eliminate the curse of poverty through inclusive economic growth.

Wisely, he suggested that politicians spend only 30% of their time on politics, and 70% on development; a suggestion which he often followed up by calling in MPs from a state and discussing the socioeconomic issues of their region with them.



The third pillar, strength, was not born of aggression, but of understanding. An insecure nation will rarely discover the route to prosperity. Strength commands respect. His contributions to our nuclear and space achievements have given India the muscle to be confident of her place in the region and the world.

His memory is best honoured by the creation of new institutions that nurture science and technology, and enable us to find a beneficial equation with the awesome power of nature. Too often, greed makes us predators of our environment.

Kalamji saw poetry in a tree, and energy that could be harnessed in water, wind and sun. We should

learn to look at our world through his eyes, and with the same missionary zeal.

Human beings can shape their lives through will, persistence, ability and sheer courage. But we have not been given the right to script where we are born, or how and when we die.

However, if Kalamji had been offered an option, this is how he would perhaps have chosen to say goodbye: on his feet, and in front of a classroom of his beloved students.

As a bachelor, he was childless. But that is wrong. He was a father to every Indian child, teaching, cajoling, urging, exciting, clearing darkness wherever he found it with the radiance of his vision and the passion of his involvement.

He saw the future, and showed the way. As I entered the room where his body lay in state yesterday, I noticed the painting at the entrance that depicted a few lines from an inspirational book he wrote for children, *Ignited Minds*.

The good that he did will not be interred with his bones, because his children will preserve his memory through their lives and work, and gift it to their children. □□

(Courtesy Times of India)





PPP fails, global finance shrinking: UN

The PPP – public private partnership – is for mere private sector profitability. It has failed the development objective and needs to be junked, the third UN international meet on financing for development – popularly called Addis Ababa meet - has concluded. It goes back to the concept of development bank financing for growth of the developing economies.

The UN meet held this month to discuss Technology, Finance and Statistics for Sustainable Development goal (SDG), however, sets the tone for the new financial and development architecture. India, despite some reservations, took the lead for establishing the new order in furtherance of achieving the MDG – Millennium Development Goal through SDG. The aim is to forge a global partnership in economic prosperity.

Overall the meet reached a conclusion that international funding is becoming difficult and advised nations to depend on domestic public resources for achieving sustainable development “through effectiveness in tax systems”. It stops short of suggesting of raising tax rates but calls upon countries to set “targets for enhancing revenue”.

The meet also found that corporates globally are the biggest tax evader and avoid taxes in various ways. Some large companies employ over 500 persons for “aggressive tax planning”. They invent loopholes to deprive the countries of legitimate taxes all over the world. The Addis Ababa meet called for upgrading UN mechanism and international cooperation to tackle it.

However, in reality, there was no consensus on the issue of tax evasion. Not creating an inter-governmental body for cooperation in taxation “is a historic missed opportunity”, minister for state for finance Jayant Sinha told the meet.

The World Bank that promoted PPP now states that PPP has not only doubled the fiscal cost but also has larger timeframe extending to 30 years. Often the governments have to take over the PPP projects as it becomes expensive, like high toll on highways, and become politically unacceptable.



The World Bank that promoted PPP now states that PPP has not only doubled the fiscal cost but also has larger timeframe extending to 30 years, reports Shivaji Sarkar.

The PPP was premised on the concept that private sector was more efficient than the public sector. The real experience was found to be different. It is not that India itself had unsavoury experience with PPP, most developing and even developed countries also had suffered. The rural roads proposed through PPP by the UPA government got only 20 per cent of the funding and remains an unfulfilled task.

Sweden has banned PPP, says Jayati Ghosh, professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, at JNU.

Private sector has found long-term PPPs unviable because users find these expensive. As the government or public sector takes over it has been found to be cheaper to operate and more affordable for users.

The failure of PPP has posed a problem. As MNCs avoid taxes, it has been found that they are not sharing public expenses and funding the development process. The UN committee of experts on international cooperation in tax matters has proposed enhancing the role of development banks and looking for ways to create incentives to have more contribution from the corporate (like corporate social responsibility) and incentivize FDI to developing countries, particularly the least developed ones.

Head of ESCAP, South and South West Asia Nagesh Kumar says that there is a proposal to allow companies in Bangladesh and Bhutan to be listed at stock exchanges in India.

The development banks in China, Brazil and India in many areas are found to be contributing significantly. German Develop-

ment Bank is the largest investor for innovation and other areas.

Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz headed panel has given a unique proposal to tax multinationals as one unit as production is globally dispersed. The pooled taxes could be divided as per business and sales in different countries. The proposal can rake in more taxes but the world has yet to evolve the collection and distribution mechanism.

The Addis Ababa document is significant as it calls for enabling conditions that allow governments to raise monetary resources. Development assistance (ODA), largely south-south cooperation, has increased but remains far below requirements as decided at the UN meet at Monterrey, Mexico in 2002 that reflected global agreement between developed and developing countries on finance, trade, aid and debt relief.

Tax havens are another corporate deviant. Both developing and developed countries get almost 30 percent funding through tax havens like Mauritius, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and even Delaware in US. The OECD countries themselves have taken this up as serious issues as they are one of the largest losers of taxes.

Developing countries get around 50 per cent of the total FDI. The remittances are also under cloud. India gets about \$ 75 billion as remittances. But the developed countries want a check on it as they consider it a drain as migration increases to the west.

Transnational corporations have almost \$ 25 trillion funds. At least one-third of it should be available to the third world. There remains a \$ 2.5 trillion investment gap a year for developing countries.

Sweden has banned Public Private Partnership

The meet called for transparency in capital flow. The global financial volatility is engineered through opaque flows. It is feared that short-term capital is to flow into the developing countries because the stable developed markets are less lucrative. Such flows could create bubbles and lead to busts. It has mulled over capital control mechanism. European Union, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand have taken recourse to it. The opinion is for moderation in short-term capital flows.

Illicit flows remain a concern but the solution has eluded the conference. However, there was agreement on the Green Climate Fund. The developed countries have agreed to raise \$ 100 billion a year by 2020 for funding developing countries. This would be in addition to ODA commitment of 0.7 percent of gross national income. The EU has promised to achieve 0.7 per cent target by 2030.

The document despite serious global conditions seeks to change the world order through better business practices, international financial stability to check volatilities and systemic risks. Fearing upswings in the food and commodity market it calls for checks.

The meet has opened up a Pandora's box for a corrective system. It agrees the experiments of "neo-liberalism" has not succeeded but has not been able to remedy the aberrations in global financing mechanism. Would SDG become a reality? □□

Ban on Beef Export is Good

Narendra Modi government has banned the beef export. In the past some state government's especially BJP-ruled states had already imposed restrictions on slaughtering of cows. Some people are raising questions about the ban on export of beef; perhaps they forget that the Directive Principles of the State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution of India expects from the government to legislate appropriate laws to ensure ban on slaughtering of cows. But since the Directive Principles of the State Policy cannot be implemented by judicial intervention, some unwilling state governments try to avoid implementing ban on cow slaughter.

The ban has been imposed in the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, announced by the Government of India on April 1, 2015. This has been told by Union Minister of Commerce, Nirmala Sitharaman, while replying to a MP Kirit Somaya. Minister has said "It is informed that as per the foreign trade policy, the export of beef (meat of cow, oxen and calf) is prohibited and is not permitted to be exported. However, as per the distribution of legislative powers between Union of India and States, preservation of cattle is the matter on which the state legislatures have the exclusive power to legislate. It is, therefore, for the State Governments to enact such legislations. Enactment of law on cow slaughter does not fall under the purview of the Central Government."

Cattle stock is an important wealth of our economy. It does, not only provide energy for agrarian operations; it contributes immensely by providing nutritional milk for our population including malnourished children & women. We see that our land is increasingly becoming barren due to excessive use of chemical fertilisers, which can be cured by using organic manure, where cow dung can be a big contributory factor. All this cannot happen without protecting cow.

Large scale export of beef has been a cause of major concern in the country for a long time; however this has taken shape of major disaster in the recent years, in a short span of five years there has been more than fivefold increase in export



Cattle stock is an important wealth of our economy. It does, not only provide energy for agrarian operations; it contributes immensely by providing nutritional milk for our population including malnourished children & women, explains
Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



of meat from the country.

It is notable total revenue from export of meat from the country increased from only rupees 5371 crores in 2008-09 to 27247 crores in 2013-14. There is hardly only doubt that major chunk of this export has been that of beef. There has been a big increase in the inter-state illegal smuggling of cows, as evident from the number of such cases coming to fore in recent years.

It is notable that there was a big agitation for cow protection in the year 1961 which was silenced by use of force, however the efforts to save cows continued. Law to protect cows is no new thing in this country. Even during Mughal regime, there was law against slaughtering of cows. Aurangzeb revoked this law during his regime. Law of some kind exists in nearly 25 states in the country for the protection of cow.

Importance of Cow in India

Fact that directive principles of the state policy as illuminated in the constitution of India, expect from the government to enact law for the protection of cow; clearly demonstrate importance of cows in our national psyche. For majority population of India, cow is sacred. Cow slaughter hurts them emotionally. Products based on cow urine, cow dung and others, what we call 'Panchgavya' has immense medicinal value. Therefore medicinal, environmental and economic advantages of cow protection cannot be anyway undermined.

Declining Cattle Wealth

Live Stock Census 2012 has population data about live stock in India for the year 2012, and the same has also been compared with earlier date. Data published in 2012, clearly indicate towards declining

cattle wealth in the country. Whereas total cattle wealth in the country increased by 7.50 percent between 2003 and 2007, it declined by 4.10 percent between 2007 and 2012. Male buffalos increased by 7.6 percent between 2003 and 2007, it increased by only 3.19 percent between 2007 and 2012. Male buffalo population increased by 9.6 percent between 2003 and 2012; it



Cattle wealth in the country declined by 4.10 percent between 2007 and 2012.

declined by 17.8 percent between 2007 and 2012. Though this is true that number of milch cows and buffaloes have both increased by 6.5 percent between 2007 and 2012, indigenous cattle had increased by 3.4 percent between 2003 and 2007, it declined by 9 percent between 2007 and 2012. From the above data one can easily conclude that there is a direct relationship between increase revenue from export of meat and slaughtering of our cattle wealth. In other words we can say that put slaughtering of our cattle wealth. All this indicates that our cattle had been killed on a large scale and its meat exported in the name of earning dollars. Recently imposed ban on beef export, can be said to be an effort to save our cows, and therefore should be welcomed.

Other Ways to Save and Earn Foreign Exchange

Though it cannot be denied

the nation has been facing on acute shortage of foreign exchange, to keep its trade going; as our imports have been ever growing at a faster rate, where exports have failed to keep the requisite pace causing our trade deficit mounting. Despite efforts to curb import of gold and decking international crude prices, our trade deficit could come down to only \$138 billion by 2014-15.

However to fill this deficit in trade balance, unmindful beef export cannot be justified.

Dairy sector in our country has great promise to earn enormous foreign exchange. We can save and ever earn lot of foreign exchange by providing electronic goods, telecom products and others, which we have been importing so far. There are immense possibilities of export promotion and import substitution in the country. In addition to this cow dung can be used to enhance production of organic manure. This can also go a long way to improve productivity of our land.

Thus, one can conclude that lust to earn a few billion dollars should not be made to endanger our valuable cattle wealth, against the feelings of our majority population. Therefore this government deserves a pat for their act of banning beef export from the country. □□

Understanding the politics of food, agriculture and hunger

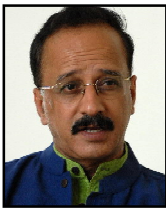
Farmers suicide statistics is a reflection of the terrible agrarian crisis that prevails in India. Despite all efforts to paint a rosy picture, the latest compilation of farmer suicide statistics for 2014 by the National Crime Record Bureau clearly brings out the dark underbelly of Indian agriculture. With 12,360 farmer suicides recorded in 2014, it only shows that one farmer commits suicide somewhere in the country every 42 minutes.

Although the NCRB has made a valiant effort to segregate the farm suicides figures into two categories – farmer, and agricultural workers — to show that farm suicides rate has fallen by 67 per cent, the fact remains that historically farm labourers have been counted as part of the farming category. Adding both the figures – 5,650 farmers and 6,710 agricultural workers – the death toll in agriculture for 2014 comes to 12,360, which is higher by 5 per cent over the 2013 farm suicide figures.

The serial death dance on the farm is a grave reflection of the terrible agrarian crisis that continues in farming for several decades now. While every successive government – both at the centre and in the States – have made tall promises to resurrect agriculture, the swing in farm suicide figures shows the callous and deliberate neglect of a sector that employs 60-crore people. Farmers have been very conveniently used for only two political purposes – as a vote bank and as a land bank.

Not showing any signs of petering off, a renewed spurt in suicides is now being witnessed in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana for the past few months.

In 2014, the NCRB data tells us that a third of the total suicides – 4,004 – took place in Maharashtra, followed by Telengana with 1,347 suicides. Reading between the lines, it becomes apparent that there is a visible effort to downplay the suicide figures by almost all states, including Punjab, the food bowl of the



If 1,000 suicides in the armed forces could prompt the Defence Ministry to take a series of steps to ameliorate the situation, I wonder why a human toll of close to 3 lakh farmers taking their own lives in the past 20 years has failed to shake up the successive governments, asks

Dr. Devinder Sharma?



country. This follows a trend that Chhattisgarh started in 2011 when it started showing zero farm suicides. After record zero suicides for 2011, 4 in 2012 and again zero in 2013, Chhattisgarh now shows a sudden jump in farm suicides to 755 in 2014.

In Punjab, as per NCRB data, only 22 farmers committed suicide in 2014. Add agricultural workers, and the final suicide toll comes to 64. This is a gross under-reporting of the real situation that exists. Panchayat records in just four villages of Sangrur and Mansa districts in Punjab show 607 suicides in past five years, with 29 deaths recorded between November 2014 and April 2015. Similarly, in Maharashtra, the Vidharbha Jan Andolan Samiti has contested the NCRB data. Several gaps in the counting methodology, including difficulty in putting women deaths in the farmer category since the land in most cases is not in their names has time and again been brought out.

Indebtedness and bankruptcy (22.8 per cent) tops the reasons behind these suicides; followed by family problems (22.3 per cent) and 19 per cent because of farming related issues. Growing indebtedness of course has been considered to be the major reason behind the serial death dance being witnessed on the farm. According to a study conducted by Chandigarh-based Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) – the average farm debt has multiplied 22 times in the past decade in Punjab. From 0.25 lakh per household in 2004 it has gone up to Rs 5.6 lakh in 2014. Chhattisgarh tops the chart with an average debt of Rs 7.54 lakh, followed by Kerala with Rs 6.48 lakh household debt.



Indebtedness & bankruptcy tops the reasons behind suicides

The total debt that farmers carry in Punjab is almost 50 per cent higher than the State's GDP from agriculture. At the same time, another study by CRRID shows that 98 per cent of rural families in Punjab are indebted, and the average debt is 96 per cent of the total income a household receives. If this is the situation in Punjab, imagine the plight of farmers elsewhere in the country.

Why farm indebtedness has been steadily on a rise has never been studied beyond find out how much lending is coming from the moneylenders who are known to charge exorbitant interests. While lack of institutional finance is a limitation, it is the declining agricultural income that remains the major reason for growing indebtedness. Let me illustrate with a cost analysis of a typical farmers from Uttar Pradesh. As per the latest estimates of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the net return from cultivating wheat in Uttar Pradesh has been worked out at Rs 10,758. Since wheat is a 6-month crop, sown in October and harvested in April, the per month income for a farm family comes to Rs 1,793. If this is the level of income of a wheat farmer, I wonder what kind of livelihood security we are talking about when it comes to farmers.

I looked for more details. If the other crop farmer is growing rice, the average net return for it has been computed at Rs 4,311. Add for rice and wheat, the total that a small farmer from a hectare earns is Rs 15,669 or Rs 1,306 per month. With such meager incomes I can understand why a large number of farmers commit suicide at regular intervals. Those who are not so courageous either sell-off their body organs or prefer to abandon farming and migrate to the cities looking for a menial job as a dehari mazdoor.

This augurs well with the findings of the socio-economic survey which states that 67-crore people in the rural areas are surviving on less than Rs 33 a day. Several other studies have shown that roughly 58 per cent farmers go to sleep hungry, and close to 62 per cent hold a MNRGA card. Instead of pushing under the carpet the grave agrarian crisis that persists, the NCRB data should actually help the government to formulate policies to reverse the suicide trends. If 1,000 suicides in the armed forces could prompt the Defence Ministry to take a series of steps to ameliorate the situation, I wonder why a human toll of close to 3 lakh farmers taking their own lives in the past 20 years has failed to shake up the successive governments? □

Solar Power: Need of a Techno-nationalistic Approach

Recent revision of targets for raising the solar power capacity in the country to 100 Gigawatt by 2021-22, in place of 22 GW set earlier, would place India ahead of rest of the world, with 9% share of solar power in the total power generation, from a current level of 0.5%. Currently, the Germany has highest capacity of 35 GW of solar power and Italy has the highest share of 7.2% in total generation. A 33 fold rise in solar power capacity in India from the current 3.3 GW to 100 GW in 7 years would set another world record, reflecting Modi government's resolve to reduce Carbon emissions effectively, which would also strengthen India's position at the upcoming 21st Conference of Parties (CoP-21) on climate change, scheduled in Paris. Such a huge addition of solar power capacity would also provide an opportunity for the country to kickstart stagnating investments in the economy by infusion of more than Rs. 6.5-7 lac crores into the sector, capable to add manifold more output in GDP and investment by ancillarisation and development of vast supply line for components down the supply chain, along with development of a state of the art technology. But, it would happen if larger participation of indigenous firms is ensured in adding the new capacity. To the contrary, if we would dole-out this opportunity to Chinese, German and American suppliers in the name of bringing foreign direct investment (FDI) to tide over the ongoing current account deficit (CAD) the country may lose this dream opportunity of kick-starting growth and development, including the technology development as well as components sector via a multiplier impact, capable to generate employment, income and growth on a sustainable basis.

Each of the top 10 solar power generating countries of the world have preferred to develop their indigenous solar power industry to meet the domestic demand. In our case as well, if the domestic firms are provided an initial breather by imposing anti-dumping duties on imported hardware and/ or are subsidized



Domestic firms need initial breather by imposing anti-dumping duties on imported hardware and/ or subsidy to give them a level playing, essential to build a booming solar power sector to cater growing indigenous & global demand, explains

**Prof. Bhagwati
Prakash Sharma**



to give them a level playing, we can build a booming solar power sector to cater growing indigenous as well as global demand.

A forbearance of 2-4 paisa of extra cost per KWHr, arising from imposing of anti-dumping duty on imported hardware or from providing a subsidy to the indigenous industry would pay rich dividends in developing the domestic capacity and resultant employment, income and growth. An attempt to provide a level playing field to the indigenous industry, inter alia by imposition of precautionary anti dumping duty on imported hardware, R&D support, equity funding and a host of other measures are the need of hour and which may help the country see a thriving domestic manufacturing sector with its entirely domestic supply chain to save forex and preserve the outflow of forex to be involved in the component import or likely to be repatriated as dividends; which would outweigh the investment inflow. Therefore, India should not repeat the past mistakes wherein the country had badly lost similar opportunities of growth from the development of domestic capacity in telecom, power, ship-building etc.; by doling out the bounties of supply-orders to foreign players.

For instance, India had made a praiseworthy breakthrough developing in the first generation of telecom technology of world order. The Indigenous hardware, including switching systems for electronic exchanges upto 80,000 lines were developed indigenously and were well at par with those of the Motorola (an erstwhile American company now taken over by the

Chinese) and Siemens (a German company). But, the country doled out more of the domestic orders to foreign suppliers, and for that reason alone the indigenous players including the C-DOT could not generate enough revenues to envision and develop 2nd generation telecom (2G) technology for mobile telephony. China, thereafter over-stretched to overtake the Euro-American companies in developing the 3rd generation telecom technology (3G) but it could develop only a very primitive and tortuous technology, the TD-SCDMA (a modified version of 2G SCDMA technology). Notwithstanding this it kept pursuing a techno-nationalistic course and permitted to roll out only indigenously developed 3G network in China, pursuing further research to improve upon it inspite of the fact that this Chinese indigenous technology was far inferior to the Euro-American 3G technology. Akhilesh M But, China did not adopt Euro-American technology. So, out of the resources generated from rolling out their indigenous 3G technology alone, China succeeded to develop very superior 4th generation telecom (4G) technol-

ogy ahead of, and also better than the Euro-American companies. They (Chinese) developed the TD-LTE as 4G telecom technology from the same tortuous, but indigenous TD-SCDMA technology.

Now, according to various estimates, the Chinese TD-LTE has been adopted by 45% of world's 4G networks, including the Reliance, Qualcomm etc. India, inspite of having the first generation technology in early 90s, much superior to that of Chinese has got badly crippled and become fully dependent upon external supplies for 2G, 3G and 4G telecom technologies and largely upon China, a security threat of first order for the country, solely because of patronizing foreign firms in 1990s. Now, China has been working on 5th generation telecom technology from the revenues generated from the indigenously developed 3G and 4G technologies, while we missed the

India should not repeat the past mistakes



train from the time of 2G till date. China could take this escalator in developing the indigenous telecom technology and pursue techno-globalism solely by the technonationalistic approach. In the field of power sector also, Indian hardware had been much superior to the Chinese in 90s. But, now more than half of our orders for supercritical thermal power plants are being poured into Chinese coffers instead of being given to indigenous players. Order books of indigenous suppliers like BHEL, L&T and others including hundreds of their ancillary units are below their capacity.

Moreover, there are reports that power hardware of the Chinese origin of approx Rs. 2 lac crores is experiencing snags due to inferior Chinese supplies. In shipbuilding we have suffered most badly. Indeed in shipping the share of Indian flagged ships in our total foreign trade is very dismal and withdrawal of support to ship-

building from the eleventh five year plan onwards has brought down our share in world shipbuilding to 0.01 percent. South Korea which accounts for less than 5 percent of geographical area and population of India, and having far less than 70 percent of our GDP, today accounts for 40% of world shipbuilding. Needless to say Akhilesh M India is the 3rd largest steel producer with a large pool of skilled manpower and 7100 Km coast line can easily capture at least 10% of world shipbuilding if proper policy, design, R&D and fiscal support is extended by the government. Overall, the Korea has been spending 4 % of its GDP on R&D while India spends less than 1 percent of its GDP on R&D, inspite of our repeated assertions to raise our R&D outlay to 2% of our GDP in the science and technology declarations being made since 2003.

Indeed our share in the world shipbuilding was 0.1 percent in 2002. Very small budgetary support extended to ship building in the 10th five year plan (2002-07) from the government raised India's share from 0.1 to 1.4% by 2009. But, the support was soon discontinued in 11th plan, so it has how

receded to 0.01% just on account of discontinuance of that support in 11th plan. To the contrary, a single policy support to pharma sector extended in 1970 by replacing the provision of product patents with process patents in the Indian Patents Act of 1970, India could acquire record 10% share in the world Pharma-Manufacturing by volume. Besides, we have ushered in a new era in the area of pharma education and Research & Development just by virtue of this policy support. Though it is also now bound to erode with our reverting back to product patents since 2005 and our gradual succumbing to Euro-American pressure in the field of IPR. Therefore, in our endeavor to raise solar power capacity, if a proper blend of fiscal support, purchase priority, integrated policy support and R&D support is extended to indigenous manufacturers for building the domestic capacity in solar power hardware manufacturing, India can do the miracle, become world leader in solar power and usher in a new era of growth and development. Already, the cost of power per unit has come down to Rs. 5.5 from 20 in last few years.

The solar is therefore only hope for global energy woes. And India can ride this global wave. If India can send Mars orbit at one sixth of the global cost, then, in solar power as well, we may emerge as world leader by pursuing a technonationalistic approach as has been done by China in telecom, power, shipbuilding etc. But, if we would add solar power capacity through Akhilesh M foreign supplies and FDI we would miss another escalator for a quantum leap for next more than a decade. □□

India can do the miracle, become world leader in solar power.





The contentious issues on TRIPS and the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference at Nairobi



As a matter of fact no WTO member country has so far brought any dispute for any alleged violation of the TRIPS agreement by India. In such a situation the extra territorial pressure from USA is undesired and has been rightly objected by the Government of India, asserts
Dr. D R Agarwal

The issues concerning Intellectual Property Rights are always sensitive, serious and to a large extent controversial and contentious due to conflict of national interest of each member country in the WTO. When the issue of IPR was first brought in through Uruguay Round and Dunkel Proposal (1986-1993) in the form of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), the developing countries had expressed their concern about its non relevance to the international trade which largely deals with movement of goods and services. There are several agreements in the legal framework of WTO which deals with Rules and Regulations of Subsidies, Anti-dumping, Rules of origin which impact the international trade for agricultural and industrial goods. The General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT), 1994 and the Agreement establishing WTO are the two major pillars to decide about the present and future working of the WTO. There is also General Agreement on Trade Related Services or GATS.

There are various authorities such as Ministerial Conference, General Council, Dispute Settlement Body and other Specific Council including a TRIPs council which deals with several ongoing issues for the working of the existing agenda and the various negotiations at the WTO forum. However, despite resistance from the developing countries the developed countries who were under the pressure from big pharmaceutical Companies, the TRIPs agreement was introduced as a matter of commercial diplomacy. The developing countries had to amend their respective patent laws in order to grant product patent to pharmaceutical industries from 01.01.2005.

The Indian Government has amended its Patent Act, 1970 by deleting section 5 to enable product patent along with process patent for food, medicines and drugs and thereby bringing the Indian Patent law in full compliance with the TRIPs requirement. In order to prevent frivolous inventions from being patent-

ed as ever greening and for safeguarding the national interests especially in the area of public health, Section 3(d) was introduced which inter- alia lays down certain restrictions and criteria such as enhancement of the known efficacy for medicines and pharmaceutical substances. In one of such case, the Controller General of India refused to grant patent to Novartis of Switzerland for their cancer drug Glivec on the ground of novelty and the Honorable Supreme Court of India also upheld the decision of the Controller General of India for such refusal of the patent. In another different instance the Controller General of Patent issued a compulsory license to Natco Pharma of India for a cancer drug "Nexavar" which was patented by Bayer Corporation of Germany. Natco is a reputed Indian drug manufacturing company and was denied a license by Bayer corporation and as a result the Controller General of India granted compulsory license to Natco to manufacture Nexavar in pursuance of section 84(1) (a), (b) and (c) of the Indian Patent Act. Today Natco is supplying the drug to cancer patients at a cost of below Rs. 10,000 per month as against the exorbitant cost of approximately Rs. 3,00,000 per month charged by Bayer corpora-



Meaning of Non Violation Complaint:

Article XXIII of GATT 1994 (earlier GATT 1947) deals with two situations:

- I Compliance for violation of the obligations under the agreement which is easy to understand and seems logical as all members has given conscious consent to what is content in the agreements signed by them under clause (a).
- II Compliance for non-violation under clause (b) & (c) read as below:
 - a) The application by another contracting party of any measure, whether or not it conflicts with the provisions of this Agreement, or
 - b) The existence of any other situation

It is apparent that this article of GATT 1947 has been adopted by GATT 1994 without any modification. It is also apparent that TRIPS came into existence only from 1st January, 1995 and really became effective from 1st January, 2005 and therefore the moratorium clause in Article 64.2 of TRIPS is clearly intended to keep any non- violation complain outside the ambit of TRIPS regulation. In other words Non-Violation Complaints refer to complaints by a WTO member that claims another member's actions or policies caused it a loss, even if there is no violation of a WTO agreement. □

tion and this has bought substantial relief to Indian cancer patients.

The above two provisions in the Indian Patent Act regarding novelty under section 3(d) and for compulsory licensing under section 84 has bought undesired controversies by the big Pharma companies in the developed countries. The USA has bought out the Special 301 Report for the year 2014 on 30th April, 2014 which classifies India as a "Priority Watch List Country" mainly on the ground of provision of section 3(d) and for issue of compulsory licenses un-

der section 84 of the Indian Patent Act. The special 301 process is a unilateral measure taken by USA under The Trade Act 1974, to create pressure on countries like India to create IPR protection beyond TRIPS agreement. It is an extra territorial law of the USA and is not tenable under the overall WTO regime. It is also a matter of fact that no WTO member countries have so far brought any dispute for any alleged violation of the TRIPS agreement by India. In such a situation the extra territorial pressure from USA is undesired and has been objected by the Government of India.

Meanwhile, the Government of India is in the process of drafting its National Intellectual Property Rights policy and a draft has been submitted by the task force on the 24th December 2014. A joint working group is also appointed by the Government of India and United States to look into the Intellectual

Property laws of the country.

It is a matter of utmost surprise that in a recently held meeting of the TRIPS Council in the first week of June 2015 at Geneva, United States and Switzerland has tried to invoke the provisions of 'Non Violation Complaints' stipulated under article XXIII¹(1b) and (1c) of GATT 1994 read with Article 64.2 of TRIPS agreement. The said proposal has been strongly opposed by India, Brazil and other 17 countries on the ground that the said Non Violation Complaint is neither relevant nor legitimate in case of TRIPS agreement for which a moratorium is in force. The said Non Violation Complaint is applicable only in a limited manner to movement of goods and services alone and does not apply to issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights under the TRIPS agreement. The illicit desired proposals of United States and Switzerland with ulterior motives just before the ensuing 10th Ministerial Conference in Nairobi on 15th-18th December 2015, needs high alert at all levels so that any such illicit attempt is nipped in the bud.

It may further be noted that it is a tactical move of United States of America and other developed countries for diverting attention from implementation of various existing agenda as set out in the Doha Round. These pending issues which are of vital importance for the developing countries include: i) extension of the geographical indication to their various products such as Darjeeling tea beyond the existing list of only wines and spirits. ii) Protection for plant varieties and farmer rights. iii) Protection for biodiversity as per UN Convention on Biodiversity

(CBD), iv) Protection for traditional knowledge and various other issues which are of importance for survival of agriculture and the traditional values. Therefore there is a need for a trade-off for effective negotiation on TRIPS at the 10th

WTO Ministerial Conference at Nairobi by throwing the ball in basket of the developed countries. Unilateralism and hegemony of United States must come to an end. □□

(The author Dr. D R Agarwal, National Co-Convener, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch)

Politics over fight against terrorism

A political war of words, as usual, has erupted over the execution of 1993 Mumbai blast convict Yakub Memon, with a section of opposition leaders speaking against the death sentence.

Congress Party the main opposition party reduced to 44 seats in Parliament is speaking in multiple voices. It is trying to appropriate nationalist image of BJP, but also maintaining pro Muslim stance. Communists are openly siding with the accused by staking a moral high ground against death penalty. But they forget this when people from majority community are involved.

Some left leaning liberals who have declared war on NDA government for exposing their illegally funded NGOs are involved in a misinformation campaign by trying to confuse common man in the street. "There is no evidence that death penalty serves as a deterrent, they claim. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader and Hyderabad parliamentarian Asaduddin Owaisi said the government should ensure death sentence in all similar cases. "Death sentence should also be given to Babu Bajrangji, Maya Kodnani, Col. Purohit and Swami Aseemanand," he said. Former home secretary and BJP parliamentarian R K Singh said those making such comments did not have national interests on their minds.

"These people don't think about national interest. Whether he (Yakub) had to be hanged or not was not to be decided by the government but the court, and the president uses his judgment after that....," he said. Minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, said justice had been done.

"Justice has been done; this increased the people's faith in the judicial process. He got two decades to prove his innocence, and he was proven guilty," he said. Yakub Abdul Razzak Memon, convicted in the March 12, 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, was hanged at Maharashtra's Nagpur central jail on July 30, 2015. □

'TATHYA BHARTI MAGAZINE'

Tathya Bharti Magazine, a public interest publication in hindi is an economic monthly now in 21st year of its publication. A mile stone of two decades publication journey is a land mark events for Hindi economic journalism. Tathya Bharti magazine also focuses on politics, economy and culture. It is published from Kota Rajasthan. It has dedicated its March 2015 edition to women entrepreneurship, highlighting several success stories of women entrepreneurs. □

Indian Consumer and endangered freedom of choice



Indian families where both husband & wife are working, have little time to cook food hence depend on packaged food defined and conditioned by companies and corporate through their advertisements or propagative surveys, studies and research without reference to geo-socio-economic and cultural necessities, bodily restrictions and health backgrounds, explains

Anil Javalekar

Nestle's Maggi instant noodles faced ban on its sale all over India for it found monosodium glutamate (MSG) and excess lead that is harmful to human health. Nestle is a food giant with yearly sale of more than Rs. 9000 cr and its MAGGI is the No.1 food brand in India as also in the top 5 most trusted brands of India. This is not the first company nor did the first packaged food item that was found adulterate. In fact, adulteration is on rise. As per the data released by the FSSAI, about 13 % of all tested samples were found adulterated in 2011-12 that increased to 15% in 2012-13 and to 18% in 2014-15. As it is, food business is rising and so the competition to sale more and earn more. This rising food business and its competitiveness lead to adventures that damage many times not only the consumer interest but also endanger human life. Right from neighbourly neighbour to small restaurant to giant MNCs are involved in this food business. Nestle, Coca cola and Pepsi are among the World's top 100 giant companies and there are more having substantial food business in India. Consumer has indeed benefitted by this growing food business but almost lost the freedom of choice in the process. Attitude of companies as also of seller apart from government policies and its governance or lack of it is responsible for much of this loss of freedom. Consumer also cannot escape the blame.

Instant food has ancient history

Instant food concept is not new and Indian mothers and grand mothers are known to prepare and preserve food items for long-term use or instant cooking and eating. The pickles, papad, besan laddus, sattu, chivda or farsan and Vermicelli that is similar to modern noodles are some. Most of such items are in dried form and can be cooked or prepared and served easily and instantly. The tea, coffee, milk products, precooked cereal products, potatoes, etc falls in this category. New innovative packaging technologies made it possible to preserve food



for more period that too in attractive packs and modern food processing industry took advantage of this technology by packing every item of food, even traditional, so to meet food demand of any place and of any time. The companies now have gone ahead and are meeting not only existing demands but creating new ones so to sell new and new products.

Modern lifestyle is a matter of concern

Indian families are becoming nuclear and both husband and wife are working and have little time to cook food. Their search ends mostly with instant food in the form of packaged food items. For them, bigger the company better the product and good the nutrients. Most genuinely believe that consumption of itemised nutritious food makes their family healthier and happier. The tragedy is not in consumptive lifestyle that makes family healthy and happy but in allowing it to depend on packaged food and its labels particularly when this 'happy and healthy' lifestyles is more defined and conditioned by companies and corporate through their advertisements or propagative surveys, studies and research without reference to geo-socio-economic and cultural necessities, bodily restrictions and health backgrounds. The danger is more when professionals, experts, bureaucrats, celebrities and sport persons, actors and actresses help companies and corporate to define this grand design of global lifestyles and become the part of its propaganda machinery. More serious, Government support this lifestyle designs through its socio-economic policies in the name of prosperity and development.

Blaming game will not help

The Maggi type episodes are not happening only in India. The difference is in the afterward actions. In developed countries, the consumer movement is strong with growing awareness among people. More important, not only governments, even food companies are responsive. In India, however, everything ends with blame game. Many blame companies for their misleading advertisements and profit motives; some blame government policies and corrupt government machinery and some to consumer who blindly purchase branded or street products. True, Indian government now a days, think more of global economy and global enterprises and suit its policies to global perspectives. Government regulating authorities and departments also have many reasons with their expressive inability for not ensuring consumer safeguards. This blaming game complicate many issues and not help solve the basic problem. The need therefore is to deal comprehensively the issues of food adulteration that endanger the life of consumer and propagation of uniform modern lifestyle designs that limit consumer's freedom of choice.

Revisit the idea of modern progress

First, revisit the idea of modern progress and the concept of 'economic growth' that allows production and sale of anything and everything at anywhere and everywhere and its consumption by anybody and everybody at any place and any time. As is known, the idea of modern progress and level of economic growth are more and more defined in terms of high profit and high income to entrepreneurs, providing more wealth and discriminatory hi-fi lifestyles to few, higher revenue generation to government and more illusory employment to youth without much reference to genuine concerns for health of resident people or socio-economic capabilities of earthly systems. Remember, there are no good or bad products nor good or bad profit or good or bad income, employment or revenue though there are few

The Maggi type episodes are not happening only in India.





There is a need to stop celebrities from endorsing the products and services.

restrictions on production and distribution of certain products and services with limited technical cautions and alerts to consumer. The need, therefore, is to redefine ideas of progress and concepts of economic growth with conscious reference to all genuine geo-cultural-politico-socio-economic necessities of resident people and sustainability of their local resources.

Safeguard Consumer sovereignty

Second, safeguard consumer interests. Today's consumer Satisfaction is more a manipulated psychology that creates an illusion of healthy and happy life and endanger consumer's freedom by limiting choice to uniquely branded and advertised product and service. Additionally, the Companies need continuous profit for its long term existence and cannot basically rely on consumer's genuine needs or genuine satisfaction as these needs are mostly individualistic, geo-culturally dominated, uncertain and limited necessitating

companies to increase its business by influencing consumer demand so to sale products not only in more quantity but by introducing new products even by creating new needs. This is being done mostly by making lifestyle needs universal and uniform and by developing efficient technologies that can give economies of scale and ensure huge profits through better advertising and capture of world markets. More the large scale production, efficient can be technologies and better the advertising techniques that can manipulate consumer satisfaction psychology. Therefore, the need is to free consumer from the clutches of the companies and their products and help them become sovereign in their choices. For this, strengthening consumer rights and making dispute settlement mechanism favourable more to consumer is important. The priority is also to make companies not escape the liabilities and responsibilities on the plea that all 'terms and conditions' are printed on the packages and they are functioning within the government rules and permissions.

Stop advertisement influences

Third, control advertisement menace. Advertisement is becoming a matter of concern as more and more advertisements are tar-

geted on women and children endangering health by promoting modern lifestyle products. Modern innovations in communication technology and reach of media to each and every member including children has allowed companies to take products even from far off countries to Indian homes. The methodology and techniques of advertisements have also undergone changes. Now it is not simple advertisement displaying the product and giving information or giving more margin to sellers to influence consumer; this is now more of influencing consumer choice through manipulated research and studies, sponsored articles, lectures, organising workshops, programmes, events, exhibitions and even by incorporating relevant dialogues in TV serials and movies. Moreover, advertisements or such programmes rarely refer to the ingredients that may have adverse impact on human psychology and health. The need therefore is to make producer and seller more responsible towards their products and its impact and help consumer understand the dangers of blind purchases.

Stop celebrities from endorsing the products

Fourth, there is a need to stop celebrities from endorsing the products and services. Many celebrities including sports persons, actors and actresses are advertising the products under contract with the companies just to earn on their public image. Such advertisements should be treated as misuse of public image and violation of public responsibility. Their public image is not their own and is more a commitment and responsibility towards society. It is

also their moral obligation not to endorse food and modern lifestyle products as many found damaging health and environment. There may be a necessity in certain cases to ban celebrities from advertising and endorsing saleable product or service in any form.

Ensure maximum Governance

Fifth, maximum governance of food market is necessary as it endanger the life of people especially women and children and mislead people about happy and healthy lifestyles. It can safely be said that there is nothing that government is not knowing; some of it government officially permit and some is allowed by government staff. So maximum government is already there. There are laws and laws and agencies and agencies along with testing laboratories but still governance is lacking and many

products that harms the health and life of people do enter in the market and reach to consumer surpassing every of agency and every of law. There is a Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution at the top and local officials at the bottom that deal with consumer protection. There are national and state level acts like the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1952, The Legal Metrology Act, 2009, Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 and above all Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The ministries and departments also help regulate Packaged Commodities and Lay down specifications, standards and codes as also implement Standards of Weights and Measures. However,

minimum government is no guarantee of maximum governance. The need will be to simplify procedures, make producers and sellers and government officials more responsible, reduce corruption and empower agencies and consumer adequately by using modern technologies of communication.

Consumer need to be more responsible

Indian consumer should discreetly preserve right to make a choice and should not in any case allow companies to define and condition their healthy and happy life. The need is also to ensure that the products and services they purchase are really good. Lastly, the idea of happy and healthy family is linked more to the rightful choice of consumer and not to the packed and branded products of giant food companies. □□

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Entry of new drugs in India

A Saga of Human Experiments

Every new development in medical sciences has to undergo a careful series of clinical trials in human populations in before it is released in market for general use. There is no information on how in the distant past the Ayurvedic formulations and techniques were evolved but clinical trials of modern medicines are regulated in India by the office of the Drug Controller General of India (DGI).as provided under the Schedule Y in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945

The world history of clinical trials is full of unhappy incidences. Nazis conducted horrendous experiments on the prisoners of war and civilians of occupied territories who were purposely subjected to extreme cold to test performance of the army under such conditions. They were exposed to several poisonous gases as may happen on use of chemical weapons by the enemy. Their limbs were cut for checking efficiency of the performance of forces in combat. These unethical acts came to public knowledge soon after the world-war II was over. A Tribunal constituting three US Judges tried 20 doctors and 3 military officers for charges ranging from crimes against humanity, conducting human experiments with-out consent, committing mass murder, brutalities and tortures and also being member of a criminal organization. Seven of these were acquitted, 7 received death sentence and remaining were given imprisonment varying from 10 years to whole life. This is famously known as "Doctors Trials" or "Nuremberg Trials" The trial lasted from 14 December 1946 till 20 August 1947.

The irony of fate is that while the US was prosecuting the Germans in Nuremberg, the US Army physician John Cutler was spearheading the ill-famed syphilis trials in Guatemala with connivance of local health authorities. Soldiers, prisoners, prostitutes and mental patients were infected with syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases without their consent. Some healthy persons were directly infected by inoculation of the bacterium and some were made to visit sex workers with the disease. Some of victims were being treated with penicillin



The apprehension that due to stringent provisions regulating clinical research, India will greatly suffer and poor Indians will be deprived of new and modern treatments, is misconceived since most of the modern drugs thus developed would be under patent regime and hence would be beyond the reach of common public in India, explains Dr. B.B. Singh



while many were left untreated for the purpose of studying the progression of the disease. It is believed that about 1300 were included in this experiment. About 700 had received treatment whereas 600 received only placebo but the results were never published. These facts were accidentally discovered in 2005 by a medical historian Susan Reverby and made public on 1 October 2010 when the US President Barrack Obama apologized for this unethical human experiment in Guatemala and called it 'crime against humanity'. The White House release stated: *"This afternoon, President Obama spoke with President Alvaro Colom of Guatemala to express his deep regret regarding the study conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service in the 1940s on sexually transmitted disease inoculation and to extend an apology to all those affected."* US President Obama had also set-up a Commission of enquiry that submitted its report on 11 September 2011 rightly entitled '**Ethically Impossible**'

Still worst, the US had started even earlier in 1932 unethical human experiments on rural African-American males in Alabama that lasted till 1972 which is the ill-famed "Tuskegee Trials". Once again the experiment was to study the natural progression of syphilis in 600 poor share-croppers (211 whites and 399 blacks) who were given free medical care, meals and burial insurance. Some were already suffering from the disease and some were infected by inoculation without consent. Many participants were planned not to be cured although an effective treatment was already available at the relevant time. These trials were discontinued when Jean Heller report-



Many participants were planned not to be cured.

ed about it in 1972. The US President Bill Clinton apologized to the nation on 16th May 1997 in the following words: *"The United States government did something that was wrong—deeply, profoundly, morally wrong. It was an outrage to our commitment to integrity and equality for all our citizens... clearly racist"*.

In India, a WHO sponsored clinical study was initiated during November 1949 in Ghund a small village situated about 45 kilometers from Simla. The US Army doctor John Cutler was involved in this study as well. The study was supported by some doctors from the Himachal Pradesh Health Services. It is claimed that the study was directed to mass treatment of venereal diseases particularly syphilis in a population of about 1906 that was practically isolated since the place was accessible only on foot or on horses. Though the exact treatment protocol is not available, 1556 persons are believed to have been screened for presence of the disease and its treatment. It is difficult to comment whether the test population was informed about the purpose of the study and whether their consent was properly obtained for inclusion in the project. But it is significant to mention the circumstances that prevailed. It is documented that when the second survey was conducted 6 months later in April 1950, only

453 persons out of the initial 1556 reported to the team. Despite all attempts only 250 out of the 609 positively tested persons reported and the team met considerable resistance from the locals. One year later during the third survey in November 1950 the team found extreme resistance 'bordering hostility' from the local population and only 177 persons could be screened. No member of the team was allowed to examine the children born after the second survey. The team members ascribe this attitude of the locals to religious beliefs which may or may not be true. Unfortunately there are no records available at the offices of Himachal Pradesh health department to verify the facts as per the reply to an RTI inquiry made by the author. Perhaps there are no eye-witnesses now surviving to reveal the truth as per a personal inquiry made by the author on telephone with the chief of local Panchayat of Ghund.

It is not that attempts have not been made to streamline medical experiments on human subjects. Soon after the Nazi experiments on prisoners were exposed, guidelines for clinical research were prepared that are known as "Nuremberg Code-1947". In June 1964 the Helsinki Declaration was made by the World Medical Association that comprised of a set of ethical prin-

ciples for human experimentation. These principles have been regularly updated and revised. The latest is Helsinki Declaration Rev. VI of 2008. In addition, after the Tuskegee exposure the Belmont Report-1978 recommends an array of restrictions including formation of Institutional Review Board (IRB) to regulate the human experiments on scientific merits as well as ethical standards. Unfortunately,

closely monitored Phase-II trial. Once the results prove definitely positive the drug undergoes Phase-III multi-centric randomized trials with large number of patients. The results are then submitted to the office of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for marketing clearance. All drugs invented in India undergo all the three phases but for a drug invented abroad Phase-I trials are not al-

it is believed that 20 per cent of these patients are pushed below the poverty line even at such low cost healthcare. There are a large number of English speaking qualified clinicians available also in small towns where they manage their privately owned nursing homes or are working in poorly equipped State-run hospitals. A large proportion of these practitioners are gullible and greedy. They are willing to depart from the standard principles of General Clinical Practice and ignore the ICMR Guidelines for monetary gains. Stakeholders take advantage of this and induce them to take-up clinical trials according to their protocols. Over and above, the Indian drug regulatory agency has been poorly staffed to effectively monitor the regulatory compliance in such trials. While the clinical trials were required to be reviewed by the institutional review boards and ethics committees but their approval was not mandatory till 2005.

Under these circumstances India emerged as one of the most favoured countries for clinical trials by multinational drug companies. Numerous contract research organization (CROs) sprang-up in the metropolitan cities with their own IRBs to take-up clinical trials on behalf of pharma companies to be conducted in far away small towns and public hospitals. The data so generated were being used for marketing approvals by the regulators. The clinical trials industry in India reached almost US\$ 500 million during 2005 – 2010 and was expected to touch US\$ 2 billion.

It was a smooth-going till June 2011 when media reported unethical trials being conducted at Indore. It appears that during



***70 percent of
Indian
patients are
poor.***

ly, unethical human experiments had continued like the Tuskegee Trials despite the Nuremberg Code 1947 and The Helsinki Declaration 1964 that existed.

It cannot be denied that human experimentation is necessary for development of medical sciences. New diseases are appearing that have to be treated. New drugs are being invented with the hope for a better control of the diseases with lesser side-effects. These have to be tested on human patients before they are released in the market.

In India human trials are regulated by Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 in conformity with General Clinical Practices and the guidelines devised by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). In general, every new drug has to be first tested on healthy volunteers for toxicity under Phase-I trial. It is followed by testing the efficacy of the drug on a limited number of patients in a

lowed unless it be a drug specifically used in India. If a foreign invented new drug is to be marketed in India Phase – II and III trials are to be conducted but only after such trials have been already done in the inventing country or any other country. For all drugs marketed abroad Phase – III trials have to be compulsorily conducted again in India to test the efficacy of the drug in a genetically diverse population of the country. All clinical trials have to be necessarily approved by the institutional review boards and ethics committees before being initiated.

India is the second most populated country in the world with a huge number of patients of great genetic diversity suffering from all conceivable diseases. Almost 70 percent of Indian patients are poor and receive mostly free treatment in public hospitals in small towns and are required to pay only for tests and facilities. Despite this

2005-10, a total of 2365 patients were enrolled in clinical trials in five medical colleges of Madhya Pradesh. The MGM Medical College and its associated MY Hospital at Indore alone are believed to have enrolled 1521 patients out of which 1171 were children. Six doctors are reported to have received remuneration in the range of 40 and 56 lakhs rupees in their personal Bank accounts. For many trials the permission was received not from the institutional research boards but from IRB of CROs located in Ahmedabad or Pune. Peeved with this report the DGCI, in January 2012 issued show cause notices to 5 doctors of MGM Medical College Indore for conducting clinical trials on psychiatric patients without following the recommended procedure.

The 59th Parliamentary Select Committee was set-up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Brajesh Pathak M.P to investigate in detail the unethical practices in the field of healthcare including clinical trials. The Committee submitted its report to both the Houses of Parliament on 8 May 2012 and exposed the worrisome nexus existing between the pharma-industry and the top medical professionals in the country. It also pointed out the inadequacy of the Government regulatory machinery. Further, the Swasthya Adhikar Manch a NGO located in Indore, brought the matter to the notice of the Supreme Court of India in a PIL filed in February 2012. In the Petition it is pointed out that during 7 years from 2005 to 2012 there were 475 new drugs subjected to clinical trials. A total number of 57,303 persons were enrolled out of which only 39,022 completed the clinical

trials. About 11,972 of the subjects suffered Serious Adverse Effects and 2,644 deaths occurred. This was very alarming. The Petition also stated that 250 survivors of Bhopal Gas Tragedy were also included in clinical trials for which the Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre received Rs.100 lakhs. The Supreme Court rapped the Government for ignoring the recommendations of the 59th Parliamentary Select Committee.

Having received the criticism of the Supreme Court and equally damaging coverage in the media, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced on 6 May 2013 the formation of an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury to formulate policy, guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for approval of new drugs which submitted its recommendations in July 2013.

The DGCI woke up and issued several amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945. These are so cumbersome that it is becoming difficult for the sponsors as well as for the investigating clinicians. Currently, the sponsors and institutions are fully liable for injury and death related to the trial. The amendments specifically and unambiguously define what would constitute trial "related injury". The formula for compensation has been specified. It has now become mandatory that all trials be first approved by the institutional ethics committee and must also be registered with the regulatory authorities. The institutional ethics committees must be constituted strictly in accordance with the ICMR guidelines and must also be registered. The amendments call for extreme caution to be taken

while obtaining the consent of patients. They should be explained in simple language and made to understand the purpose of the study, the benefits they may receive and the risks they may encounter and the compensation they are entitled to in case of injury or death. To ascertain that it so done the consent-giving process must be video-graphed and consent form must be signed and attested by a witness. The principal investigator should not be involved in more than 3 projects so as to devote full attention to the projects.

Such stringent provisions are indeed cumbersome and time consuming. The clinical trials industry in India has nose-dived to the greatest displeasure of the pharmaceutical companies and investigators. Many believe that due such restrictions clinical research in India will greatly suffer and poor Indians will be deprived of new and modern treatments while the rich ones may get it in foreign countries. This is a misconceived apprehension since most of the modern drugs thus developed would be under patent regime and hence would be beyond the reach of common public in India. However, the amendments are only interim measures as The Drugs and Cosmetics Act (Bill) – 2103 and the draft Rules 2014 are pending in the Parliament. The pharma industry and research institutions involved in clinical trials are cautiously awaiting the out-come.

The author is a practicing lawyer and a retired bio-scientist formerly with the Department of Atomic Energy (BARC), Mumbai and United Nations (IAEA), Vienna. He is also a member of IRB/IEC of several medical research institutions. □□

Scientific & sustainable organic agricultural, livestock and forest production farming



Perspective

Organic land use under agricultural, livestock and forest production farming is scientific and eternally productive and reliable. The three organic land use patterns are mutually supplementary and reinforcing. Abuse and misuse of one hurts the others. Therefore, balanced mixture of agricultural, livestock and forest production farming is scientific, sustainable, economical and self reliant and as such should be invariably adopted.

Existing situation

Of late an illusory belief trivializing and despising organic agricultural, livestock and forest production farming has developed. Elite persons falsely think that organic farming is an option for unlettered and un-skilled persons. It is an un-sound and illusive myth to be set aside. On the contrary organic farming is noble and self respectful profession suited also to persons of scientific and research temperament. Therefore, scientists, technologists and other subject matter specialists may also adopt the calm, quiet and pollution free peaceful organic farming to pursue their research work without disturbance. There are many successful scientists and subject matter specialists who have preferred to work in such clean and quiet places.

Organic crop farming

Organic field crop farming under efficient micro catchment field rain water harvesting system with augmenting thrifty canal and ground water irrigation, where available, soil structure and natural perennial vegetation and organic manure providing and preserving non-incisive light animal driven or other improvised cultivation practice and activated photosynthesis and harnessing solar energy at grass root level is scientific, long time wholesome food production giving and low water consuming all summer and winter arid land crop growing and thus can ensure regional and national self sufficiency in wholesome food production. (Bithu 2014). It has also been seen that efficient improvised field micro catchment rain water harvesting system may provide three to five times more activated photosynthesis and also under sprinkler irrigation practice and under natural rainfall in pollution free areas. (Bithu 2014). Organic agricultural, livestock and forest production farming may provide sustainable wholesome food and self employment to about 600 million people against employment to about 200 million people under industrialization, non-organic farming, business and civil services by 2020.

Abusing Organic agricultural, livestock and forest production farming needs to be stopped as they are eternally productive and mutually supplementary,

Bhanwar Dan Bithu

Organic farming, with scientific management of land, soil, field harvested and thrifty canal and ground water irrigation and harnessing solar energy at grass root level, is eternally wholesome food producing. Non- organic land use under industrialization, inorganic mechanized farming and connected infrastructure development is un-wholesome decreasing food producing and long term soil fertility destroying. However, organic agricultural farming needs to be supplemented and assisted by appropriate mixture of livestock and forest production farming.

Livestock farming

Livestock production farming with indigenous species of cows and buffalos with migratory and non-repetitive multiple specie grazing supplements and strengthens organic field crop farming. Studies in arid Thar desert region have shown that organic indigenous seed field crop farming mixed with indigenous specie cattle farming is more profitable with higher benefit cost ratio and is long lasting. (Bithu 1993). Field experience and study have shown that milk giving indigenous specie cow keeping is more profitable, long term productive and socially acceptable than cattle keeping for meat. Cattle manure and perennial natural vegetation synthesized plant nutrients support organic field crop farming and crop fodder and grasses and shrubs and plants support livestock farming. They support each other, Any one's absence or stymieing adversely affects the other. Cattle-farming is organic matter and power economic. It provides organic matter to the soil, provides cheap animal power for non-incisive cultivation practice and animal



***Forest trees
bind and
reinforce the
soil in plain
areas.***

power for short distance goods carriage and travel simultaneously minimizing cruelty to animals and slaughter of animals. Organic livestock farming with indigenous specie cattle is also a noble profession suited to talented scientists and subject matter specialists as seen in Australia, Argentina and Israel. Organic agricultural and livestock farming are not only livelihood of un-lettered laymen. Scientists and other subject matter specialists can welcome such calm and quiet pollution free profession.

Forest production farming

Forest trees give not only house and house furniture wood, cattle fodder, fuel wood, wood for ships and railway coaches and forest foods but also cleaned air and life giving oxygen, temperature cooling and rainfall, wild life habitats and organic matter rich soil formation. Massive deforestation for timber, agricultural land and mining may give short term wealth at the cost of decreased oxygen production, reduced air cleaning, decreased rainfall and depleted wild life habitats and wild life. The long term environmental pollution and ecological, social and psychological adverse effects more than offset the wealth generation benefits of precious coal, ore and oil mining. The present day indoctrinated Maoist incited internal ter-

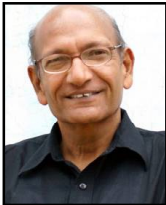
rorism is triggered by destabilization, exodus, and resentment of forest people deprived of their ancestral ever productive land who do not get proper compensation of the land including rehabilitation land and money, land surface and underground wealth compensation and social up-rooting and destabilization compensation. Old forests and new forestation are carbon depositors, oxygen producers and fertile soil makers. The forest trees bind and reinforce the soil in plain areas and bind and reinforce the rocky strata, decrease soil erosion, decrease soil and rock slips, mitigate earthquake vulnerability, increase rain water percolation and consequently decrease flood menace. Therefore, organic agricultural, livestock and forest production farming in proper combination are environmentally, ecologically and socially favorable, human health promoting and eternally productive and life supporting. The ever productive organic land is revered and should be bartered very sparingly. The non-farming organic land use for industrialization, inorganic farming and FDI capital intensive infrastructure development, like smart cities, bullet trains and nuclear power reactors in seismic and semi-seismic zones should be vouched by scientists and technologists before implementation. □□

Make in India, but carefully

Prime Minister Modi has been pushing his “Make in India” program aggressively. Some results are visible. At least five foreign smart phone manufacturers have expressed interest in making in India. These are Celkon, Foxconn, HTC, Lenovo and Sony. European airplane manufacturer Airbus has also shown interest but this may be mere hype because concrete details are not forthcoming. Problem is that the proposals are concentrated in the manufacturing space of smart phones. Valuable as this may be, it forms a small fraction of the global manufacturing market. My guess is that smart phones constitute barely 0.1 percent of the global manufacturing. Interest has not been expressed by large manufacturers of electronic and defense equipments, pharmaceuticals, chocolate and cosmetic manufacturers, steel and alloys, and the like.

Modi has made strenuous efforts to obtain advanced technologies during his foreign tours in the last year. He has persuaded Germany to help in strengthening the green energy corridor; and for transmission of green energy from wind and solar power into the grid system. The French will provide nuclear reactors for the Jaitapur project; and assist in building a high speed rail system between Delhi and Chandigarh. Canada will join hands with India to undertake development of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor for making nuclear power. These efforts of Modi to upgrade the technological status of India are wholly welcome. But these Government-to-Government initiatives are not likely to have large spillover effects in the private manufacturing space.

The more important danger is that Modi may unwittingly promote entry of not-so-beneficial Multinational Companies (MNCs) in his quest for promoting “Make in India” on the back of MNCs. Overwhelming evidence is available that FDI does not automatically lead to transfer of advanced technologies. A study by academicians from the University of Oxford concluded that entry of FDI indeed leads to spillover of technologies to the local economy but that such spillovers are not automatic. Specific policies are required for such beneficial effect to



Overwhelming evidence is available that FDI does not automatically lead to transfer of advanced technologies. The long term financial impact of FDI, on the other hand, is largely negative as MNCs make huge remittances to their headquarters, emphasizes Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala



happen. A study by United Nations concludes that most transfers of technology from MNCs happens within higher-income developing countries. Acquisition of technology by developing countries from MNCs is not automatic or easy. Another study by officials of the World Bank concludes that the beneficial impact of FDI can be improved by placing restrictions on FDI. There exist a large number of other studies that point in the same direction.

There is a consensus though that FDI leads to diffusion of some technologies through local purchases. MNCs do not transfer technologies related to their own production processes but they help their vendors to upgrade so that they can get good quality supplies at cheaper prices. For example, a MNC auto manufacturer in India may not help spread the high-end auto manufacturing technology. But it will need to procure certain parts, say, clutch plates, from vendors in India. It will help Indian suppliers of clutch plates to technologically upgrade so that they can supply these at a cheaper price. This beneficial impact of FDI, however, is limited to ancillary activities. The major finding of large number of studies is that technology transfer from MNCs to developing countries is not automatic. The developing countries need to put in place a carrot-and-stick policy for technology transfers to take place.

The long term financial impact of FDI, on the other hand, is largely negative. MNCs make huge remittances to their headquarters in the form of profit repatriations, royalty payments and purchase of raw materials. They often

buy raw materials or sell finished goods to their principals. They transfer large amounts of monies from the developing countries by tweaking the price at which these transfers take place. For example, Coca Cola India buys concentrate from Coca Cola USA. Say the actual price of the concentrate is Rs 100 per liter. It is possible that this purchase by Coca Cola India is undertaken at Rs 1000 per liter instead. That would lead to transfer of huge amounts of monies to their principal, a reduction of profits of Coca Cola India and the Government of India would be deprived of the Corporate Income Tax that would have been collected from the profits made by Coca Cola India. As a result the long term financial impact of FDI is negative.

Challenge before Modi is to strike a balance between these contradictory impacts of FDI. The positive aspects of FDI are transfer of technology, if it takes place. The negative aspect is remittances—both legal and illegal. The strategy, therefore, should be to ensure technology transfer and reduce outward payments. Here lies the catch. MNCs may not come at all if Modi imposes restrictions and pressurizes the MNCs to transfer technologies. On the other hand, MNCs may come but transfer of technologies may not take place if Modi does not impose restrictions. Either way we will not get the technologies.

There is a need to make an assessment of the Chinese experience from this standpoint. It is true that China has attracted MNCs in manufacturing in a big way and succeeded in lifting large numbers of its people out of poverty. However, this has come alongside an

exceptionally high domestic savings rate of around 45 percent. Compare this with India's savings rate of 25 to 30 percent. Also China has aggressively destroyed her environment, the consequence of which will be seen over the next decades. FDI has a positive impact on the host economy in the short run. Money comes in and factories are built creating demand for materials and labour. The tables turn in the long run, however. Now MNCs start remitting profits in a big way. More monies are sent in the form of royalty payments and transfer pricing. China seems to have entered this negative zone in the last few years. The present decline in the growth rates of China is mainly due to these consequences of its MNC based manufacturing strategy. We must, therefore, make a dispassionate study of the long run consequences of the China strategy instead of following that country blindly.

Modi must implement following policies to implement a sustainable Make in India policy. One, ban all FDI through the automatic route. Two, put in place a system of technological and social audit before his government grants approval to a FDI proposal. Three, a Public Hearing must be conducted before a FDI proposal is cleared; as is done for granting Environmental Clearance. Let the people who may be adversely affected by entry of a MNC be given an opportunity to voice their concerns before approval of a FDI proposal. Public Hearing will make it possible for Modi's officials to correctly assess the impact of a FDI proposal and take a decision that is truly beneficial for the country. □□

GPS sets nail Pak hand in Punjab terror attack

In what constitutes undeniable evidence of Pakistan's complicity in the terror attack at Dinanagar in Punjab on July 27, intelligence agencies have found that the GPS sets recovered from the slain terrorists were first fed with data on July 21 at Sargodha, a town 94 km from Faisalabad. The reports says that the examination of GPS sets also shows that the three terrorists were sent with instructions to kill the district magistrate and the superintendent of police of Gurdaspur, attack the Dinanagar police station and inflict mass casualties by blowing up passenger trains. Government sources describe the data retrieved from the GPS sets as "incontrovertible technical evidence of Pakistan's complicity", and expressed confidence that investigators would soon be able to determine the identity of the three attackers.

The clinching evidence of Pakistani hand in yet another terror atrocity has revived the school that there was little point in resuming engagement with Islamabad in view of its unwillingness or inability to rein in jihadi gangs. According to the report, the GPS data shows that the masterminds had set three targets for the terrorists. Security agencies see the July 21 feed in the GPS data as an indication that preparations for the attacks began soon after Ufa talks in early July. The aim, clearly, was to prepare the ground for Islamabad to wriggle out of the statement which sections within Pakistan believe is lopsided in India's favour. The feeling within Pakistan, experts say, is that inclusion of issues such as stabilization of the LoC, expediting 26/11 trial, providing voice sample of Mumbai attack accused and no mention of Kashmir has tilted the Ufa statement in favour of India. The pressure on the Sharif government to step back and not engage until India had acquiesced to a format which was favourable to Pakistan and clearly mentioned J&K began before the ink on the agreement had dried, the report said. □

'Potable' water found contaminated

Quality of potable water in at least 66,761 habitats across the States has been found to be contaminated by either one or more chemicals like arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity and nitrate, threatening the health of over 3 crore people living in these pockets, as per the latest Government data. With 22,254 contaminated drinking water habitats, Rajasthan tops the list followed by West Bengal (11,429) and Assam (8,977).

In Rajasthan, a total 89,75,350 people face health threat due to chemically contaminated water while health of as many as 97,26,690 locals is in peril in West Bengal.

Similarly, in Assam 33,50,893 people face health threat due to toxic water, according to the statistics available from the Union Water and Sanitation Ministry. Arsenic contamination has been reported widely across northern Indian states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh with a total 1800 pockets in the country found to have water laced with the metal. Similarly, 12727 habitats across the states have been hit by fluoride. Heavy metals is through industrial waste dumped untreated into water-systems while nitrates is due to excessive and prolonged use of fertilisers. As per the statistics, 15617 habitats across the States have gone saline. But what is most worrying is that if such water is not treated before consumption, it might cause var-

ious health complications including cancer."

Reliance-Power moves court

Anil Ambani's Reliance Power and its wholly-owned subsidiary Sasan Power has moved the Delhi high court against the coal ministry's decision to cancel allocation of one of the three coal blocks attached to the company's 4,000MW power project in Madhya Pradesh. The company filed a petition challenging the ministry's May 7 notification cancelling allocation and withdrawing permission to supply surplus coal of up to 9 million tonne a year from the three mines attached to Sasan — Moher, Moher-Amlohri extension besides Chhatrasal — to a power plant of Chitrangi Power Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of R-Power.

The Chhatrasal coal block was allotted to Sasan Power Ltd in 2006 and the company said the Supreme Court's Coalgate judgement did not cancel allocation of blocks for the Sasan power project. But the government had cancelled the block in view of the Supreme Court's judgements of August 24, 2014, and September 25, 2014, by which allocations of all 214 coal blocks were cancelled. RPower had in March this year said that its Sasan project has been fully commissioned. Sasan project is an integrated power plant-cum-coal mining project at a single location, involving an investment of over Rs 27,000 crore, the company has said.

■ Bangladesh, India exchange land in historic deal ■

Bangladesh and India prepared to swap tiny areas of land, ending one of the world's most intractable border disputes that have kept thousands of people in stateless limbo for nearly 70 years. Officials of two nations will hoist their respective national flags in 162 enclaves - 111 in Bangladesh and 51 in India. Following the flag hoisting, the enclaves - pockets of one country's territory surrounded by the other - will cease to exist and more than 50,000 people who have been living there can now access citizenship benefits such as schools, power and healthcare that they have lacked since 1947.

The enclaves date back to ownership arrangements made centuries ago between local princes. The parcels of land survived partition of the subcontinent in 1947 after British rule and Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence with Pakistan. Bangladesh endorsed a deal with India in 1974 in a bid to dissolve the pockets, but India only signed a final agreement in June when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Dhaka. □

FSSAI rejects product approval

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has rejected product approval applications of Tata Starbucks, Kellogg and McCain due to lack of sufficient supporting documents for safety assessment, the Rajya Sabha was informed. While 34 products of Tata Starbucks have been rejected which included honey vanilla flavoured syrup, sea salt and red bean sauce, two products of Kelloggs including Kellogg's special K Red Berries and Kellogg's special K Oats and Honey have been rejected.

"The FSSAI has rejected product approval applications of Tata Starbucks, Kellogg and McCain due to lack of sufficient supporting documents for safety/risk assessment," Minister of State for Health Shri-pad Naik said. The only product of McCain Foods India which was rejected was McCain Battered Pepper and Cheese Bites.

The Minister said that the primary responsibility of FSSAI is to lay down science based food standards, make regulations, regulate imports and undertake coordination with states and UTs on food safety. The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act 2006 largely rests with states and Union Territories.

Millennium anniversary of Chola King

The HRD Ministry has asked schools and colleges to organise programmes to celebrate the millennium anniversary of Rajendra Chola I so that children of the 'new generation' are inspired by the 'rich legacy of ancient India' and about the 'great King of Chola empire.' The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has already communicated to its schools to organise programmes during the co-curricular activity period and in assembly.

Crowned in 1014 CE, King Rajendra I extended his rule not only from the banks of river Ganga to the whole of Southern India but also up to Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, Maldives, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Under his reign, trade, commerce, art, culture, architecture and sculpture flourished in the entire region. Rajendra is also credited with establishing a university for Vedic studies at Ennayiram in Tamil Nadu.

Rs 10 coins to mark Yoga Day

"The Reserve Bank of India will shortly put into circulation Rs10 coins to commemorate the International Day of Yoga which the Government of India has minted," RBI said in a release. The obverse side of the coins will bear Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with legend Satyamev Jayate inscribed below, flanked on the left periphery with the word Bharat in Devnagri script. While, on the right periphery it will be flanked with the word 'INDIA' in English. "It also bears the Rupee symbol and denominational value '10' in the international numerals below the Lion Capitol," RBI said.

On the reverse, the coin will bear the logo of 'International Day of Yoga', with inscription 'Saman-jasya avam Shanti ke Liye Yog' in Devnagri script and 'YOGA FOR HARMONY AND PEACE' around the logo and design. The date '21 JUNE' will at the bottom of the logo. The inscription 'Antarrashtriya Yog Divas' in Devnagri script on left periphery and 'INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA' in English on the right periphery would be written on this side of the coin, RBI said. "These coins are legal tender as provided in The Coinage Act 2011. The existing coins in this denomination will also continue to be legal tender," RBI said. □□

■ Pakistani terror group active on Myanmar-Bangladesh border ■

Pakistan's Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET) and two of its front groups are active on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and out to radicalise the Rohingya Muslims to use them for trouble-making in eastern part of the sub-continent, intelligence sources say. Many Rohingyas have been picked up from relief camps by them and taken to Pakistan for training in use of weapons and sabotage, Western and Indian intelligence sources say. They say that the LET through its front, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JUD) and Fala-I-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), is 'extremely active' among the Rohingyas and other Muslims in Myanmar under cover of relief and rehabilitation. They say Myanmar, Bangladesh and India's eastern states may all face a 'spurt' in Islamist radical terrorism unless the LET and its fronts were thwarted in good time.

Indian intelligence officials say they have taken the Western warnings 'rather seriously'. The LET has been operating through the JUD which set up the FIF as a charitable organisation. FIF functionaries like its vice-chairman Shahid Mehmood and Sindh spokesperson Nadeem Awan have been regularly visiting the Bangladesh-Myanmar border region to assess the condition of the Rohingyas. □

MH-370 Wreckage found

Wreckage washed up on a remote Indian Ocean island is "very likely from a Boeing 777", the same model as MH370 that mysteriously vanished over a year ago with 239 people, including five Indians on board, and will be sent to France to determine whether it is from the same plane. "Initial reports suggest that the debris is very likely to be from a Boeing 777, but we need to verify whether it is from flight MH370," Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak wrote on his Facebook page. Malaysia's Deputy Transport Minister Abdul Aziz Kaprawi earlier said it was "almost certain" that the wreckage was from a Boeing 777 aircraft. The statements come a day after members of a local clean-up association found a 2.7-metres long and 0.9-metre wide flaperon, a wing component, on the French island of La Reunion off the east coast of Africa. Part of a bag with closed zip was found near the debris today, fuelling speculation it may be from the ill-fated Boeing 777-200 of Malaysia Airlines that went off radars on March 8, 2014, one hour into the flight to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. Australia, that is leading the search for the plane in a remote patch of the Indian Ocean far off the country's west coast, is treating this as a "major lead".

Omar no more, says Taliban

The Afghan Taliban have released a statement purportedly from the family of Mullah Omar saying he has died of an unspecified illness. Meanwhile, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, a top Afghan Taliban leader, who backed the peace process and a former Aviation Minister in the pre-2001 Taliban regime, has been appointed as the new chief of the insurgent group.

The statement, emailed to The Associated Press on Thursday, didn't say when he died. It followed an announcement from the Kabul Government the day before. Senior Taliban figures have also said that Mullah Omar died. The statement says it's being issued in the name of Mullah Omar's brother, Mullah Abdul Manan, and his son, Mohammad Yaqub.

Bond program to fund infrastructure

Agricultural Development Bank of China, one of China's main policy lenders, and other development banks will issue over 1 trillion yuan (\$161 billion) of new bonds in coming years to fund lending for infrastructure projects, three people with direct knowledge of the plans told Reuters. The bonds will be issued in multiple tranches, the first as soon as roughly a month from now, and will receive policy support from the central bank and other policymakers to ensure adequate demand, the sources said. The bonds' tenors will likely be of 10 years or longer, they said.

Pearson in talks to sell 'The Economist'

The Financial Times reports that its parent company, Pearson PLC, is in talks to sell its 50 per cent stake in the Economist magazine. The report says the talks involve other shareholders in the Economist Group. The FT said its report is based on people familiar with the negotiations. It did not indicate a sale is imminent. Pearson is in the process of selling the FT Group, including the newspaper, to the Nikkei Group of Japan. The company has said it wants to focus on its education business. Pearson acquired its stake in the Economist in 1957 as part of its acquisition of the FT. The paper says a sale of the Pearson

FDI in Arab states drops 8% in 2014

Foreign direct investment into Arab states dropped 8.0 per cent last year with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia accounting for close to half the total fall, a report said. Arab states attracted FDI worth \$43.9 billion (40 billion euros) in 2014 compared with \$47.5 billion the previous year, the Kuwait-based Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corp said in its report. The figure is still way below the \$66.2 billion attracted in 2010 before the start of the Arab Spring uprisings in several countries. UAE topped the list of losses with \$10.1 billion — 23 per cent of the regional total — followed by Saudi Arabia with \$8 billion, or 18.3 per cent. Egypt came third with \$4.8 billion. The report covered 20 out of the 22 Arab League states, excluding war-torn Syria and tiny Comoros. FDI dropped in 15 of them.

Outflows of Arab investments into other countries dropped 10 per cent to \$33.4 billion, with Kuwait topping the list with \$13 billion or 39.2 per cent of the total, the report said. □

stake would have to be approved by the Economist Group trustees.

Law to force feed prisoners

The Israeli Parliament has approved a Law allowing prisoners on hunger strike to be force fed if their life is in danger or they face chronic health problems, a spokesman said. The Law, which seeks to prevent imprisoned Palestinian militants from pressuring Israel by refusing food, was initially approved by Cabinet in June 2014 at the height of a mass hunger strike of Palestinian prisoners, during which dozens were hospitalised. While the Law does not specifically mention Palestinians, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan, said.

New uniforms for PLA Navy & Air Force

The ground crew of the navy aviation and air force of the PLA will put on new working uniforms this year, according to sources from the PLA General Logistics Department (GLD) on July 24, 2015.

The color of the new working uniforms for both the navy aviation and the air force ground crew are dark blue. The uniforms are composed of the summer uniforms, spring and autumn uniforms, winter uniforms and insignias with 19 varieties.

The summer uniforms and the spring and autumn uniforms include a baseball cap, a pair of sneaker-style shoes, a short jacket and pants with widened knees. The winter uniforms include a pullover knit cap, a pair of winter boots, a short overcoat with a detachable lining and high waist windproof pants.

The dry-fit polyester-cotton blended cloth is used to make the summer uniforms. The anti-static and hardwearing cotton canvas is chosen to make the spring and autumn uniforms. As for the winter uniforms, the

ultra-thin flake material is used to make the coat and the cloth of the pants is coated with windproof material to keep warm. Three kinds of removable insignias, i.e. the chest badges for aircraft types, chest badges showing aviation maintenance professional grades and the armbands for aviation maintenance professional posts, have also been introduced for the first time.

The ground crew will receive their new winter working uniforms in December this year, the summer, spring and autumn working uniforms will be distributed in May, 2016.

Britain's global clout will crumble

Exiting from the European Union will corrode Britain's global clout, according to US president Barack Obama. With the debate reaching boiling pitch on whether UK should continue to remain within the EU, president Obama has said that closest allies Britain must stay in the EU to wield more influence and strengthen transatlantic union. Obama warned that Britain's global clout will fall and it will lose influence if it leaves the EU.

British PM David Cameron plans to hold a historic referendum at the end of 2017 to allow UK to vote on whether it wants to stay in the EU. President Obama told the BBC in an interview Britain's membership in the 28-nation bloc helps US have more faith in its trans-Atlantic alliances. Obama said "We want to make sure that the United Kingdom continues to have that influence". Britain recently set out the rules for the EU referendum. Citizens from most EU countries living in the UK will not get a vote in the referendum on Europe. Around 45.3 million people will be eligible to take part in the referendum to decide whether Britain should remain in the European Union. □□

Integrated farming in Nigeria

The Indian high commission in Nigeria has urged the government to implement integrated farming and drip irrigation techniques used in India. During a forum organised by state-run News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Indian High Commissioner Ajampur Ghanashyam urged the Nigerian authorities to introduce new techniques to improve dry season farming in the country. "Agriculture is one area in which there is tremendous potential," Ghanashyam said.

"When there is an emerging need, you have to innovate. Today, in some northern states (of India), we are doing drip irrigation because water is a problem in those states," he added, suggesting adoption of drip irrigation in Nigeria's northern regions that face issues with sufficient water supply for agriculture. The integrated system of farming makes it possible for the farmer to have vegetables, fruits and poultry to sell even if his crops fail, he said.

"Nigeria, with its available land, can feed itself, feed the rest of Africa and still have surplus to export to China and India," Ghanashyam said. According to the high commission, India is currently working closely with some northern states in Nigeria to promote drip irrigation, although availability of water is a challenge.

China's Maritime Silk Road

Chinese President Xi Jinping's dream international connectivity project to revive the "Silk Routes" was designed by Beijing in its "national interest" without consulting others, reports Charu Sudan Kasturi in The Telegraph on July 20. Quoting Indian foreign secretary S. Jaishankar the report said that this was the first detailed public comments by New Delhi on the initiative signalling sharp reservations. Over 50 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe have either committed themselves to or indicated support for what is known as the One Belt One Road (Obor) initiative - a project compared by many analysts to America's Marshall Plan for Europe's reconstruction after the Second World War.

According to the report, the Narendra Modi government had so far remained ambiguous on the project under which China is estimated to spend \$1.6 trillion — the size of Canada's economy, and the single biggest ever foreign investment initiative - on a cross-continent network of ports, railroads and highways. Jaishankar was quoted to have responded to a question after an address he delivered in Singapore at the International Institute of Strategic Studies as "Where we are

concerned, this is a national Chinese initiative. The Chinese devised it, created a blueprint. It wasn't an international initiative they discussed with the whole world, with countries that are interested or affected by it."

Poultry case in WTO

Government is looking at ways to implement the WTO order that has ruled that the ban imposed by India on imports of America's poultry products was inconsistent. "We are in consultation with the ministry of agriculture so that we can abide by our WTO obligations (in the poultry case)," commerce secretary Rajeev Kher told reporters. On June 4, India had lost a case at WTO as the body ruled that the Indian ban on import of poultry meat, eggs and live pigs from the US was "inconsistent" with the international norms. India has 12-18 months to implement this ruling, after which the US can begin exports of these products to India. India is a big market for the US, which is one of the world's largest exporters of chicken meat.

India's broiler meat consumption has been consistently increasing and is estimated to have touched 3.72 million tonnes in 2014, from 3.45 million tonnes in 2013. India and the US are also contesting a dispute in the WTO on solar issue. The US had filed a complaint against India's domestic content requirements under its solar power programme.

Panels established in disputes

The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) established two panels on 20 July to examine disputes filed by Russia and China against the European Union. Russia made its second request for the establishment of a panel to examine the EU's "Third Energy Package" which, in its view, unjustifiably restricts imports of natural gas originating in Russia and discriminates against Russian natural gas pipeline transport services and service suppliers. The EU reiterated its view that Russia's panel request expands manifestly the scope of the dispute.

China made its second request to the DSB to establish a panel to examine this dispute concerning the EU's modification of its tariff concessions on certain poultry meat products. China hoped that, through the dispute settlement proceeding, the EU would adjust its measures and thereby address China's concerns. The EU said that its measures were in conformity with the WTO agreements and that it was ready to defend them before a panel. The DSB established a panel to examine this dispute. □□