

Swadeshi

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**The world should learn
Poverty alleviation from India**



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

मुख्यमंत्री सीखो-कमाओ योजना

शिवराज सरकार की अनुपम सौगात सीखना-कमाना अब होगा साथ-साथ

- 46 क्षेत्रों के 800 से अधिक पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रशिक्षण, इनमें विनिर्माण, इंजीनियरिंग, इलेक्ट्रिकल, मैकेनिकल, सिविल, प्रबंधन, मार्केटिंग, होटल मैनेजमेंट, टूरिज्म, ट्रेवल, अस्पताल, रेल्वे, आईटी, साफ्टवेयर डेवलपमेंट, बैंकिंग, बीमा, लेखा, चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट, मीडिया, कला, कानूनी, विधि सेवाएं व अन्य सेवा क्षेत्र शामिल।
- 18 से 29 वर्ष के 10वीं-12वीं पास, आईटीआई, स्नातक व स्नातकोत्तर युवा पात्र।
- प्रशिक्षण के दौरान 8 से 10 हजार रुपये तक स्टाइपेंड।
- 15 जून से पंजीयन एवं 15 जुलाई से प्लेसमेंट।
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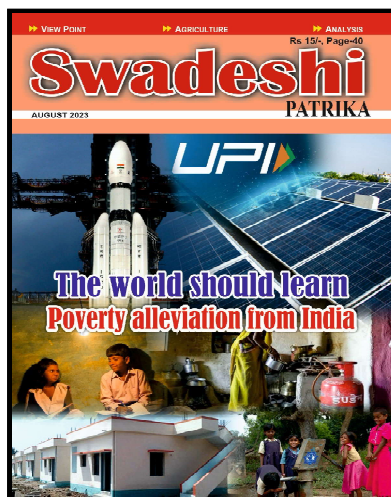


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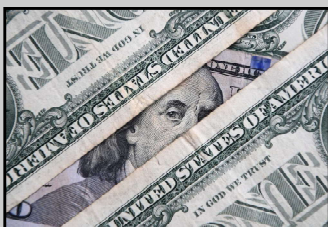
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UPI (Unified Payments Interface)

UPI is a real-time payment channel, introduced in April 2016 by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). It is a mobile-first platform. Customers can transact using their existing bank accounts. Any bank account can be added for transactions. It provides a 2-factor authentication with the mobile device itself acting as 1st-factor and the user UPI Pin as 2nd-factor authentication. It provides peer-to-peer (P2P) as well as person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. It also allows Pay & Collect transactions, recurring transactions and much more. One main advantage of UPI over IMPS and NEFT is that one does not have to add a beneficiary for UPI. The payment can be sent or received using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) or a QR code. VPA is provided by Payment Service Providers (PSPs). PSP entities can be "Bank entity" like SBI YONO or "Third-party Tech Providers" like BHIM, PhonePe. One account can be mapped to multiple PSP handles i.e.; the customer can register the same account across multiple UPI apps. Also, one PSP can tieup with multiple banks for the issuance of PSP handles. For example, BHIM partnered with over 300 public, private and cooperative banks to send or receive money.

UPI transactions have seen exponential growth, with the UPI transactions projected to grow from 10300 crores in 2022-23 to 41100 crores in 2026-27 i.e., over 100 crores daily transactions by 2026-27. This will further grow with the international adaptation of UPI. Currently, Bhutan, Singapore, UAE, Nepal, France and Sri Lanka have accepted India's UPI. This will facilitate real-time, secure and seamless cross-border financial transactions.

— Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

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Quote-Unquote



Education in the mother tongue is initiating a new form of justice for the students in India. It is a significant step towards social justice.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



Artificial Intelligence promises an enormous promise of both risks to our society and our economy and our national security, but also incredible opportunities.

Joe Biden, President, USA



The handloom sector of India is a symbol of our rich and diverse cultural heritage across the world. To give a new identity to this Indian art once again, the government started celebrating Handloom Day in the country.

Amit Shah, Home Minister, Bharat



India has given a lesson to the world that multidimensional poverty can be eradicated with strong political will and necessary efforts.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

Internationalization of UPI: A game changer

India's payment platform UPI was launched in Paris during the Prime Minister's visit to France. This looks like a small beginning, but it is indicative of India's emerging identity in the global payment systems. UPI was launched in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an Indian government agency. It is an instant digital payment system through which money is exchanged between different banks. The great thing is that it is based on the Indian rupee. In this regard, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said in his statement in France that now Indians can make payments easily, even from the Eiffel Tower of France. A new feature has been added to UPI, called UPI International, for use of UPI by international payers. Due to which payment can be made from Indian Bank accounts to foreign banks, with the help of QR code. UPI payments were already possible in Bhutan, Nepal, Singapore, UAE and Mauritius, and now France has joined the list.

Significantly, in the year 2022, a total of Rs 149.5 lakh crore worth of online transactions took place in the country. In these transactions, transactions worth Rs 126 lakh crore were done only through UPI. A total of about 88 billion online transactions were recorded in the country last year. According to a report by Price Waterhouse Cooper, the number of online payments could reach one billion per day by 2026-27. More importantly, India accounts for more than 40 percent of all online transactions in the world. The great thing is that prior to the recent levy of charges on wallet payments above Rs 2000, online transactions in India have been completely free. Internationalization of UPI is a major priority for NPCI. In 2022, NPCI announced that it would coordinate with banks and payment companies in several countries to enable UPI payments in those markets. Since then UPI has been launched in many countries and preparation is going on in many other countries. Users will be able to make and receive payments in a more convenient and secure manner at locations other than their own. Merchants will be able to reach out to a wider customer base and accept payments from Indian customers. UPI is a convenient as well as a secure payment system. In today's era of cybercrimes it is also a secure payment system that uses two-factor authentication to protect users' accounts. So we see that even with such a large number of transactions, the frauds are minimal. Currently the cost of international payments is very high. Internationalization of UPI will also help in reducing the cost of cross border payments.

It is noteworthy that the campaign to globalize UPI has gained momentum after the sudden disruption of the European system 'SWIFT' in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war last year. The US had abruptly blocked Russia from receiving payments through SWIFT, the largest global payment network. There was a time when Western countries ruled the financial world, they controlled not only international finance, but also payment systems. SWIFT had a monopoly in global payments. Every now and then the western countries used to threaten the world that if any country does not follow what they say, they will ban that country from receiving payments through SWIFT. Their restrictions usually mean blocking international payments via SWIFT. Now that in the wake of the sanctions imposed on Russia by the European Union following the Russia-Ukraine war, with India's efforts to promote settlement of international trade in Indian rupees, several other regional blocs are also promoting trade in their members' respective home currencies, it's now giving fitting reply to hegemony of the West in payment systems. This is also giving impetus to the process of de-dollarization in the world. In less than a year, after the Reserve Bank allowed the rupee in international payments, 19 countries have opened Vostro accounts by their banks to accept rupee payments. In this whole scenario, India's effort to promote RuPay and UPI for international settlement and facilitate settlement of trades in Rupee by allowing foreign banks to open Vostro accounts in Indian banks, could prove to be a game changer in international payment systems. With the proven success of UPI domestically and its growing acceptance internationally, India could become a global leader in international payment systems.

The world should learn poverty alleviation from India

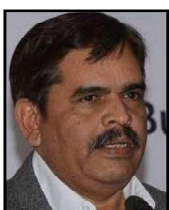
Recently, in the Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023 Report published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), India has been highly praised that it has performed better than other countries in poverty alleviation. In 2015, the first of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 1, expected the world to end all forms of poverty by 2030. The report of the year 2023 has come almost in the middle of the 15 years set for this goal, in which satisfaction has been expressed that significant progress has been made towards this goal globally.

What is multidimensional poverty?

Internationally, the UNDP uses a definition of poverty called multidimensional poverty. This definition is same for all the countries. Due to the different definitions of poverty used by the governments of different countries in the world, an uniform assessment of poverty is not possible and due to this, comparison between different countries of the world also becomes difficult.

UNDP's measurement of multidimensional poverty includes a number of deprivation elements, which are common to all countries. It includes nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing and assets. It is worth noting that based on the availability of data in different countries, multidimensional poverty has been estimated in different years. Therefore, a comparative study of poverty in different countries in any one year is not possible with UNDP data. The preliminary data available with UNDP for different countries starts from 2005-06 till 2019-21. Therefore, to find out how much and when the poverty has reduced comparatively in the countries of the world during a certain period, is not possible from the data published in the report. In the context of India, the UNDP data details three years, 2005-06, 2015-16 and 2019-21. According to this data, in India in the year 2005-06, 55.1 percent of the population i.e. 645 million people were suffering from multidimensional poverty. This figure reached 27.7 percent i.e. 370 million people in 2015-16 after 10 years. During these 10 years, the rate of decrease in the percentage of poverty was 6.6 percent annually. But in the period from 2015-16 to 2019-21, proportion of poor suffering from multidimensional poverty, declined to only 16.4 percent of the total population; and the total number of poor declined to only 23 crore. That is, in just 5 years, 14 crore people moved out of poverty, as pace of poverty reduction accelerated to more than 10 percent annually. It is important to highlight that between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the number of poor has declined by 38 percent in just 5 years, including more than one year of worst pandemic. In such a situation, it would be necessary to understand that what happened so special during this period, that poverty reduction accelerated unprecedentedly, which made UNDP to praise India.

This is good news for India, but it is also an important news and lesson for the world. Since UNDP has first published the figures of multidimensional pov-



This is a lesson for the world that Multidimensional poverty can also be removed, for that political will and required efforts are needed.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

erty, though, they are for different years, out of 150.8 crore poor people in 81 countries (about which the agency has published data) assessed by UNDP, 64.5 crore people were from India. That is, more than 42.8 percent of the poor of these 81 countries lived in India. But the latest figures of UNDP show that the total

number of poor in these 81 countries of the world has now reduced to 974 million, but the notable and interesting fact about this is that the contribution of this number from India is only 230 million. That is, now only 23.7 percent of the poor people of these 81 countries come from India. This also means that the contribution of some other countries in number of people under multidimensional poverty has already increased. Not only this, while the combined Multidimensional Poverty Index of 81 countries has come down from 0.275 to 0.203 now, India's index has come down from 0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.122 in 2015-16 and just 0.069 in 2019-21, which is a great achievement. It is a matter of pride for India and cause of concern for the world. The world needs to take a lesson from this that it should also expedite efforts to remove multidimensional poverty on the model of India.

Although some of the benefits of consistent growth in India continued to reach the poor, the rate of poverty reduction has generally been lower in comparison to the rate of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The reason for this is that the GDP and per capita income in the country definitely increased, but the unequal-



ities in the distribution of income and wealth also widened alongside. This means that the growth had benefited rich more than the the poor. For this reason, from the point of view of various dimensions of poverty, the condition of the poor did not improve on expected lines in the past.

What is India's (say Narendra Modi) model

The Narendra Modi government had a special focus on the determinants of multidimensional poverty. Today the child mortality rate in India has come down to just 1.5 per cent, which was 2.2 per cent in 2015-16. This is a living proof of better health of Indian children, than before. There is also a huge improvement in nutrition and the percentage of malnourished children, which has come down from 44.3 per cent in 2005-06 to 21.1 per cent in 2015-16 and to only 11.8% in 2019-21. Talking about housing, about 3 crore houses have been built so far in the last 8 years, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, both urban and rural, on which assistance of Rs 5 lakh crore (approximately \$60 billion) has been given by the Central Government. Due to Corona, the target of pucca housing for all was not met on time, but by now hardly

a few million people are left who do not have a pucca house. According to UNDP, a total of 23.5 percent of the population was deprived of pucca and comfortable houses in the year 2015-16 and only 13.6 percent in 2019-21.

Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (Piped Water to All Homes), another ambi-

tious scheme of the Narendra Modi government, has worked swiftly and now according to UNDP only 2.7 per cent of the population was deprived of safe drinking water in 2019-21. Talking about sanitation, 11 crore toilets have been constructed in the last 8 years. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 9.59 crore gas connections have been given till March 2023 to poor women, and by March 2023, there were a total of 31.26 crore LPG gas connections in the country. It is believed that there is a very small percentage of our population left who do not have access to clean cooking fuel in the form of a LPG gas connection. Various efforts of the government in the context of hunger and nutrition are also seen to be bearing fruit and due to provision of free ration to 80 crore people during the Corona period, the possibility of starvation for the poorest of the poor has been reduced to zero. Today, electricity has reached even the remotest villages in the country and the government claims that 100 percent of the villages in the country have been electrified.

This is a lesson for the world. Multidimensional poverty can also be removed, for that political will and required efforts are needed.□□

Alternative Economic Model and The Third Way



Aggrieved with the acute limitations of the Newtonian economic model, Karl Marx prescribed the alternative economic model of Communism which was followed for some period by China and Soviet Russia and today we find communism has failed and somehow the world is following a mixed path of capitalism and socialism.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal

Today when our Country, Bharat is celebrating its 75th year of its political independence, our Prime Minister has thought of an idea of Bharat@2047 and to make India a developed country in the next 25 years. Basically this is a thought for resurrection and resurgence and re-emerging of Bharat as the most powerful economy the position which it held for centuries until the 17th century. It was only because of the British exploitation and looting of our precious economic resources and imposition of the Newtonian Economic Model that today. We are passing through the process of challenges of unemployment and poverty in the country. Therefore there is a need for introspection and self-analysis of our domestic strength based on our natural and Human Resources without succumbing to the western powers for foreign investment and foreign technology. Bharat has enough intellectual resources and the energetic youth to regain our glory. Even today, we are self sufficient in food grains and dairy products. Our space research programs are of world standard which is evident from the fact that We are launching satellites for many other countries successfully. We are the fastest growing country in the world today and the fifth largest economy on nominal value and the third largest on purchasing power parity after China and USA.

However in the pursuit of becoming self-reliant and to regain our dignified economic status with zero poverty and zero unemployment, we will have to look for the broader framework of the nuances of the alternative “Third Way” which is quite different from the Newtonian Economic Model which has so far failed to achieve the sustainable economic development in any country around the world. The whole global community is looking towards Bharat, particularly after Covid-19, when we developed our indigenous vaccines and also supplied it to various other countries to save life of millions of people.

The whole world is suffering today from the problem of unemployment, poverty, inequality and the vagaries of climate change. The world is also suffering from the problems of geo-politics and terrorism. There are emerging challenges of artificial intelligence, energy security and several health related issues. There are contradictions in the present financial architecture which has allowed US hegemony with its Dollar diplomacy. It is very ridiculous to know that in the past all the countries which have printed Fiat money have suffered from hyper inflation but surprisingly today US is immune. The magnitude of 3.5 trillion US Dollar printed by US Fed Reserve helped it to reduce its inflation, its interest rate and the US dollar gained in value as compared to the currencies of the rest of the World. It is only recently that due to Russia-Ukraine war that US suffered from inflation and was forced to increase the Fed Rate but still the US economy is moving upward consistently except few jolts. In normal circumstances if it was a case of any other country which has the debt burden of such a huge magnitude, it would have been declared bankrupt. The international credit rating agencies would have downgraded the risk perception but on the other hand US government can use its power of economic sanctions against any country at its volition.

Therefore it is necessary to bring a change in the economic model which is being followed since the past 3-4 centuries in order to achieve the long term solution to the aforesaid critical problems. In order to do it, we need to understand the meaning and the fallacies of the various facets of the neo-liberal capitalism or the open market economic model. The Newtonian model speaks about five basic assumptions.

1. Market Equilibrium - It presupposes that markets are self-regulated and the prices adjust automatically with the quantities on the principles of demand and supply. We have seen that this assumption does not work and market intervention is necessary by various regulatory authorities around the world in every country.

2. Invisible Hands- This assumption presupposes that the individuals feel motivated in the pursuit of making profits and for wealth creation. This may be partially true but this requires lot of Entrepreneur Development program and skill development and infrastructure support which the present Government is trying to achieve. Start-up India initiative is part of the drive for giving a fillip to innovation and Entrepreneur skill of the young Indians.

3. Law of supply and demand.

4. Say's Law- Supply creates its own demand - Supply side economic policy which was started by Reaganomics and Thatcherism have created huge debt burden and also resulted into BOP crisis in India due to blind following of the same during Rajiv Gandhi regime.

5. Laissez-Faire: Basically it means no interference by the Government in business and self regu-

lation is best for optimisation of the economic resources. The Government should confine its role for law and Order and for national security for defence and home affairs. This approach has led to massive privatisation and the process is still being followed. However for growth with social justice and for a fair competition it is essential for the Government to control the public utility services and the strategic sectors for larger public interest.

We have seen that the aforesaid assumptions have led to several economic and social problems of environment, inequality and social unrest and the whole world is suffering with unemployment and poverty besides several other Geopolitical challenges.

Aggrieved with the acute limitations of the Newtonian economic model, Karl Marx prescribed the alternative economic model of Communism which was followed for some period by China and Soviet Russia and today We find communism has failed and somehow the world is following a mixed path of capitalism and socialism.

In both the system of capitalism and communism and in the mixed Derivatives of either of them, there is a predominance of materialism and consumerism. This has led to colonial mindset in the name of economic globalism and the present financial architecture has been created on the edifice of this attitude of brutal exploitation of natural resources and has given rise to the problems of global warming and poverty coupled with poor standard of living in a large part of the world or the global south.

The world is therefore looking for a new economic order the

voice for which started echoing from non-aligned movement (NAM) in the post Second World War era after the creation of United Nation and the outcome was the U N Charter and United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). However these institutions have failed to deliver any effective results but the process of exploitation is still continuing with the support of the Breton wood institutions. This continued suffering of human being has created an awareness amongst the people across the world that inequality in the distribution of income and wealth is not only between the nations but also between the peoples within the national boundaries. Therefore the cause of the problem is not the country alone but the corporates who decide the policies across nations and across the globe. These Multinational or the transnational corporations who control the world indirectly in the pursuit of making more profits and more wealth. Thus the invisible hands are the real demons. The survey and the research by the benevolent NGOs and civic societies are unearthing the unholy nexus between the pharmaceutical companies and the food processing companies for the several health related and the environmental problems by polluting the air, water and the fertility of the soil and making the nature poisonous.

Therefore the Newtonian economic model which is purely materialistic has to give way for a holistic and more humanistic approach for economic development which is imbibed in the Third Way of Shraddhey Dattopant Thengadi and the Integral Humanism of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. □□

Leapfrogging through Manufacturing

Based on projection of actual GDP data as on March 2023, India is likely to become the third largest economy by 2027, up from 10th place in 2014. According to SBI research India is likely to add \$0.75 trillion in every 2 years; thus, it will touch \$20 trillion (in current numbers) by 2047. India's global share in GDP will cross 4% by 2027. For this India needs to grow at nearly 11.5% nominally per annum in rupee terms; this is eminently achievable with a real 6.5-7.0% growth in GDP annually.

However, notwithstanding the relative success, India's growth momentum has slowed down between 2014-2023 when compared with the 2004-2014 period; this was largely due to set back received on account of Covid adversities. Two, moving from rank 10 to rank 5 (in 2023) was relatively easier because the GDPs were closer for the countries holding these ranks. The gap between the third rank and the first two is far greater. In 2027, India's GDP will be one-fifth of China's (short by 20 trillion) and one sixth of the US (short by 26 trillion). Having said that, it is true that high rate of economic growth and the consequent economic size provide opportunities to better things. The outcome of four decades of brisk growth since 1980s has pulled millions out of poverty and allowed government to use the domestic market's size as a strategic tool.

Modi government must be complimented for ensuring continuing of economic growth without compromising macroeconomic stability by avoiding improvident fiscal policies. This has ensured durability and sustainability dimensions for India's growth story. And yet we must not lose sight of the fact that India's potential real GDP growth rate can rise to 7-8% a year, if proper reforms are introduced. If it happens, within a decade our economy size can double. China's economy is already around five times bigger. Settling for a durable economic growth of anything less than 8% a year will not help in addressing India's grave employment challenge.

But what could be the pathway to traverse if we wish to turn potential into real, leapfrogging into the era of 8% annual growth, or near about? We need to augment share of manufacturing.

Soft power is no good without hard power. According to S. Jaishankar, the Indian Foreign Minister, hard power means industrial and technological strength. However, India's share of manufacturing in GDP remains around 15%. Indeed, over the last two decades, majorly due to the Chinese imports India has moved in the direction of deindustrialisation. However, the major culprit hides elsewhere.

We have lagged in realising our manufacturing potential because our rulers, decided to prioritize equity over efficiency. In contrast China has shown an obsession with achieving efficiency. In 1948 itself Indian parliament passed labour laws-favouring labour - the likes of which did not exist even in the developed West. From late 1950s the financial sector was sought to be governed by equity considerations. And in 2011 the government made land acquisition prohibitively expen-



In order that the economy grows at 7-8%per annum, and poverty and unemployment are significantly ameliorated, we have to increase share of manufacturing in GDP to 25%.

KK Srivastava

sive. Thus, all three major factors of production - land, labour, and capital - became expensive and difficult to access. Ofcourse to these difficulties were added the shackles of a choking regulatory regime overseen by highly corrupt and rule bound lower level of bureaucracy. And then there were always the political parties that wanted their own pound of flesh from the investors wanting to setup manufacturing units.

To its credit, the present regime has tried real hard to resolve these issues. It has tried hard to reduce the compliance burden, though with limited success. It has made capital cheaper, with somewhat more success. And it has tried to loosen up the ossified labour market via the labour codes. But here too most state governments have put roadblocks in adopting them since labour is a state subject. However, acquiring land still remains a very costly proposition. And without land no one can setup a manufacturing facility (except when the government hands over some of its land).

All in all, manufacturing in India is about 33% more costly than in most countries that are competing with it to attract investment. So it is cheaper to import than make in India. Then due to pact oversights India entered into foreign trade agreement with more efficient producers abroad. This has made imports and CKD assembly cheaper. That is why the Make in India is incompatible with the low tariff trading regime. Indeed that is why earlier Western manufacturing succumbed to Chinese factories.

The important thing to note is that while manufacturing as a sector needs to leapfrog if we

To be sure, govt. has decided to focus on manufacturing. Admittedly initial 'Make in India' initiative failed to deliver. Now the govt. has decided to change track: it has decided to offer financial incentives for both investment and production, with special emphasis on the electronics sector.

wish to grow at 7-8% (and thereby take care of employment and poverty issues as well) the experience elsewhere suggests that there are always some lead players within the broad sector that show the path.

When economic growth accelerated to around 5.5% in the 1980s, from about 2.5% in the crisis ridden 1970s, the birth of middle class took place in India. This created the demand for variety of consumer goods - consumables and durables. The beneficiary was the automobile industry as demand for latest two wheeler models and small cars (mainly Maruti) went through the roof. During 1990s, thanks to India's non unionised low cost engineering work force and technological change, India witnessed an offshore focussed infotech boom. On the other hand due to favourable changes in patent regime and less restrictive trade policies, pharma industry could penetrate deep inside the US market by offering cheap generics. Together, these three sectors - automobiles, pharma, and infotech - promoted exports. Side by side,

the reforms of 1990s provided legitimacy to the private sector; this fuelled demand for automobiles, housing and travel on one hand and provided support to the supporting Industries like aviation, banking, finance, etc. on the other.

But overtime, these sectors lost momentum due to different reasons. Pharma faced restrictions due to poor industry practices and regulatory failures. Info tech has now become a mature sector (as against earlier being in growing one. Consumer demand has stagnated due to Covid etc. So, two wheeler industry has suffered. In aviation there is only IndiGo (and now perhaps Air India) which is investing in future growth. Merchandise, exports have done poorly in last decade since we lack a competitive manufacturing base as against rivals like Vietnam and Bangladesh.

To be sure, government has decided to focus on manufacturing. Admittedly initial 'Make in India' initiative failed to deliver. Now the government has decided to change track: it has decided to offer financial incentives for both investment and production, with special emphasis on the electronics sector. Simultaneously the growth engine has been kept running by massive public investment in the physical infrastructure, which has in turn promoted large private investment in associate industries like metals, cement, etc. Lastly, in a slowing world economy India can easily hope inflow of foreign capital. The question begs answer is whether this will work.

Becoming the third largest economy should pose no insurmountable challenge if the government adopts the right policy frame work. □□

NRF: New Initiative

New Education Policy 2020 included one key recommendation, setting up of the National Research Foundation (NRF). The basic aim is to set up a coordinating agency between researchers, industry, and government; accordingly it aims at bringing industry into the research mainstream. It also aims to fund, promote, and facilitate research of individual and universities (especially state universities). The NRF will have a budget of Rs. 50,000 crore for 5 years; out of this Rs. 14,000 crore will be contributed by the government, and rest will come from the private sector. To be sure, this only partially meets the needs of research for our country. According to NITI Aayog, India currently spends only 0.7% of its GDP on R&D US spent 2.8% while China spent 2.1% (2018-19 figures). In 2017-18 India's gross domestic expenditure on research and development was nearly 1,14,000 crore. To put things in perspective this was nearly 24 times less than that of US and China although India's GDP was 7.6 and 5.1 times smaller only than these two economies.

India has only 366 R&D personnel per million population, compared with 2366 for China. Not only this Indian industry invests only quarter of one percent of GDP on in-house R&D, against the world average of 1.4%. Notably Indian government spending on R&D, at 0.3% of GDP, is reasonable not only by world standards but also in view of the fact that given India's population and developmental imperatives there are other demands on scarce resources. In other words, rather than relying on autonomous government institutes conducting research (supplemented by meager university level research at 0.04% of GDP), the Indian industry needs to put in more resources in in-house R&D by at least 4-5 times the current investment. Alongside, the publicity funded research needs to be scaled up. NRF happens to be a modest attempt in this direction.

The proposed foundation is largely modeled after the National Science Foundation of the US. At the same time the draft bill incorporates some of the best practices from the science agencies of other nations. It aims at bringing critical thinking, creativity, and innovation to the frontiers of research efforts. The NRF seeks to provide high level strategic direction to scientific research. It will work towards fostering a culture of R&D in educational institutions, as well as autonomous bodies. The associated focus will be on ensuring greater private participation. Besides, there will be attempts to integrate all the efforts undertaken by the research bodies and avoid conducting scientific research in silos.

One redeeming factor of the whole scheme is that since private sector will be involved in resource contribution and functioning, this should attract more applied research proposals beneficial to the industry and society. Besides, this means less burden on the government, which can utilize its resources for meeting other developmental needs.

Lofty aims and ambitions, these, certainly. There can be roadblock, however. For example, it is unclear yet as to how the government will raise private sector



NRF will go a long way in promoting the culture of meaningful research if the process is made free of bureaucratic hurdles and all stakeholders coordinate.

Dr. Jaya Kakkar

share (Rs. 36,000 crore) from it. Likewise, the success of NRF will be determined by how the government will set and implement the guidelines. The government will have to nudge private sector to come forwards. In scientifically advanced economies like US, Germany, South Korea, etc. the private sector has taken the lead in both conducting and funding such activities. In India their share is only 35%; compare it with figures for Israel (88%). Less than 1% (indeed only 0.3%) of sales budget of even the top firms in India is spent on R&D.

As for the government it is conscious of its role and responsibilities. For example, the government has made the process of issuing patents very simple, in addition to providing policy support. As a result between 2014-2023 the number of patents issued per year has gone up more than 7 times. The NRF is certainly a laudable initiative. It needs to be done right, however. Implemented, funded, and financed properly (at macro and micro levels) it should certainly produce output that is relevant to our needs, and not merely confined to research labs. As on date, in spite of the huge pool of talent, good laboratories, outstanding institutions we have failed to realize our potential in scientific research. If the NRF pushes India towards its full capability by not just evaluating and funding research proposals but also by linking research institutions with industry and government, using funds of both, it can lead to meaningful outcomes.

Certainly India is not standing still. India's ranking in the global innovation index has risen from 81 (2015) to 40 (2022). Likewise, the ranking by number of publi-



cations has gone from 7th to 3rd between 2010 and 2020. To put things in perspective, however, the share of US patenting, an indicator of quality of publication, is very small. Both scale and quality in research are needed for India to become a world power. We certainly don't lack the ability to be on the frontline of science and technology. Yet we remain the buyer of innovations from others.

So, how can the NRF facilitate the ease of doing R&D?

Well, one, the ministries of the government can have their research steered and managed by NRF. Presently, they make individual efforts with suboptimal allocation of resources. Two, research labs under private sector, government, and academic institutes should share their facilities for bright researchers so that the resources could be optimally utilized and the research outcomes could be widely shared. The outcomes are one kind of externality which has positive implications for other than immediate producer. Three, the distribution of grant for research must immediately follow – without much time gap and based on achievement of predetermined

milestones – after the project has been sanctioned. Four, there should be enough motivation for the private contributors to make available their share; for example, tax incentives can be provided. Five, not only the funds should be expeditiously released, the process of release should be hassle free with minimum paperwork or other kind of burden on the researcher. Six, while scientist has to be made accountable for proper utilization of funds as per allocation there should be reasonable flexibility in spending money. Instead of the general financial rules (GFR) independent guidelines should be developed for this purpose. Seven, presently the research funds are very inequitably distributed, resulting in the situation where majority of research students from sciences gain little or no exposure to research. NRF should aim at democratizing the distribution of funds so that vast majority of potential scientists and innovators can benefit out of the whole scheme.

Minus the usual governmental/bureaucratic apathy and rigidity the NRF should produce socially relevant and industry preferred research outcomes. □□

Why India Needs A Campaign for Protection of Oilseeds Heritage — Now!

Did we protest when the exotic, narrow genetic-base varieties of various crops displaced thousands of indigenous varieties? Did we protest when many millet crops were being displaced? In both these cases the lack of any sustained opposition by a significant number of people (leaving aside the opposition of a small number of scientists and farmers) proved very costly. Much later, when a lot of damage had already been done, some calls for correcting serious mistakes were made, and it remains to be seen how effective these calls really are in the middle of wider adverse changes that have been unleashed.

Now we are at a similar point in the context of the rich traditional oilseeds heritage of the country, and an attempt should be now before it is too late. Now is the time for action, tomorrow will be too late.

India has a very rich heritage of many diverse oilseed crops. The difficult situation now has appeared due to the predominance given to palm oil for meeting the edible oil demand in the country. Palm oil has been a cheaper source of obtaining edible oils, and so when domestic shortages appeared, the government and trading interests were one in opting for a solution in the form of increasing palm oil imports rapidly. Later the government decided to accord much higher importance to increasing domestic production of palm oil as well, and if government programs succeed, then Indian market will be dominated soon by palm oil soon to a much higher extent in the form of domestic production while imports are also likely to continue because of the market conditions remaining favorable for this. This being much cheaper will prove to be a disincentive for traditional oilseeds including groundnut, mustard, sesame, coconut and others. With cheaper palm oil dominating the market, it will become even more difficult for farmers of traditional oilseeds to get a fair price for their produce. Hence within a few years, the share of imported and domestic palm oil will further increase to an



It has been often seen that people often tend to use higher than necessary quantities of edible oils, which is harmful for health.

Bharat Dogra



even more dominant position while the share of traditional oilseeds will decrease further and over a period of time this will become a self-accentuating trend.

This will be very harmful as livelihoods of a very large number of farmers are based in oilseeds and they have very well developed skills and knowledge for this. These traditional oilseeds are very well adapted to weather and agro-ecological conditions, mixed farming systems and rotations which are very well understood by farmers and are sustainable, whereas the prospects of newly introduced exotic palm oil are uncertain and risky.

Traditional oilseeds are rich sources of nutrition and their palatability and taste in terms of local preferences are well established. Most traditional oilseeds in their whole form (without extracting oil), are associated with the preparation of several nutritious and highly relished dishes, apart from being consumed in raw or very slightly processed form to provide high nutrition. Various by products of these crops and trees have many important uses. The oilcakes obtained after oil extraction are a very important source of farm and dairy animal nutrition. Many traditional oilseeds are a very important source of medicines in everyday life, and these medicinal uses are well understood by people. These traditional oilseeds being very familiar to preferred consumer tastes are more amenable to being used in wholesome forms with less processing, which gives high nutrition. Their local processing is possible in small units, hence the potential for large-scale rural employment still exists, and such local processing will facilitate sup-

Most of these benefits are denied in the case of exotic oilseeds including palm oil. Due to consumer resistance to unfamiliar taste, the possibility of use of hydrogenation and related technologies is more likely in their case, and this will increase health hazards while reducing nutrition.

ply of more, cheaper oilcakes to local dairy and farm animals.

Most of these benefits are denied in the case of exotic oilseeds including palm oil. Due to consumer resistance to unfamiliar taste, the possibility of use of hydrogenation and related technologies is more likely in their case, and this will increase health hazards while reducing nutrition.

The spread of palm oil trees will lead to disruption of local biodiversity systems in ecological sensitive regions. As these require vast amounts of water for good yields, water scarcity and over-exploitation will be accentuated. As ripe palm oil fruit has to be rushed for quick processing in large-scale units (otherwise it will be spoilt from the point of view of getting edible oil), this will result in the need for very quickly raising a lot of additional infra-structure in ecologically sensitive areas.

In fact it may be difficult to meet such excessive requirements and if this happens then palm oil tree cultivation with high yields may simply fail to take off. In fact cases of farmers uprooting palm oil trees planted earlier in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have already been reported as high enough yields to make them profitable in Indian conditions were not possible.

So there are two possibilities. The one more likely is that fast spread of palm oil fruit trees in In-

dian conditions will not succeed. In this case several thousand crore rupees best used for promoting traditional oilseeds will be wasted on an undesirable exotic edible oil tree.

The second possibility is that somehow by concentrating all resources the government manages to increase domestic palm oil production in a big way as per its present stated plans. This increased domestic production will not lead to elimination of imports as once a cheaper product is established the imports will also continue. The higher domestic production and continuing imports will harm the traditional oilseeds the most.

Hence the government should change its policy and concentrate fully on traditional oilseeds. Secondly, the introduction of GM crops in the case of mustard should be stopped immediately. Thirdly, there should be a consumer campaign to consume healthy edible oils and avoid hydrogenated forms. This campaign should also inform people to avoid excessive consumption of edible oils as it is possible to cook in healthy and tasty ways with lesser quantities of edible oils. It has been often seen that people often tend to use higher than necessary quantities of edible oils, which is harmful for health. □□

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<https://www.currents.org/2023/06/why-india-needs-a-campaign-for-protection-of-oilseeds-heritage-now/>

Recalling the pre-March 24, 1940 Idea of India

Why did Narendra Modi choose to recall the August 14-15, 1947 midnight history of Sengol now? Why did he time it with the inauguration of the new Parliament building? Did he hit upon the idea to make the boycott of the parliament building inaugural worthless? Why did he choose to install the Sengol in Parliament in a pivotal position? Why did he do it on a scale and style that grabbed the nation's attention for days? Did Modi convert Rajaji's choice of a non-Brahmin Tamil Adheenam in 1947 as a political full toss in 2023 to show his respect to a non-Brahmanic ceremony in the grand opening of the new building? Did he recall the 1947 ceremony to strengthen the bridge between south and north, particularly between Tamil Nadu and Delhi? When one Adheenam vested the Sengol in 1947, why did Modi invite all Tamil Adheenams to install it in 2023? For the BJP to make inroads into Tamil Nadu?

These and similar questions will continue to be debated.

Modi's well-thought move

But answers to such questions, important as they are, will hardly capture the deeper vision that underlies Modi's Sengol mission. He hasn't ventured into the 1947 Sengol history in a thundering show for immediate political objectives. It might shock many – but not Modi – that Pandit Nehru, who held the Sengol as the symbol of the transfer of power, himself had accepted before Jinnah demanded partition Hindu civilisational Idea of India! Nehru compromised his Hindu civilisational convictions to avoid the partition, but finally, he couldn't.

But unfortunately, the compromised Idea of India Nehru had accepted to avoid partition became the current Idea of India post-Independence. Modi's Sengol strategy is a well-thought move to recall the pre-partition Hindu civilisational Idea of India, which the Sengol-bearing Nehru himself had articulated but later compromised. Modi is setting Nehru's compromised Idea of India today against Nehru's own pre-partition Hindu civilisational Idea of India. Here a for-



Modi's Sengol mission is no short-term project. As he pushes his mission forward, the nation will witness an explosive debate on the Idea of India – that is long overdue.
S. Gurumurthy



gotten part of the pre-partition history is inevitable. To start with, the disconnect between the current idea of India and the spirit of the freedom movement.

Disconnected from pre-Independence spirit

No research is needed. Just a few examples will demonstrate that the post-Independence Idea of India is not the same as the pre-Independence Idea of India. Feminist scholar Stephanie Tawa Lama, describing how, in India, the feminine force represented power, said that the entire Indian freedom movement was fought in the name of a woman, Bharatmata. And yet that inspiring symbol of Mother India and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', the war cry of freedom fighters, turned into political liabilities post-independence. The mystic song Vande Mataram, which inspired the revolutionaries to kiss the gallows and satyagrahis to bear lathi blows and jail life, was reduced into a sectarian verse post-independence. Its core content was edited out to reduce it to a fourth of its original size.

Before Independence, all those who fought for freedom – non-violent satyagrahis or violent revolutionaries, Congressmen, communists, socialists, or Hindu Mahasabaites – were revered as freedom fighters. But post-Independence, they were all given ideological colour; on that basis, they were credited, discredited, respected, or disrespected. Even the civilisational symbols which, post-1947, ornated the calligraphic Constitution of India signed by all Constituent Assembly members – the Vedic Gurukul, the Scene of Rama's return to Ayodhya, Geethopadesa in Mahabharata, Image

of Nataraja, Bhagiratha's penance and Ganga's descent, Chhatrapati Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh – lost legitimacy in secular India. The disconnect from the freedom movement is self-evident.

Modi has obviously zeroed in on and found what has caused the disconnect. In the Sengol symbolism, Modi had seized the opportunity to reconnect his Idea of a New India to the pre-independence Hindu civilisational idea of India – articulated by none other than Nehru himself before Jinnah detonated the partition bomb in 1940. Nehru's pre-partition Idea of India was founded on Vivekananda's Idea of India.

Vivekananda's idea of India

Vivekananda was no ordinary monk. He was a patriotic Hindu monk. Many Indians would know of him. But very few would have read him. Even fewer would know he founded the freedom movement and inspired the freedom fighters. The British police often found his literature in the hands of freedom fighters and even mulled action against the Ramakrishna Math. The tallest Indian freedom fighters have said that Vivekananda was their inspiration.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Reading Vivekananda has made me love the country a 'hundred fold'."

For Jawaharlal Nehru, Vivekananda "was one of the great founders of the national movement, who inspired the freedom fighters."

Subhash Bose described him as "the spiritual father of the modern nationalist movement."

Rajaji wrote, but for him, "we would have lost our religion, not have gained our freedom; we owe everything to him."

Rabindranath Tagore told fellow Indians, "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda."

Maharishi Aurobindo, Subramanya Bharati and others too were inspired by him.

What was Vivekananda's idea of India?

"A nation in India," he declared, "must be a union of those whose hearts beat to the same spiritual tune."

Did Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru, who accepted Vivekananda as their inspiration, accept his idea of India as well? Yes, they did.

Nehru, Gandhi, Rajni Palme Dutt – Idea of India

Nehru accepted Vivekananda's Idea of India explicitly. In his celebrated *Glimpses of World History* [1935], Nehru wrote, "Vivekananda eloquently and forcefully preached the gospel of nationalism which was not anti-Muslim or anyone, nor was it a narrow nationalism. Nonetheless, his nationalism was Hindu nationalism, and it had its roots in Hindu religion and culture." [p507] Nehru added, "It is not easy...to draw a line between Hindu nationalism and true nationalism. The two overlap as India is the only home of Hindus, and they form a majority there." [p720] Nehru's Idea of India, before Jinnah rooted for partition, aligned with Vivekananda's idea of Hindu nationalism.

How many Congressmen, Rahul Gandhi included, would have known this?

But what was Gandhi's Idea of India?

Most Indians wouldn't have even heard of Gandhi's short book *Hind Swaraj* [1909] - regarded as his Bible – which he stood by even

in 1940. It contained an imaginary dialogue between Gandhi, the Editor, and Gandhi, the reader. To a question by the Reader Gandhi, was it not the British who made India into one nation through post offices and railways, Editor Gandhi replied, “We were already one nation, and that was why the British could establish one government. Gandhi admitted that we had differences. But, ‘Our leading men’, he wrote, ‘travelled throughout India; learned one another’s languages; there was no aloofness between them.’”

“What could be the intent of our farsighted ancestors who established Setubandha (Rameshwar) in the South, Jagannath in the East, and Hardwar in the North as places of pilgrimage,’ Gandhi asked, and replied, ‘They were no fools. They knew that God could be worshipped just as well at home. They had the Ganges in their own homes. They saw that India was one undivided land so made by nature and argued that it must be one nation. They established holy places in various parts of India and fired the people with an idea of nationality in a manner unknown in other parts of the world. And we Indians are one as no two Englishmen are.’”

Both Gandhi and Nehru had almost the same Idea of India. – Nehru’s was religio-cultural, and Gandhi’s was wholly religious. A Marxist, Rajni Palme Dutt, who founded the Communist party in England also ideated India from the Hindu civilisational perspective. Rebutting the colonialists’ claim that their education gave Indians the spirit of freedom, Dutt wrote in his famous work, “India Today” [1940], “If the Indian bourgeoisie

That was the national consensus on the Idea of India till 1940. What then disconnected the post-Independent idea of India from the Idea of India common to Gandhi, Nehru, and Dutt? The short answer is – Jinnah’s Partition resolution of March 24, 1940, that India be divided on religious lines.

had been educated only in Sanskrit Vedas, in monastic seclusion from every other current of thought, they would have assuredly found in the Sanskrit Vedas the inspiring principles and slogans for their struggle” for freedom. A communist for whom looking at the past for the future would be abhorrent argued that the Hindu Vedas would inspire freedom struggle. Even in the revised edition of his book in 1973, he did not change that narrative.

For Gandhi, Nehru, or Rajni Palme Dutt, the Idea of India was rooted in Hindu civilisation.

Point of disconnect – March 24, 1940

That was the national consensus on the Idea of India till 1940. What then disconnected the post-Independent idea of India from the Idea of India common to Gandhi, Nehru, and Dutt? The short answer is – Jinnah’s Partition resolution of March 24, 1940, that India be divided on religious lines. At

once, the Congress leadership dropped the Hindu civilisational Idea of India like a hot potato – in a desperate bid to avoid partition, which finally they could not.

They merely ended up compromising on the pre-partition Idea of India, which inspired the freedom movement. Post-Independence Indian rulers did not even attempt to reinstate the Idea of India they had sacrificed to escape the partition. For them, it was easier to extend the compromise that disconnected

India from the pre-independence spirit.

The reconnect

Modi, who was often accused of changing the Idea of India, has now got the accusers on the wrong foot. Those who have been accusing Modi of changing the Idea of India are the ones who changed the Hindu civilisational Idea of India common to both Gandhi and Nehru. Looking to reconnect contemporary India to the pre-partition Idea of India, Modi saw the Sengol ceremony of 1947 as a golden opportunity.

He saw the Sengol as a symbol to reconnect with the Hindu civilisational India that Pundit Nehru himself was comfortable with before partition. The picture of Nehru holding the Hindu Sengol icon, Modi thought, is the surest way to reconnect contemporary India to India before March 24, 1940.

Modi’s Sengol mission is no short-term project. As he pushes his mission forward, the nation will witness an explosive debate on the Idea of India – that is long overdue. □□

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<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/columns/s-gurumurthy/2023/jun/22/recalling-the-pre-march-24-1940-idea-of-india-2587442.html>

Space Odyssey of Chandrayaan-3



The historic launch of India's third Moon mission, Chandrayaan-3 on-board LVM3-M4 rocket has given a major fillip to the country's first human spaceflight programme as the same launch vehicle with 'human rated' capability, would be used for the ambitious Gaganyaan mission.

Vinod Johri

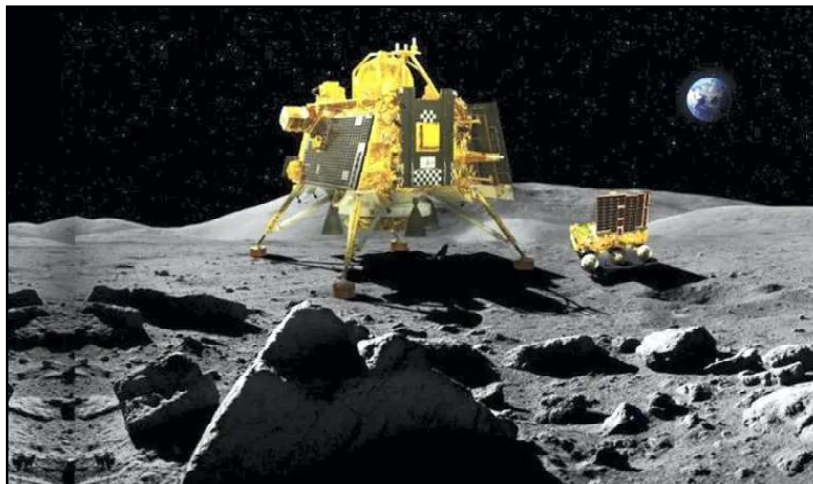
The Bhartiya spacecraft Chandrayaan-3, atop an LVM3 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India, Friday, at 2.35 pm on July 14, 2023. Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. ISRO has implemented several changes since the Chandrayaan-2 crash. ISRO divides Chandrayaan-3's roughly 40-day journey to the moon into three distinct segments: the Earth-centric phase, the lunar transfer phase and the moon-centric phase. The mission will land on the moon on Aug. 23 or Aug. 24, if all goes according to plan. Chandrayaan-3 inched closer to lunar landing, with the significant Lunar Orbit Injection (LOI) undertaken on August 5 at approximately 7:00 pm.

According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the three main objectives of the roughly Rs. 615 crore equivalent to \$75 million USD Chandrayaan-3 mission are to perform a safe soft landing near the lunar south pole, to deploy a rover and demonstrate its operation and to perform in-situ scientific experiments over the course of a single lunar day of operation (equivalent to about 14 Earth days).

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the space agency of India. The organisation is involved in science, engineering and technology to harvest the benefits of outer space for India and the mankind. ISRO is a major constituent of the Department of Space (DOS), Government of India. The Department of Space executes the Indian Space Programme primarily through various Centres or units within ISRO.

The prime objective of ISRO and DOS is the development and application of space technology for various national needs. To fulfil this objective, ISRO has established major space systems for communication, television broadcasting and meteorological services; resources monitoring and management; space-based navigation services. ISRO has developed satellite launch vehicles, PSLV and GSLV, to place the satellites in the required orbits.

Its activities are spread across various centres and units. Launch Vehicles are built at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram; Satellites are designed and developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru; Integration and launching of satellites and launch vehicles are carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sri Harikota; Development of liquid stages including cryogenic stage is carried out at Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala & Bengaluru; Sensors for Communication and Remote Sensing satellites and application aspects of the space technology are taken up at Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad and Remote Sensing satellite data reception processing and dissemination is entrusted to National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad.



ISRO Chairman Shri Sreedhara Panicker Somanath explained why Chandrayaan-3's solar-powered lander and rover are touching down in late August. It was stated that the landing would be on August 23 or 24, as ISRO wants the landing to happen when the sun rises on the moon, so it gets 14 to 15 days to work. If landing cannot happen on these two dates, ISRO will wait for another month and land in September.

The spacecraft blazed its way to the far side of the moon in a follow-up mission to its failed effort nearly four years ago to land a rover softly on the lunar surface. A successful landing would make our country the fourth country, after the United States, the Soviet Union, and China, to achieve the feat.

Scope of research

The Chandrayaan-3 lander has its own thruster system, navigational and guidance controls, and hazard detection and avoidance systems. ISRO has implemented several changes since the Chandrayaan-2 crash. These improvements include the strengthening of the lander's legs, increases to its landing-speed tolerance and the addition of new sensors to measure approach speed. Once a safe

landing has been achieved, it will be time for the Chandrayaan-3 rover to roll out. The rover is equipped with its own scientific payloads to investigate the moon, including the LASER Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS), which allows for the analysis of the chemical composition of the lunar surface; and the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS), which will do the same for lunar rocks and soil around the Chandrayaan-3 landing site. As the rover goes about its business, the lander that carried it down to the surface will do its own science work. The lander will use the Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive Ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAM-BHA) instrument to measure plasma — a gas of electrons and ions — at the lunar surface and how it changes over time. Meanwhile, the lander's Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) will measure the thermal properties of the south polar region, and the Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) will measure the moon's seismicity to help flesh out the structure of the lunar crust and mantle. As this is all taking place, a passive experiment called the LASER Retro reflector Array (LRA),

contributed by NASA, will be running in the background on the lander, collecting data that could help scientists better understand the dynamics of the moon system.

To achieve the mission objectives, several advanced technologies are present in Lander such as,

1. Altimeters: Laser & RF based Altimeters
2. Velocimeters: Laser Doppler Velocimeter & Lander Horizontal Velocity Camera
3. Inertial Measurement: Laser Gyro based Inertial referencing and Accelerometer package
4. Propulsion System: 800N Throttleable Liquid Engines, 58N attitude thrusters & Throttleable Engine Control Electronics
5. Navigation, Guidance & Control (NGC): Powered Descent Trajectory design and associate software elements
6. Hazard Detection and Avoidance: Lander Hazard Detection & Avoidance Camera and Processing Algorithm
7. Landing Leg Mechanism.

The historic launch of India's third Moon mission, Chandrayaan-3 on-board LVM3-M4 rocket has given a major fillip to the country's first human spaceflight programme as the same launch vehicle with 'human rated' capability, would be used for the ambitious Gaganyaan mission. According to PTI sources, Indian Space Research Organisation is busy working on its flagship project, Gaganyaan, which envisages the demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400kms for 3 days and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in sea waters. □□

(Source : ISRO website, Times of India, Space research websites)
Vinod Johri: Retd. Additional commissioner of
Income Tax, Delhi

India needs to protect its food security, give a damn to ban threats

It is quite intriguing. When it comes to supplying wheat and rice to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other States under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS), we are told that there are not enough stocks available. But when it comes to banning non-basmati rice exports, the same people forget about the availability of rice for the domestic market and instead argue that such a move will dent India's credibility in international trade.

The dichotomy doesn't end here. When it comes to the agrarian crisis, the discussions invariably boils down to mining of groundwater by Punjab farmers cultivating paddy. For several years, the talk has been to move farmers away from paddy, and going in for crop diversification. But when it comes to rice exports, rarely have economists and policy makers ever talked about reducing exports. Reducing crop area under paddy and increasing rice exports work at cross purpose, but that is how the development refrain goes.

First, let's look at the global rice trade. India is the largest exporter of rice in the world. It exports about 12 per cent of India's rice output, but globally it has a share of 40 per cent of the rice trade. India's rice exports were at a record high of 22.3 million tonnes in 2022-23. Quite obviously, stopping rice supplies will hit countries that strongly dependent on Indian exports, and this is likely to trigger price volatility. But that is exactly what was anticipated when India had banned wheat exports last year. However, after an initial price rise, the global markets had cooled down.

Nevertheless, knowing the global context of the rice trade it becomes essential to find answers to the two questions I raised above. Let me make it clear.



What India needs is to protect its own food security. No one is going to come and feed our food insecure population. We alone will have to do it.

Devinder Sharma



When it comes to domestic supplies, as of July 1, India had a grain surplus of 71 million tonnes, including both wheat and rice. In other words, there are ample food stocks available at present to meet any eventuality. But in the ongoing Kharif crop season, monsoons have been quite erratic and thereby impacting paddy crop. With paddy sowing delayed due to a delayed onset on monsoon rains, followed by incessant rains that caused severe floods in the paddy belt of Punjab and Haryana, the standing crop prospects have been hit. Some areas have been washed over and farmers need to replant paddy. In the southern peninsular regions, shortfall in rains has been causing concern. Moreover, anticipating an El Nino phenomenon to become pronounced in some weeks, India is doubly cautious about future supplies. Already several studies have shown how strengthening of the El Nino will impact South and Southeast Asia's rice production.

Now let us look at the environmental consequences arising from increased paddy cultivation. In Punjab, if we take an average consumption of 4,000 litres of water to produce one kg of rice, to produce a crop of 12 to 13 million tonnes of rice, roughly 48 to 52,000 billion litres of water is consumed. While everyone blames Punjab farmers for literally mining groundwater, and considering that more than 95 per cent of the rice grown is sent out, Punjab virtually exports water when it exports rice. Extrapolating the same water consumption figures, when India exports 22 million tonnes of rice, a total of 88,000 billion litres is virtually exported.

Encouraging rice exports therefore means we have been virtually exporting huge quantities of water. But the virtual export of water has never been an issue in relation to exports. There is a strong lobby for ensuring unrestricted exports.

That brings me to a related question. Who does the rice exports benefit? Is it the farmers who stand to gain?

An interesting and exhaustive study entitled: 'India's rice exports – What is in it for farmers?' by Manish Kumar et al (and published in Sage Journals, July 30, 2019) shows that the benefits have not flowed to farmers. The study says that even for exporters, given the low margins, the squeeze is possible only in the backward linkages in general, and from farmers in particular.

This is the price India pays to be the annadata for the world. Therefore, it is important that the nation's food policy should define as to how much virtual export of water can India sustain, and also explain the gains if any for the farmers as well as the environment from unbridled food exports especially that of water guzzling crops. Policy parameters must also ensure that the domestic requirement of food is never allowed to be compromised.

Similarly, let us look at the international pressure to lift the ban on rice exports. As expected, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has issued a veiled threat to India. Wanting India to remove restrictions on export of non-basmati rice, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the Chief Economist of IMF, said at a press conference: "These types of restrictions are likely to exacerbate volatility on food prices in the rest of the world. They

can also lead to retaliatory measures."

I am aware that he is talking of retaliatory measures from the countries which are increasingly dependent on rice exports from India. But this kind of a masked threat from IMF does not auger well for an institution that is struggling to recast its own image towards any meaningful future. In fact, last year too, IMF had wanted India to reconsider its decision to ban wheat exports saying continuing with the exports could play a significant role in alleviating the wheat supply crisis.

Instead of blaming India for the volatility on global food markets following its decision to restrict rice exports, I thought he should have pointed fingers at the United States, which alone is responsible for diverting 90 million tonnes of food grains for bio-fuel production. This is twice the quantity of food supplies that usually come from Ukraine and Russia into the international markets (New Scientist, Mar 14, 2022). In addition, European Union guzzles an additional 12 million tonnes, including wheat and corn, for ethanol production.

It only shows there is enough food available with the developed countries. The failure to question them and to ask them to redirect food for humans is only tightening the global food supplies.

I only hope India does not succumb to any hidden warning to lift the ban on rice exports. What India needs is to protect its own food security. No one is going to come and feed our food insecure population. We alone will have to do it. □□

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture and hunger)
<https://www.bhaskar.com/news/industry/india-needs-to-protect-its-food-security-give-a-damn-to-ban-threats-1235827>

Orientation of Indigenous Public Policy Research

Public policy research organizations are an essential constituent in influencing the formulation process, drafting, and acceptance of public policies. Such organizations are owned and funded by the government, or owned by non-government organizations and funded by the government, or owned and funded by non-government organizations, or any other variants of funding and owning. The other characteristic of such organizations is the mission and vision which can be holistic across sectors of public policy, or restricted to one sector of public policy. There are many public policy organizations that are domain or sector-specific, for example, health sector public policy organizations, education sector public policy organizations, international relations-specific public policy organizations, defense sector public policy organizations, telecommunication sector public policy organizations, and so on.

The profile of work done by public policy organizations varies as per the mission and vision statements. Usually, such organizations are academic in nature but do not necessarily offer academic programs like master's or Ph.D. programs although the people who work in such organizations are designated as professors or fellows, or researchers.

Many such organizations are funded by corporate bodies, so conflict of interest arises between the financiers and the public policy research organizations. Such research organizations are obliged to their financiers and in return manipulate the research design including dodging data and manipulating statistical tools to support the public policy which favors their financial sponsor's business, it implies that the owners of such public policy organizations are the finance suppliers, it is as good as buying favorable public policy recommendations from public policy research organizations and hence impact the government's decision-making.



The "Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan" an initiative of Swadeshi Jagran Manch aspires to fill the gap in such public policy research domain.

Alok Singh



ing process. This is a business cycle of manipulation and such public policy organizations are enemies of the public. The survival compulsion of research organizations is dependent on private financiers and the solution exists in pooled finance for the public policy research organizations and declaration of conflict-of-interest related affidavits by the research organizations. Public policy research organizations should be bought into the purview of conflict-of-interest declaration.

In today's business world, the business stakeholders have changed. Earlier the products or services were developed first and then bought to the market and success or failure depended on the market's response to the product or services. Later on, the companies started taking feedback from the market about the product or services which the customers will accept. Then the role of activists arrived who cared for society and the environment. The role of the judiciary and media is also impacting businesses today. The endorsement of the product or services by celebrities and the psychology of the customers matters today more than it was earlier. So, today's business is impacted by the owners, the managers, the activists, the judiciary, the media, the politicians, and the public policy research organizations.

The primary objective of such organizations is to participate in filling the gap which appears due to inappropriate presentations of the public issue to the concerned decision-makers. Inappropriate presentations mean that the issue or the grievances or the recommendations by the stakeholders

miss the contemporary presentation style in terms of writing style, in terms of safeguarding beliefs, thoughts, tradition, impact on society, impact on the environment, impact on sustainability, empirical research design, and many more.

There are occasions when few research organizations are dependent on government consultancy to sustain themselves. Such organizations are relatively unbiased in their research-based public policy recommendations.

One clarity is that those who fund public policy research organizations expect that their interests be safeguarded in a rational and logical way. There are many stakeholders who are victims of public policy biased in favor of big corporates or biased in favor of foreign companies.

The public policy which impacts the general public at large in the immediate run, short run, or long run should be such that it is understood and interpreted the same way by all the stakeholders. The laws emerge out of public policy. The laws such as 'Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement Act, 2013' (LARR Act); and 'Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016' (RERA) are in 'Black and White' for all the stakeholders while laws such as 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016' (ICB); and 'Goods and Services Tax (GST) are in grey area and hence needs consistent evaluation and reformulation and continuous changes.

Within these laws, there should be one dedicated policy for each objective. For example, the 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC) is a policy whose

sole objective is to democratize e-commerce for buyers and sellers. Before ONDC, there had been occasions when there was the exploitation of the buyers and sellers by these e-commerce companies apart from the tax theft and practicing money-burning business model, creating grey area for policies like an inventory-based model or just a platform model. The ONDC had clarity in its objective and hence one policy was formulated so that there is no scope for contradictory interpretation either by the companies or lawyers or customers or the media.

The policymakers recently implemented 28 percent GST for all online games. The competing public policy lobby including the multinational companies are trying to malign the decisions on the basis that such high GST on online games will kill the startups. There are many governments supported programs for startups and tax holidays. The internet-based companies are the biggest headache for regulators and tax collectors. They also are sources of cultural attacks including social behavioral changes and psychological thought changes on the young vulnerable users.

There is a need for public policy organizations which is financed by end-user consumers and nationalist stakeholders to counter the public policy research and recommendations which are inclined and biased in favor of looting our wealth, our culture, our tradition, and our youth. The "Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan" an initiative of Swadeshi Jagran Manch aspires to fill the gap in such public policy research domain. □□

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Basava the Revolutionary of Comprehensive Development

Sri Basaveshwara, 12th-century's Scholar, Saint, Socio economic reformer, philosopher, poet, Dharma Pravarthak was a revolutionary of his times. He revolutionized the society with multidimensional thoughts and actions for comprehensive inclusive development covering all aspects of human life viz, Dharma, cultural, Literature, women empowerment, upliftment of downtrodden, social harmony, Morality, economic, administration etc.,

Basava the Propagator Equal Status to all

Society was divided in an artificial manner. Collapse of social system become order of the day. And moral life had reached a very low ebb. Sri Basaveshwara started a Sharana movement in response to such challenge. He discarded the method giving respect by birth criteria with worth criteria provided equal status to all. He told: "do not tell who is he? who is he? who is he? Tell he is ours, Tell he is ours, Tell he is ours, Kudalasangamadeva is our own child". Thus he embraced all people without any discrimination. A Revolutionary Saint Basaveshwara condemned the caste-ridden society and raised his voice of protest stoutly against the four fold division of the Hindu Society. He told so called superiors are from inferior families: "Vyasa is a fisherman's son, Markandeya of an outcaste born, Mandodari, the daughter of a frog; O, look not for caste; in caste, What were you in the past? Indeed, Agastya was fowler, Durvasa, a maker of shoes, Kasyapa, a blacksmith, The sage, Kaundinya by name Was, as the three worlds know A barber—Mark ye all, the words Of our Kudala Sanga run; What matters one is lowly born? Only a Sivabhakta is well born. Thus He gave neglected, untouched, downtrodden equal status both in religion life as well as in social life.



Sri Basaveshwara anticipated centuries before the arrival the greatest of modern thinkers—Karl Marx and Mahatma Gandhi. Thus Sri Basaveshwara becomes a role model for "Think Globally act locally" and torch bearer for new model of Life for universe.
Mahadevayya Karadalli



KAYAKA the Practical Philosophy of self-reliance. Dasoha is to undo socio economic imbalance.

The concept of 'Kayaka' – the Practical Philosophy is an unique and significant contribution of Sri Basaveshwara. Whatever earned through Kayaka is to be first used to perform Dasoha. He proclaimed that there was nothing high or low in occupations. It was a honesty and sincerity that decided the merits of the means of lively hood, which is called 'Kayaka'. Be it a King, Bhakta, a Guru, or a Jan-gama basically they have to do Kayaka (own employment). No one has no right to lead an idle life of parasitism exploiting the labour of other people. Its underlying principle is that every man should pursue his material and spiritual progress. Sharanas say 'Kayaka is Kailasa' ('the abode of Siva'). an ideal perhaps be more intelligible to us who are living in the post Gandhian Era. Dr Thipperudraaswamy finds remarkable similarities between Gandhiji's concept of bread-labour and Basavanna's concept of Kayaka. Gandhiji discovered some of his deepest convictions reflected in the great book of Ruskin, Unto This Last, and it so captivated him that it transformed his life. We find that all the principles are the core of the doctrine of Kayaka expounded by Sri Basaveshwara and fellow Sharanas. Sri Basaveshwara also encouraged the Sharanas to follow hundreds of different occupations, not only to enhance the dignity and importance of labour but also to contribute their might to the society. Thus we see hundreds of Sharanas in different occupations.

For example Madivala Machayya (a washerman), Nuliya

One of the innovative institutions he launched in the 12th century was the Anubhava Mantapa, a public assembly and gathering, which attracted men and women across the country and from people from various walks of life.

Candayya (a ropemaker), Ambigara Cowdayya (an oarsman), Medara Ketayya (a basket maker), Hadapada Appanna (a barber), Turugahi Ramanna (a cowherd), Sunkada Benkanna (a toll-keeper), Madara Dhoolayya (a pariah), Talavara Kamideva (a watchman), Ganada Kannappa (an oilman), Vaidhya Sanganna (a physician), Sujikayakada Ramanna (a tailor), Bacikayakada Basavappa (a carpenter), Kottanada Remmavve (a paddy pounder), Molige Marayya (a hewer of wood), and so on.

The words prefixed to their names indicate the Kayaka each had undertaken. Sharanas are proud to prefix their occupation to their name as Dr, Engr, IAS, IPS so on. Discriminating on the basis of occupation was automatically withdrawn.

Dasoha concept ensures giver and taker at the same platform. Sharana shall work but shall not think his day to today livelihood. Shall not hold for next day. Shiva, the God of all, will take care of all his creatures. Hence, Sharana shall earn his daily livelihood on day to day basis. Some Part of his daily earning shall go to feed the needy, for family, for society, and for kings

Bhandar (treasury). Thus Basaveshwara ensured socio economic harmony among Sharanas. Kayaka, Dasoha, self reliance and self esteem formed the pillars of the self reliant society. Due to which Self reliant society with Swabhiman blossomed in Kalyana.

Anubhava Manatap - A spiritual Academy - Parliament of the Era

One of the innovative institutions he launched in the 12th century was the *Anubhava Mantapa*, a public assembly and gathering, which attracted men and women across the country and from people from various walks of life. Participants are ardent devotees of Shiva, shared their achievements and spiritual thoughts in local language in the form of Vachanas. He himself selected Allam Prabhu as its Chairperson. Jnani (Scholars) like Channabasavanna, Shivayogi Sidram, Ajaganna etc were part of Anubhava Mantapa. Sharanas discussed existing meaningless rituals, dualism, and externalization of God and find answer for it.

All Men and woman with good conduct and devotion are eligible to enter Anubhava Mantapa. The rule of Kayaka applies for member of Anubhava Mantapa and helped the society to be economically strong and self reliant. Thus Anubhava Mantap message was enshrined in the hearts of people. Men and women of all castes and ranks were treated on an equal footing and a fraternal feeling. The caste system democratized and this led to social solidarity and to get rid from existing Superstitions, irrational fears. And pure conduct, deep devotion, inner clearness were insisted to lead Sharana life. The very idea of each one could

worship God by himself (Istalinga Pooja) was a Significant step introduced by the Sharana Movement. Rites were simplified. Theoretical concepts became applied practices which helped common people to come out of their sufferings.

Woman participation and empowerment.

Basaveshwara threw open the doors of spiritual pursuit to every men or woman, who would enter with a pure heart and earnest desire. Sharaneyaru took part in the proceedings of Anubhava Mantap. They also engaged in Kayaka and Dasoha. Hence we come across several women sharaneyaru like Akkamahadevi, Akkanagamma, Neelambike, Gangambike, Lakamma, Lingamma, and Mahadevamma, Sankavve, Mukhtayakka and others whose very names are associated with elevated spiritual attainments.

Vachanas (prose lyrics) for Moral Life

He not only composed Vachanas in local language Kannada to spread his message to the masses but also motivated his followers to write Vachanas. Verses such as Káyakavé Kailása (Work is the path to Kailash (bliss, heaven), or Work is Worship) became popular. A popular vachana of Basavanna specifies 7 important ways of achieving inner as well as outer purity. "Thou shall not steal or kill; Not speak a lie; do not be angry with any one; do not scorn other man; glorify thyself, Nor others hold to blame. This is inward purity, This is outward purity, This is the way to win our Lord Kudala Sangama". Basavanna and his contemporaries spread social awareness through their *Vachanaas*. Veera-

saivism evolved out of Saivism and reached perfect form during 12th Century. Vachanas are the treasure with their unique message. Vachanas are teachings of Truth, Peace, love, equality and freedom purify one's inner soul. Vacanas in this regard have set the universal moral code, and read like the Ten Commandments or the Sermon on the Mount. He threw open the doors of spiritual pursuit to every one.

Addressed Superior and inferior complex

Sharana Haralayya of lowly birth, a cobbler by profession, was recognised as the equal of Basaveshwara who was the Prime Minister of the State. His argument was that when men or women became Sharanas by wearing Linga and accepted the principles they transcended their castes. Sharana Madhuvarasa once came to the Sharana fold, he was not a Brahmin nor Haralayya, was not an untouchable hence the marriage is quite in order. We of the post Gandhian era can understand the reasonableness of this argument. Basavanna's opponents, misinterpreted it as inter caste marriage and was against existing traditions. The society of the twelfth century could not assimilate such a radical view. So there started civilian conflict. We may remark that Sri Basaveshwara revolution to eradicate superior and inferior feelings to remove so called untouchability, the difference between high and low on the basis of birth, the caste system and ill practices in the name of Varnashrama was eight hundred years ahead of his times. He through his mission and magnetic personality he could get rid of Himalayan obstacles posed by the

orthodox opponents.

The effect of the Sharana movement attempted a comprehensive revolution i.e. total transformation "a practical model of development" in the minds of people. Their movement aimed at uplifting humanity. The rich mine of knowledge and values of Sharanas Dharam if rightly understood and put to practice, humanity can certainly be raised to a higher level.

In conclusion it may be said that Basaveshwara touched the very life-pulse of the people; enriched the literary and mystic traditions of the land, directed the aims and aspirations of the people towards an integrated vision of a whole life; and so achieved all that a spiritual movement can achieve. If some of the unavoidable elements incidental to the age are excluded, the ideal realized by Basaveshwara is for all times and climes. We, of the modern age, it may be said, are better equipped to understand the significance of his revolution, the nature of society and religion he visualised, and the boldness he exhibited in carrying out in action what he preached (in words). Sri Basaveshwara life and teachings shine as powerful beacons guiding mankind in its quest for perfection, and cast their brightest rays illuminating the lives of all who come near them. Further, Sri Basaveshwara anticipated centuries before the arrival the greatest of modern thinkers—Karl Marx and Mahatma Gandhi. Thus Sri Basaveshwara becomes a role model for "Think Globally act locally" and torch bearer for new model of Life for universe. □□

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Is Climate Change Already Affecting Kashmir's Fruit Crop?

After wrecking havoc in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, erratic rainfalls has not spared Kashmir. This correspondent travelled north to understand the problem first hand. The findings were not bright. Cherry, apples, plum and strawberries – all fruit crop in the region – have been under the weather, pushing traders and producers into panic.

Apple: Kashmir is a major producer for apples and horticulture. Over 70% of India's apples come from Kashmir. These, naturally, provide income to farmers, but also sustain the larger fruit economy involving labourers to traders and transporters. Any disruption in trade and production threatens to throw the state's most hardworking people over the economic edge.

So when did the troubles begin? Since earlier this year, Kashmir has been seeing unusual weather patterns. By that I mean heat waves in February and March, 2023, causing the mustard to bloom at an unusual time. Then, the Kashmir Valley was hit with excessive hail storms and erratic rain. Temperatures in May became chilly, unexpectedly, while February and March were warm.

So to get a deeper understanding this correspondent stopped in Pulwama and spoke with Javid Ahmed a high-density apple farmer.

"All over the world climate is changing. Uneven rains, meaning changing of conventional patterns and temperatures is badly affecting us too. February had May-June temperatures and there was cold wave in May. As a result, the apple fruit size was affected and the fruits were not fully formed," he said.

"The worst affected are the upper Kashmir areas. I would estimate 50% losses in these regions and about 20%-30% in lower regions like lower Anantnag. Hailstorms have also caused huge devastation in Pulwama region," he added.



Cherry, apples, plum and strawberries – all fruit crop in the region – have been under the weather, pushing traders and producers into panic.

Indra Shekhar Singh



“Erratic rainfall and weather disturbances are signs of global warming. Every place in the world is experiencing this. We did have early blooming due to high heat situations. Weather typical to May and June was setting in in February, whereas May saw sudden rain and chilly weather, impacting various fruits. Pollution and other reason are responsible for these changes, directly,” Khalid said.

Javid also showed us a “hail net” he has installed over his orchard to prevent damages. He believes without “hail nets” high density farming will be very difficult with current weather patterns.

Plum: After tasting sour apples with Javid *sahab*, this correspondent spoke with Ghulam Muhamed Wani in Budgam. In his broken Hindi and Urdu, he explained that climate has been wreaking havoc on the farmers. Wani saw it has divine rage. He had 10 *kanals* of land and rented out another 30 *kanals* of plum orchards, right before the first hailstorms hit.

Showing us the damages, he said, “We have had two or three hailstorms till now, damaging most of the crops. At the end of May and then 20 days ago, we had experienced hailstorms. Our A-grade plum has become B-grade. And whereas I usually get 3,000 boxes from my 10 *kanals*, this year I haven’t even got 800.”

Cherry: Soon, it was time to talk about cherry, and this correspondent spoke with Tanveer Ul-Haq who works in the cherry canning industry. “We saw two varieties of cherry – early and mid vari-

eties do well. But the late variety “*mishri*” which is the most delicious and highest price fetching for farmers suffer under erratic rainfall, especially in the Shopian region. Some farmers didn’t even harvest the fruits because they were so damaged,” he explained.

Moving from the production to the storage side of things, we met up with Maajid Wafai, president of the J&K fruit and vegetable processing and integrated cold chain association, JKPICCA. “Last year Kashmir saw a bumper apple harvest. But excessive supply in the market resulted in a price crash, creating panic in the market. The input costs increased and revenue were halved. Overall a bad year for growers as transportation cost was huge, and input costs coupled by hails soured the harvests. Our A-grade apples became B-grade due to climate damages,” he explained.

Commenting on the present situation he said, “We have to take 2021 production figures as reference point for apple production. And we can comfortably assert that this year instead of the average of 2.2 million tonnes, we have only about 1.5 to 1.6 million tonnes.

The causes are clear and we feel that it is ruthless hailstorms and climate change. Customers will have to bear 30-40% increase in apple prices this year because it.”

“We are living in an environmentally fragile place. Our government should focus fully on saving of the environment of Kashmir. If this place is destroyed South Asia will suffer because all rivers comes from here. Agriculture is related to environment and we are witnessing an environmental catastrophe right now, the glaciers over Sonmarg area are not here for much longer.”

Measures: For the last word, we spoke with deputy director of the horticulture department of Jammu and Kashmir, Shafiqah Khalid. In conversation it became clear that Kashmir’s climate had changed a lot in the last few decades.

“Erratic rainfall and weather disturbances are signs of global warming. Every place in the world is experiencing this. We did have early blooming due to high heat situations. Weather typical to May and June was setting in in February, whereas May saw sudden rain and chilly weather, impacting various fruits. Pollution and other reason are responsible for these changes, directly,” Khalid said.

“But nevertheless, our department is giving out advisories on hail and rainfall alerts. We are working with the farmers and also providing hail nets. The government has given a subsidy for putting up hail nets and we are doing our best. We even advise farmers on chemical use and fertilisers so they can recover from climate related damages and save their harvests,” she added. □□

<https://thewire.in/agriculture/is-climate-change-already-affecting-kashmir-fruit-crop>

Zelensky's troubles mount Poland revives old revanchist ambitions

The looming defeat of Ukraine is likely to trigger a new crisis in Europe, as an agitated Poland may attack Belarus in a desperate move to pull NATO into the conflict. Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson, in a conversation with Dialogue Works YouTube channel, observed, "It is no longer possible to pretend that Ukraine is winning... Russia is crushing Ukraine." Hence, Poland will seek to bring Europe into the war, to foil Russia from reaching its borders after defeating Ukraine, though NATO lacks the military muscle to alter the ground situation.

Last week, the Polish authorities decided to transfer combat units from the west to the east (towards Belarus). This led to Russian President Vladimir Putin warning, in a meeting with permanent members of his Security Council in Moscow on July 21, 2023, that any Ukrainian aggression against Belarus would mean aggression against Russia and that all means would be used to protect it. Military analysts believe that Russia will not hesitate to use nuclear weapons if Poland gets involved in the war, as there will be no Russian population at the front. Larry Johnson said Putin's assessment of Poland's intentions towards Ukraine and Belarus indicates detailed intelligence inputs on Poland's plans.

Amidst these developments, Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko visited Moscow on July 23, and informed President Putin that he is finding it difficult to contain the restiveness of PMC Wagner troops that are demanding permission to go on 'an excursion' to Warsaw and Rzeszow in Poland. Lukashenko said, "But of course, I am keeping them in central Belarus, like we agreed. We are controlling what is happening (with Wagner). They are in a bad mood." Putin is reported to have smiled in response.

Lukashenko also feared that Poland may try to dismember Ukraine and seize some of its lands, a view previously expressed by Putin at a meeting with the permanent members of the Russian Security Council in Moscow, on July 21, 2023.



Polish leaders are keen for a coalition under the NATO umbrella to intervene in the Ukraine conflict.
Sandhya Jain



At this meeting, Sergei Naryshkin, Director of Foreign Intelligence Service, warned that Warsaw is planning to seize the western parts of Ukraine by deploying troops there, under the guise of fulfilling allied obligations within the Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian security initiative or Lublin Triangle. The plan involves increasing the number of forces in the combined Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian brigade, which operates under the auspices of the Lublin Triangle.

In response, Putin pointed out that European media have already reported this likelihood. Hence, it is vital to remind everyone about several history lessons from the 20th century. The Kiev regime's sponsors are dejected at the defeat of the Ukrainian counteroffensive after having poured in vast supplies of weaponry (tanks, artillery, armoured vehicles, missiles, and thousands of foreign mercenaries and advisers), all in vain.

The Western military equipment failed, the NATO arsenals and stockpiles of old Soviet weapons in some countries are almost depleted; and the West lacks production capacities to quickly replenish the reserves of equipment and ammunition. Ukraine has suffered huge losses and despite total mobilisation in Ukrainian cities and villages, the regime is having difficulties in recruiting new soldiers. Citizens are becoming aware that their friends and relatives are dying in a war being fought for the selfish interests of others.

Even in Europe, both citizens and elites realise that Ukraine is an endless waste of money and effort, that serves the interests of the overseas global hegemon, that gains from European weakness. A

prolonged conflict in Ukraine suits the US ruling elites, but it is for the American people to decide if it caters to their genuine, vital interests.

The old ambitions of Poland, with its deep hatred to Russia, are being fanned to capitalise on the Ukrainian tragedy. Hence the talk in European media of plans to establish some Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian unit, as a well-organised, equipped regular military unit for operations in Ukraine. The ultimate plan, of course, is to occupy Western Ukraine. Once Polish forces enter Lvov or other Ukrainian territories, they will remain there for good.

Indeed, after the defeat of Germany and its allies in World War I, Poland had occupied Lvov and adjacent territories that belonged to Austria-Hungary. Instigated by the West, Poland took advantage of the turmoil in Russia in 1917 and annexed certain historical Russian provinces, which Russia was forced to concede under the Treaty of Riga in 1921. In 1920, Poland had seized the Vilnius region from Lithuania, a land surrounding the present-day Vilnius.

After the Munich agreement between Germany, Italy, Great Britain, and France (September 29–30, 1938), that forced Czechoslovakia to surrender its Sudeten region to Nazi Germany, Poland occupied Czechoslovakia's Cieszyn Silesia. Thus, during the 1920-1930s, Poland's Eastern Borderlands (comprising present-day Western Ukraine, Western Belarus and part of Lithuania) saw rabid Polonisation and assimilation of local residents, and attempts to suppress the local culture and Orthodoxy (the majority's religious affiliation).

This culminated in the national tragedy of 1939, when Poland's

Western allies threw it to the German wolf, and Poland lost its independence and statehood, that were later restored by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union and Stalin gifted Poland substantial German territory in the west. Warsaw, Putin said, needs to remember this.

The Kiev regime, Putin regretted, does not care for the people of Ukraine, Ukrainian sovereignty or national interests, and seeks only to prolong its own existence. Kiev is willing to sell anything, including people and land, just like their ideological forefathers led by Symon Petlyura, who signed "secret conventions" with Poland in 1920 and ceded Galicia and Western Volhynia to Poland in return for military support. These kind of traitors are now preparing to open the gates to their foreign handlers and sell Ukraine again. As this is Ukraine's internal matter, Russia does not intend to interfere.

Polish leaders are keen for a coalition under the NATO umbrella to intervene in the Ukraine conflict and "regain" their historical territories (modern-day Western Ukraine). Poland also covets Belarusian land. However, as we noted earlier, Putin has firmly asserted that Belarus is part of the Union State, and an aggression against Belarus would be tantamount to an aggression against the Russian Federation, to which Moscow would give an appropriate response. □□

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Mewar as Focus of Guhila State (Part-XIII)

My discussion of the aspirations of royal kinsmen for upward social mobility and the political manifestations thereof in the latter half of the thirteenth century, shows that royal attempts at projecting the succession of Guhila kings in a single line of fathers and sons conceal political tensions and the presence of rival chiefs. In this context, note David P. Henige's reservations about the veracity of Guhila genealogy: We are asked, for instance, to believe that in the Guhila dynasty of Medapata 32 of 33 successions were of the father-to-son variety, including five ruling generations between 942 and 977 and 18 ruling generations between 942 and before 1168. This extremely narrow royal genealogy is inferred from retrospective epigraphic evidence and from the traditions recorded by Tod. And, given the propensity of the Vamœāvalis, Khyāts, and other chronicles that portray succession as unremittingly from father to son one need not rely too heavily on Tod's account in this instance.

Though the royal inscriptions and other sources suggest unilinear succession on the basis of descent, the actual political situation in the thirteenth century was fraught with centrifugal forces. However, I focus here on the problems that the Guhila monarchy faced in this period. At the point when the dynasty reached the zenith of its power, its chief political supporters, the royal kinsmen, were possibly its worst problems.

The long absence of Guhila rule in fourteenth-century Mewar is indicated by the absence of Guhila records (with the exception of a solitary private record referring to the reign of RâGâ Kheta in AD 1366.) Epigraphic records of the Khaljis, Tughlaqs and Songirās in Chittaur-garh indicate a change in political sovereignty in the first half of the fourteenth century. At Chittaurgarh there is an intriguing absence of records between 1350 and 1400. To understand the continuities and changes during this period and later, a study of the fifteenth-century



The evidence suggests that the early fifteenth century kings of Mewar, who made no attempts to claim direct kinship relations with the Guhila dynasty, were possibly chiefs of local origin from Chittaurgarh.
Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha



local records is indispensable for my analysis of the process of state formation in Mewar as reflected in Guhila dynastic continuity.

The Fifteenth Century

Significantly, the disruption of Guhila rule in the fourteenth century is followed by the re-emergence of Guhila kingship in the fifteenth century. This shall greatly help analyse the establishment of the institution of regional kingship and dynastic traditions in Mewar. I feel that this continuity of Guhila dynastic rule despite a break was the result of a long process of regional state formation in which the state of Mewar came to be identified with the Guhila dynasty.

The fact that the kings of the late fourteenth and the early fifteenth century were sovereigns of Mewar is significant. These kings did not acknowledge the sovereignty of any king from outside Mewar. Evidence of their sovereignty is amply borne out by royal records. Thakkura Dâlâ refers to the reign of RâGâ Kheta in AD 1366. King Mokâl's Chittaurgarh Inscription and his Ćerngirsî Inscription, the earliest fifteenth-century royal records from Mewar, refer to an early ruler, Arisimha, as kcitipati and Hammira (Arisimha's successor in royal genealogy) as bhupati. With the consolidation of Guhila political power, titles were magnified; King Mokâl was called mahârâjâdhiraja mahârâGâ úrî m[ga]nka; so too his successor Kumbha who was also called rairâyâ râGerâi mahârâGâ. Not only royal records, but those of the Jains too refer to the reigning King Kumbha in a much more pompous tone (úrî râmayudhi^othiradinareúvaranukrasya râGâ úri kumbhakarna sarvovirapatisar vabhau-

masya vijayamânarâjye). Interestingly, the late fourteenth or early fifteenth-century kings of Mewar did not trace their genealogy to erstwhile Guhila kings except for lineage affiliation. They merely borrowed the legends of bappajavamsah and anvayo guhila nara-pati% in the early fifteenth century. In spite of proclaiming that one of their predecessors, Hammira (so far unlisted in Guhila genealogy), was a gem in the family of Bâppâ, Hammira's kinship ties to the said family are not revealed in Mokâl's records.

The evidence suggests that the early fifteenth-century kings of Mewar, who made no attempts to claim direct kinship relations with the Guhila dynasty, were possibly chiefs of local origin from Chittaurgarh. Their rise to power, associated with the fortress of Chittaur, is testified by contemporary royal records. The Kumbhagarh Prasasti condemns Râval Ratnasimha (the last Guhila king on the throne of Mewar before Alaudin's invasion of Chittaurgarh) for having failed to protect Chittaurgarh. In the same record MahârâGâ Lakmasimha is eulogized for having protected it. Besides, that their political origin was different from that of the earlier Guhila dynasty is also suggested by a private record that refers to King Khetâ (Kcetrasmimha) as a râGâ while one of Kheta's grandsons Mokâl chooses to drop the title. RâGâ, being a politically subordinate title suggests that initially, the Guhila kings were mere local chiefs. Mokâl later dropped the title of râGâ from his records to highlight the royal status of the Guhilas.

The Guhilas were so strongly identified with the state of Mewar

that no politically ascendant family aspiring to kingship, however strong and powerful, could legitimize its exercise of power without claiming direct kinship with them. Later rulers not only continued to appropriate dynastic affiliation to the Guhilas through the motifs of nrpati guhilâbhidhâno (kings by the name of Guhila), bappakhyah purâGapuru^oa and ba^opanvatah" (in the lineage of Bâppâ) but gradually also began to claim direct kinship with them. Vague affiliation to KhummâGa is hinted in a late fifteenth-century record. As I have mentioned earlier, KhummâGa is referred to as a Guhila king in the Atapura Inscription of AD 977 which provided the very first genealogical list of the Guhilas of Mewar for the first time. Mokâl, in the Chittaurgarh inscription dated AD 1429, traces Hammira back to Arisimha, king of Mewar, in the family of the Guhilas. Both of Mokâl's Mewar between the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Centuries records provide us with a genealogy that runs from Arisimha to Hammira to Mokâl via Mokâl's grandfather K^oetrasimha and father Laksa-simha. What seems to distinguish Mokâl's genealogy is the lengthy prasasti for Hammira" rather than Bâppâ. However, Mokâl neither elaborates upon the ties of kinship with previous Guhila kings nor mentions their ranks. Interestingly, a Jain record, the RâGakpur Prasasti of AD 1439, is one of the first fifteenth-century records that refers to the reigning king, Kumbha as râGâso and traces the genealogy of Kumbha to Bâppâvamsiya kings and Hammira to the thirteenth-century Guhila King Samarasimhas starting with Bappa. (Continued...)



‘Madan Das Devi brought swadeshi to India’s mainstream’

If you had the presence of Madan Das Devi, or ‘Madan ji’ as he was fondly called by his followers, admirers and peers, you could expect solutions to the most complex of issues. His discipline, honesty and commitment to the cause commanded so much respect that solutions to problems were obvious. Madan ji’s biggest contribution to the nation was that he brought swadeshi to the mainstream in the most challenging times.

Today, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scripting India’s economic self-reliance, in the backdrop shines Madan ji’s concept of ‘Arthik Rashtravad’, or economic nationalism—coined and propagated by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) under his stewardship.

Born in Maharashtra’s Solapur on July 9, 1942, Madan ji became a pracharak of the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS) and went on to devote his life to the nation’s service. By education, he was a lawyer and a chartered accountant.

Madan ji was national organising secretary of the ABVP from 1970 to 1992. He was one of the founding members of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) in 1991, along with Dattopant Thengadi, M.G. Bokare and other leaders. He was made national co-convenor of the SJM, the organisation’s battle being the globalisation pushed by the West in which India was seen as a mere market.

Madan ji—first as a representative of the ABVP and later as an RSS patron—was continuously a part of the SJM steering committee, flagging off economic issues of concern and effectively intervening at various levels. All programmes and activities of the SJM had his stamp. From the controversial Dunkel Draft before the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to intellectual property rights, labour standards and other issues, the SJM, under his able guidance, opposed tooth and nail concepts that were discriminatory towards the developing world. When an attempt was made to bring global giants into the power sector in Maharashtra, Madan ji’s directions led to opposition and the project being put on hold. If you had the presence of Madan Das Devi, or ‘Madan ji’ as he was fondly called by his followers, admirers and peers, you could expect solutions to the most complex of issues. His discipline, honesty and commitment to the cause commanded so much respect that solutions to problems were obvious. Madan ji’s biggest contribution to the nation was that he brought swadeshi to the mainstream in the most challenging times.

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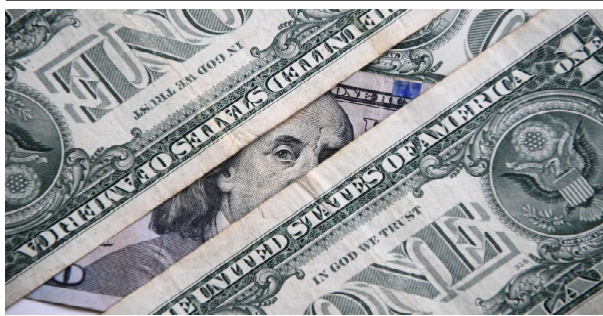
Madan ji stood like a rock in the most testing of times when Atal Bihari Vajpayee took over the reins of power at the Centre with alliance partners and was seen as guided by leaders not so sympathetic to the swadeshi ideology. Madan ji was tasked with coordination between the government and the RSS.

Various contentious issues brought the SJM at loggerheads with the government—Enron, WTO, FDI in insurance, disinvestment, to name a few. The SJM's 'maha dharna' on WTO issues in 2003 moulded India's approach and saw it raise issues at the WTO Ministerial Conference, which drew appreciation from the developing world. The dharna against FDI in insurance made the government take a parliamentary resolve to limit foreign investment in the sector to 26 per cent.

Madan ji worked to strike a balance between the RSS affiliates and the Vajpayee government, and it was due to his leadership that many contentious issues got flagged and resolved. If the SJM came to be known as a force to reckon with on India's economic roadmap, the brainchild was Madan ji. Today, if the SJM continues to raise issues of national importance, irrespective of the political party in power at the Centre, the foundation was laid by Madan ji. Its implementation now rests in the hands of his true disciple, PM Modi. □□



De-dollarisation: India Explores Creating SWIFT Alternative



India's ambitious plan to develop its own financial messaging system on the lines of Belgium-headquartered Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) will present the world with an "alternative" to the west dominated financial architecture, an Indian expert has told Sputnik.

Major Indian banks are connected to the SWIFT network, which has a presence in over 200 countries. Overall, 11,000 banks are part of the network, according to its website.

Ashwani Mahajan, the co-convenor of economic advocacy group Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), said that having a "Indian version" of SWIFT network would be "logical and a welcome step" in New Delhi's ongoing drive to "internationalize the rupee" and move away from carrying out trade in US dollar.

The UPI has been introduced in countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mauritius, Singapore, Nepal and Bhutan. This month, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced the introduction of UPI in Paris during his trip to France.

Mahajan noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last July had also allowed foreign banks to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) in Indian banks to facilitate trade settlements in rupees.

The Indian government told the Parliament this week that banks from 22 countries have opened SRVAs in 20 Indian banks till date. These countries include Russia, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Guyana and the United Kingdom among others, according to Indian commerce ministry.

Mahajan said that the India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for 2023-28 calls for "encouraging" the use of Indian rupee (INR).

Significantly, New Delhi's efforts to shed its reliance on the US dollar through rupee-tailored mechanisms such as UPI, SRVAs and plans to have an own

financial messaging system have gathered momentum coincide with sweeping western sanctions against Russia.

Last March, the European Union (EU) cut major Russian banks off SWIFT network as a payback for Moscow's special military operation in Ukraine.

The move led to economic disruptions globally, including in India-Russia economic ties as both the countries have been using SWIFT to carry out trade. According to reports at the time, Indian businesses were unable to get millions of dollars of their payments out of Russia due to restrictions on SWIFT.

Although the trade between the two countries has since broken all previous records due to Russian energy exports to India, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on the fringes of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in March that Russian businesses have billions of rupees in Indian banks which they were unable to use.

In 2018, New Delhi was also forced to cut off its booming energy trade with Iran after the then Donald Trump administration pulled Washington out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and re-imposed economic sanctions on the country.

Mahajan, however, cautioned that the process of developing an own financial messaging system would possibly incur a pushback from "established players" such as SWIFT.

In fact, not only India, but many countries such as China, the ten-country ASEAN and other developing states have in recent months been ditching the US dollar in favour of local currencies in trade settlements. As it is, the share of US dollars held by central banks was at a 25-year-low in the fourth quarter of 2020, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The share of US dollar reserves held by central banks fell to 59 percent—its lowest level in 25 years—during the fourth quarter of 2020.

<https://sputniknews.in/20230728/de-dollarisation-india-explores-creating-swift-alternative-3263858.html>

Stapled visas show PRC not keen on peace with India'

Just hours after the Chinese authority issued stapled visas to three sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh evoking strong protests from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the President of People's Republic of China (PRC) Xi Jinping on Friday called on young people from around the globe to "join hands to promote world peace and development".



Xi made these remarks while addressing a welcoming banquet ahead of the opening ceremony of the 31st summer edition of the FISU World University Games in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province. "India views Xi's remarks as something that exposes his hypocrisy and double standards. While his country issues stapled visas to young athletes from India's Arunachal Pradesh, leading to withdrawal of the Indian team from the games, the Chinese President is calling on the youth to participate in the movement for ensuring global peace," a diplomat in New Delhi told The Sunday Guardian. "One can see the height of hypocrisy as Xi's remarks are coming just ahead of the World University Games in which our players were going to participate, but they were handed stapled visas," the diplomat added. Diplomats also say that Xi's appeal to the youth to join hands to promote world peace and development is hollow and hypocritical.

In fact, in a late-night drama on Thursday, the Indian government had to ask its Wushu team, scheduled to leave for China to participate in the World University Games, not to board the flight. The decision came after three athletes from Arunachal Pradesh were handed stapled visas by the Chinese authorities here. India quickly lodged a protest with the Chinese diplomats over the same. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "This is unacceptable and we have lodged our strong protest with the Chinese side reiterating our consistent position on the matter and India reserves the right to suitably respond to such actions." "Our long-standing and consistent position is that there should be no discrimination or differential treatment based on domicile or ethnicity in the visa regime for Indian citizens holding valid India passports," Bagchi said.

The MEA spokesperson did not, however, share any further details about how India is going to use the right to suitably respond to China's action of issuing

stapled visas to athletes from Arunachal Pradesh. A diplomatic source privy to interactions and meetings at South Block told The Sunday Guardian: "India is likely to toughen its position on China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC), China's connivance with Pakistan on the issue of terrorism, and Beijing's belligerence in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean." "India is also likely to send 'meaningful' messages on Tibet in retaliation to China's action on Arunachal Pradesh. Delhi will try to garner support from the international community including the United States to flay China for another show of disrespect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries (read India)," a diplomat told this newspaper. The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) has already approved, on a bipartisan basis, a resolution reaffirming Arunachal Pradesh's status as an integral part of India. The US had also "strongly opposed China's attempts to advance a claim over the Indian territory Arunachal Pradesh, by renaming localities".

China reverting to issuing stapled visas to sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh exposes Chinese diplomat Wang Yi's false claim to NSA Ajit Doval that China does not pose any threat to India. Doval and Wang had met in South Africa recently on the sidelines of the BRICS NSAs' meeting. Wang had also said that the bilateral ties were stabilizing. Doval had given a strong message to Wang over LAC. Sources aware of strategy being discussed at MEA say that while India will not officially on record speak about the Tibet issue, messages will be given to China through diplomatic and other official channels. "Former diplomats and bureaucrats are free to use social media to ventilate their strong views on India's One-China policy. The message will be well-received by China," an official said.

A tweet from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor which is being seen as a strong message for China is going viral. He tweeted, "Enough is enough. Instead of frustrating our sportsmen & every other Arunachali seeking a Chinese visa, we should simply start issuing stapled visas ourselves, to anyone applying for an Indian visa from Tibet. And say we will continue to do so until the disputed border between Tibet and India is settled." According to sources, suggestions are coming saying that India should issue stapled visas to those living outside China's actual area.

Over the years, China has been denying stamped visas to people from Arunachal Pradesh. It maintains a

segregated approach to areas it considers disputed. India has been raising the issue with the Chinese. China has consistently denied stamped visas to Indian citizens from Arunachal Pradesh, citing territorial dispute.

<https://sundayguardianlive.com/top-five/stapled-visas-show-prc-not-keen-on-peace-with-india>

Most milk alternatives lack nutritional value of cow's milk



More people are consuming plant-based milk substitutes such as oats, soy, and almonds, but do plant-based products provide the same nutrition as cow's milk? According to the findings of a new survey, the majority do not.

Cow's milk is an important source of calcium and vitamin D, both of which are identified in the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans as nutrients of public health concern for underconsumption. Cow's milk is also a major source of protein in the American diet. To assess how the nutritional content of plant-based milk alternatives compares to that of cow's milk, researchers examined more than 200 plant-based milk alternative products being sold in the US in 2023 — many more products than were included in previous studies. Compared to cow's milk, only 12per cent of the milk alternative products contained comparable or greater amounts of all three nutrients studied: calcium, vitamin D, and protein.

Abigail Johnson, assistant professor and associate director of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Nutrition Coordinating Center, will present the findings at NUTRITION 2023, the annual flagship meeting of the American Society for Nutrition held July 22-25 in Boston.

"Our results provide evidence that many plant-based milk alternatives are not nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk," said Johnson. "Based on these findings, consumers should look for plant-based milk alternative products that list calcium and vitamin D as ingredients. They may also want to consider adding other sources of calcium and vitamin D to their diets."

The University of Minnesota's Nutrition Coordinating Center maintains a database of approximately 19,000 foods for assessing dietary intake in human research. "We know from our dietary assessments for nutrition studies that consumers are choosing more plant-based milk alternatives," said Johnson. "This project aimed to increase the number of these milk alternatives available in the Nutrition Coordinating Center's database of foods."

The study included nutrition information from nutrition facts labels and ingredient information for 233 plant-based milk alternative products from 23 different manufacturers. For each product, the researchers applied a nutrient calculation program to estimate full nutrient information. They then compared the nutritional content of different products within a category — for example, almond milk, oat milk, and soy milk — to each other and to cow's milk. Compared to dairy milk, just 28 of the plant-based alternatives had similar or more calcium, vitamin D and protein.

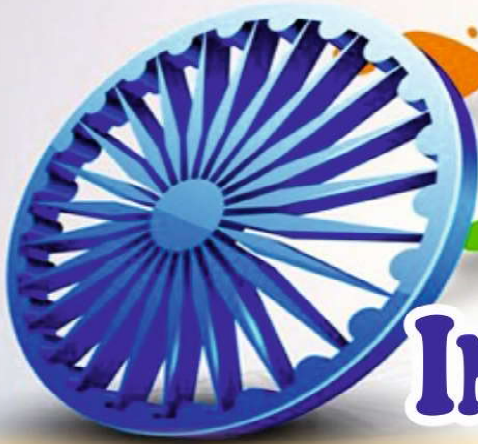
Almost two-thirds of the products included in the study were made from almonds, oats, or soy. The researchers found that 170 of the plant-based milk alternatives were fortified with both calcium and vitamin D and that the level of fortification tended to be similar to dairy milk. Specifically, 76per cent of the oat-based products, 69per cent of soy-based, and 66per cent of almond-based alternatives were fortified with both calcium and vitamin D. The median protein content was 2.0 grams (g) of protein per 240 millilitres (ml) of liquid, with a large variability that ranged from 0 to 12 g. Only 38 (16per cent) of the milk alternatives studied had a protein level greater than or equal to the 8 g per 240 ml found in cow's milk. Soy- and pea-based alternatives were more likely to have higher protein.

"Our findings point to a need to ensure that consumers are aware that many plantbased milk alternative products in the marketplace today are not nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk," said Johnson. "Product labeling requirements and dietary guidance to the public are among the approaches that may be helpful in alerting and educating consumers."

Next, the researchers plan to explore other nutrients in plant-based milk alternatives that make them different from cow's milk. For example, many of these products contain fiber, suggesting that they may help meet some nutritional needs that cow's milk doesn't. □□

<https://organiser.org/2023/07/26/185754/world/most-milk-alternatives-lack-nutritional-value-of-cows-milk-study/>

Swadeshi Patrika wishes its readers,
writers, contributors and entire Swadeshi Family



HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE DAY

Swadeshi Activities

Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan

Pictorial Glances

Meetings



Sambhaji, Devgiri



Mumbai, Konkan



Karnavati, Gujarat



Swadeshi Activities

Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan

Meetings

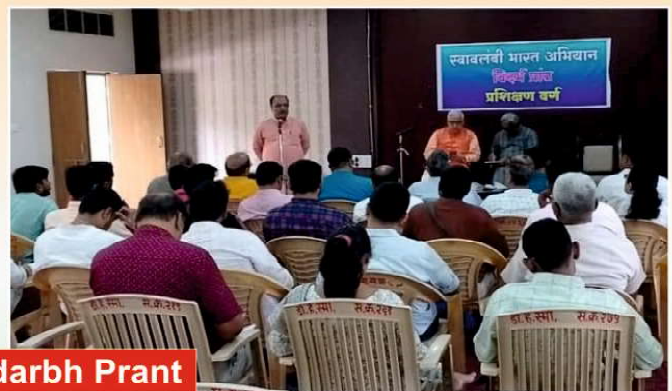
Pictorial Glimpses



Indore, M.P.



Nagpur, Vidarbha Prant



Rajkot, Gujarat



Vardha, Maharashtra

