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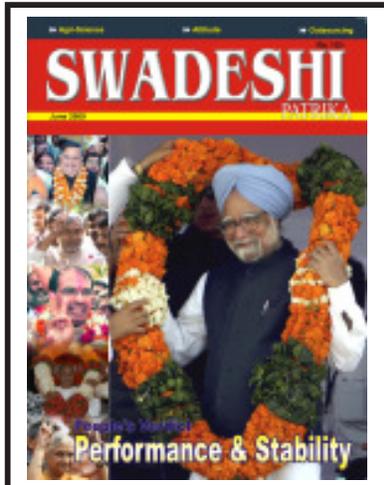
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People's Verdict

Performance & Stability



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Respect the mandate

The image of Indian farmer is changing from the hard working successful farmer to one who can't escape debt. The small farm is a standard figure in India's agricultural history, but the picture is also changing. The large number of farmer suicides above 150,000 in the last 10 years tells the tragic story, even after the government redefined the term "farmer" to reduce the number. But what are the reasons for these ever increasing farm suicides? Chemical fertilizers and other inputs have raised the cost of farming. Neo-liberal trade policies is Permitting free imports that reduces selling prices of farm products.

Excess food supply has decreased crop values. Also, lenders no longer give easy unsecured loans, taking away short term liquidity options. Similarly Genetically Engineered (GE) seeds projected as the future of Indian agriculture has failed to improve the conditions of the poor farmers. These high tech. seeds were supposed to lead to higher yields and wealth. However, independent groups place part of the blame for farmer suicides on these GE seeds. The government has mostly avoided the question.

Currently, India only allows one GE crop - BT cotton from Monsanto Corporation. Because the BT protein kills the boll worm, these seeds should have saved the cost of pesticides. But farmers found they still needed chemicals to control other pests and weeds. Their misuse eventually ended up with herbicide resistant weeds and miticide resistant mites.

India is now considering allowing BT food crops, increasing fears of human health dangers. Monsanto's BT toxin gene is derived from Bacillus thuringiensis. Although this bacterium is commonly used for organic pest control, some people fear that expression of the toxin in plants may have unforeseen health impact or even negative environmental impact. Chemical companies try to reduce fear by sending representatives into the villages to show farmers how to use the seeds for higher profits. They call it education; the government calls it modernization; farm groups call it propaganda.

It is time the new government pays immediate attention to this issue and comes out with an elaborate informative status paper revealing facts without fear or favour. Larger good of the people should be the only consideration. This will be in conformity with the mandate Congress has received from the people of India.

Arvind Padey, Dwarka, New Delhi.

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Quote-Unquote



The BJP welcomes the people's verdict, which is based on certain flaws in working and decisions of our party.

Rajnath Singh
President, BJP



Obviously, the CPI (M) has lost touch with people. Otherwise we would not have performed so poorly.

Sitaram Yechury
Polit Bureau member



I have priority for both growth and maintaining fiscal prudence, but which one will get more priority is to be determined depending on the situation.

Pranab Mukherjee
Finance Minister



All people who are economically backward, illiterate or downtrodden should be treated with equal love & respect. This is Sangh work.

Bhayaji Joshi
Sarkaryavah RSS

PEOPLE'S VERDICT; INDIA FIRST

Election is over, Result out and a new government with a fresh and clear mandate in place. With the wrapping up of a long drawn electoral process comes to an end the uncertainty that loomed large over the country for a long time, ever since the beleaguered Left front withdrew support to the UPA government. Not that election would have been avoided had they not walked out. That act of the Communists perplexed every one, including poll pundits eager to put forward hasty hypothesis. This game of predictions and foretelling continued for months together and what we witnessed was an unusual election. No waves for or against; no lasting issues and off course no frenzied mobs ready to shed blood for any party or candidate. General election 2009 has produced startling result. All predictions whether made by astronomers or psephologists, 24x7 news channels or political parties have proved disgustingly off the mark once again. Scientific tools claimed to be evolved after a lot of hard work failed to decipher the mind of Indian voter. Indian voter throughout country has yet again succeeded in out smarting political pundits. It does not matter how much effort is made to shift the blame and accuse the voter of concealing reality. Unlike his American counterpart, voters in India may not be speaking truth after coming out of the polling booth to the waiting surveyors. But, he is neither supposed to do so. If voters start revealing whom they voted for what is the need for a secret ballot? Why do we need such as huge and curtly effort?

It is time to salute the common voters and democracy. It is matter of both pride and satisfaction that democracy has not only survived but in reality firmed up in India in spite of a troubled neighborhood. Credit for all this undoubtedly goes to the electors and people of India. So irrespective of the outcome it is victory for country as a whole including those who comtested and could not win. Elections like a game will always produce a winner and a looser subsequently that in no way means the looser is out of the game. Congratulations India for this great achievement. Good luck all winning candidates also. Congress party and its poll managers deserve appreciation for succeeding in convincing the voters about its ability to manage the country in a better way than its contenders. Dr. Manmohan Singh has created history by becoming only 2nd Prime Minister to re-occupy the high office after five year term. First off-course was Pt. Nehru. This is no smaller achievement. Having said that one hopes the verdict 2009 is read coolly and truthfully to understand the underlying message conveyed unambiguously by the voter through out the country. The fact that poll out come depends on multiple factors can't be denied. But several significant pointers are too clear to be ignored. First, the era of political rhetoric seems to be over. Voter is no more interested in false promises and hollow belligerent promotion. He has also dropped the principle of predictable anti-incumbency. Voter does no more punish any and every incumbent government just for sake of it. Voter sensibly compares the performances of contending parties and chooses the better one available. She/he does not care to repeat the mandate for the people who are perceived to have performed better. Maturity of the voter in this regard is demonstrated by the choices made on this count irrespective of party and ideological differences. Economic and developmental issues also seem to have played an overriding role in settling for a choice. And the party that was able to market itself properly was successful in the end. Farm Loan waver, NREGA and similar other schemes rightly are believed to have contributed to the success of Congress party.

A slew of counselors including lobbyists have taken up the job of unsolicited guide to the new government. They are projecting the unexpected win as an endorsement for the fast tracking of economic reform process. We understand this to be a misreading of the people's verdict. Message from the ground is loud and clear. An enabled India, as a whole not just a section of it, is striving for its rightful place in the comity of nations. People have given the mandate. It is over to government now.

UNDERSTANDING VERDICT 2009

Perform or Perish is the Message Loud & Clear

■ Swadeshi samvad ■



Having been chosen as the Leader of Congress Parliamentary Party, Dr. Manmohan Singh, accompanied by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, Congress Parliamentary Party and the UPA called on the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Staking claim to form the government, they also handed over to the President letters of support extended to them by various political parties and others.

The President having satisfied herself, on the basis of the various letters of support received, appointed Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister and requested him to indicate the members of the new Council of Ministers.

This was a follow up procedure after Chief Election Commis-

sioner, Shri Navin B. Chawla accompanied by Dr. S.Y. Quraishi and Shri V.S. Sampath, Election Commissioners, met the President to submit a copy of the Notification issued by the Election Commission of India in terms of Section 73 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951 containing the names of the Members elected to the House of the People following the General Elections to the 15th Lok Sabha in pursuance of the Notification No. H.11024 (3)/2009.Leg.II issued by the President of India. This is not any news. It simply is the indication of the culmination of a long drawn process undertaken to elect the choicest representatives to the highest forum of democratic India besides electing a new government for next

five years. New government is already in place, even though there was some delay in selection of ministers and their portfolio's. This delay is normal given the situation and is not necessarily a reflection on the stability of the government.

Newly elected law makers will be administered oath in the session called for the purpose from June 1-9. Other business scheduled for the brief session includes the election of speaker and deputy speaker and also seeking the vote of confidence. Again, there are no apprehensions. Government will begin its usual work and in all probability will last a full term of five years.

People of India have this time given a decisive mandate, contrary to expectations of all stake holders including the winning combination. A hung parliament was the unanimous prediction, with non BJP non Congress third or fourth front with a faceless leader as front runner for a possible victor. Indian voter, removed from all these happenings watched events from a different perspective. He was observing all the players from a distance, thanks to invasive and intruding media and was reading between the lines that were delivered to him. Maturity of the voter in this regard is demonstrated by the choices s/he made irrespective of party and ideological differences. S/He chose Digvijay Singh in Bihar in spite of CM Nitish Kumar's efforts, who other wise swept

the state. Similarly Meenakshi Natrajen of Congress party won Mandsaur in a state that reposed faith in Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan, the successful chief Minister from BJP.

Second aspect of the verdict is the preference given to the stability over unreliable political opportunism. For over a year immediately preceding the election a process was set in motion to try various combinations. It reached a situation where no one was willing to take a firm stand on issues or parties. Non-Congress Non-BJP formation took such a perverse shape where fronts within fronts were emerging and disappearing with every passing moment. Leaders and parties were keeping all option open. The scene resembled political Haat where every one was available for sale and everyone a prospective customer at the same time. Voter whose concern was recession, Job loss, food insecurity and terrorism was making up his/her mind. S/he refused to believe words and weighed available options and made up his/her mind without creating any fuss. The result is no more a secret.

Third aspect of the verdict is the conduct of major players and parties. Election in 2009 was a different ball game altogether on one major count and that was its coverage on electronic media. Yes T.V. was there in 2004 and earlier elections also. But the scale was altogether different and people had multiple choices unavailable in earlier versions. Voter this time had gained fair amount of experience to distinguish between what was said and what that meant. It was, therefore, left to ability of contestants to deliver the message

Economic concerns without compromising humanitarian issues is a worrisome challenge

The 2009 Lok Sabha election has provided the Government with opportunity to give economy a new meaning, reorient rural periphery, agriculture, small-scale and cottage units, corporates and rural and urban work force, feels Shivaji Sarkar

The global economic crisis is nowhere near a solution and Western economies are becoming increasingly protectionist. The new Government will have to factor this in while charting India's course.

The new Government, which is set to takeover amid difficult news of 2.3 per cent dip in industrial production and manufacturing sector contracting by 3.3 per cent, faces several daunting challenges ahead besides pepping up the industry.

It has to complete the semi-finished budgetary process, take steps to add to growth without levying taxes (rather it has to cut taxes), create jobs, protect the rights of the working class, boost agricultural and rural growth, reduce the number of poor, bring down the prices and ensure that the country's current investment grade rating risked by large deficits is maintained.

The new Government has to study how to remain integrated by insulating the domestic economy from the ills of reckless process of the Western economies, which had always been protectionist and now would be more so.

Economic concerns have to be addressed without compromising on either humanitarian issues or principles of good governance. The Government has to devise ways to effectively check corruption that proliferate more during difficult times.

The process for regeneration of the economy has to start with the presentation of the Budget, which will lay down the fundamentals of resuscitation. The February Budget has exposed the myth of the economy being in a proper shape. The finances, the Budget reveals, had started tottering long before the global meltdown — post-August 2008 Lehman Brother scam.

It is known that the Government has to complete the process post-haste to complete constitutional obligation. Would the Government be able to include its concerns in such a short period? It has also to contend with political and regional pulls and counter pulls as well. Various allies would have their concerns and amid such diversities, finalising a process has its own pitfalls.

The growth projections are continuously coming down. If the Reserve Bank of India and the Planning Commission are to be believed, it may hover around five per cent while international estimates push it down. The Government's concern will be to push it up by all means.

The breakdown in 1991 had provided a unique opportunity of shedding the burden of past notions and ideals. It ushered in a re-

form where the poor unfortunately took a back seat. Growth was seemingly there but there were not many jobs. Social welfare was not the concern. In the name of pension reforms, whatever little was available is being robbed of. Labour has been robbed of its minimum protection even at a time when corporate profits may have come down a bit, but they are nowhere in losses.

The 2009 Lok Sabha election has provided the Government with opportunities to integrate the labour into the policy making phenomenon. The Government has to ensure that workers' interests are protected and they are not robbed of what is promised to them. If corporate profits are sacrosanct, so are the minimum wages and benefits of the workers. A weakened labour force implies a weaker economy.

The fundamentals of 1991 have to be reset in 2009, giving economy a new meaning. It has to reorient rural periphery, agriculture, small-scale and cottage units, corporates and rural and urban work force. A strong agriculture policy based on land policy, marketing, bank credit and innovation has to be introduced. During the past two decades, prime agricultural land use has been changed to industrial special economic zones, urbanisation, housing and road projects. It has to be stopped.

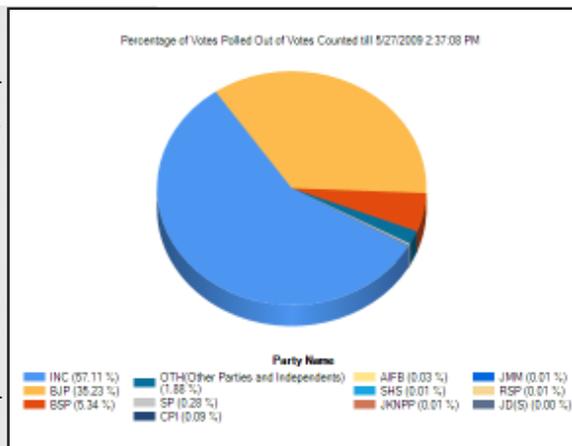
The country cannot afford to lose farm lands particularly at a time when it is less than the requirement. Farmers should be encouraged to retain their land holdings and not sell to the landsharks. With almost 60 crore people depending on agriculture, a policy for the farm sector is needed on priority basis.

Although welfare schemes like Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and NREGA are there, the very concept is based on giving doles. Rural and semi-urban people need to be integrated into the new economy rather than being given the doles. The trickle-down theory has not worked. An independent policy is needed for the two-third of rural Indian and 70 per cent of urban workers who are not getting the officially stipulated minimum intake of 2,700 calories.

Leading index provider Standard & Poor has recently revealed that investment rating is downgrading and it may further because of rising deficits. The Government has to ensure a fast-paced growth by increasing purchasing capacity by empowering the working class. The 1991 economic reforms started an urban-centric policy and 2009 has to have a holistic look by including the forgotten and forsaken sectors. It has to pin for an inclusive growth.

India has the advantage of a young population that is to last till 2050. Even China is to lose the advantage owing to its one-child policy from 2015. The youth is spread all over. If these daunting challenges are taken care of recession cannot stop country's economic growth. It does not even need investment. Prudent inclusive thinking can help achieve this goal.

The writer is a senior economic affairs journalist. □□



to voter. Message does not mean mere words uttered in studio's of TV channels. It does neither mean shouting opponents down. This type of debate may give a person temporary satisfaction, but fails to achieve the intended purpose of convincing the voter to press the button in front of the party symbol. It is difficult to deceive Indian voter having experience of some fifteen general elections during the sixty odd years of independence and n-number of other elections.

A whole host of experts are analyzing election results. Every one is providing a different set of reason for the out come depending upon the writer's own position. Defeat has exposed losing parties in many ways. Differences are in open those who were managing the polls are shifting blame after being targeted by those within the party who were sidelined. In this atmosphere honest analysis is the first casualty butchering chances of recovery in the process. Communists are no exception any more.

A divided house be that of CPI (M) or BJP or for that matter any other party will have to face the ire of people is another message emanating from the verdict 2009. No matter how hard these

once perceived disciplined parties may try to deny, inner party bickering is hitting them hard. In comparison Congress party seemed to be in total control of its poll management. Not only did the party take a firm stand against all those who refused to fit in the scheme of things of the high command, high command in return was connected with the changing ground realities. Decisions of the management whether to field young faces or go it alone in UP and Bihar ultimately proved rewarding. That almost all the young faces within party are from political dynasties can't be denied, but that does not take away the relevance of youthfulness of the grand old party.

BJP on the other hand did not market even its manifesto properly; the document that got maximum coverage in media and was appreciated by the majority of opinion makers remained an academic document only. There was a vast gap between what people wanted to listen and what they were forced to heed. Disconnect between different layers of party organs was also visible even to a layman.

Some analysts in hurry have explained the verdict in terms of the national parties and bipolarity of Indian polity getting endorsement from the voters. While this explanation may not be erroneous facts seem to speak otherwise. First of all one has to acknowledge the difference between seats won and the %age of votes polled. A look

at the %age of votes polled by national parties in last three general elections shows converse trend. In 1999, for example, when total turnout of voters' was 59.9% national party's share was 67.1%. In 2004 voter turnout was down to 58.07% and National parties garnered only 62.89% of the votes polled. In the just concluded election national parties polled 62.88% of the 58.43% polled votes. These figures don't substantiate the claim of endorsement of national parties. Yes there is a sea change in the vote

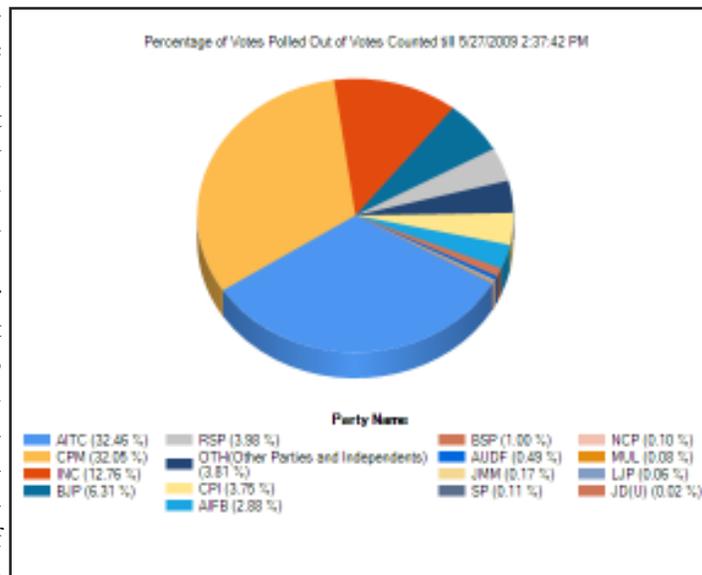
ment being the arrogance of considering themselves the sole representatives of weak and downtrodden. That their action never matched their words was quite clear in prelude the general election.

BJP has its own set of problems major one being refusal to introspect honestly. Party is reluctant to have a collective view of the emerging situation. It is also averse to accommodate the views of its elsewhere vote bank. Leadership is disconnected. Workers and lower rung leaders don't have access to

party managers. That has played a major demotivating factor and is evident from sharp decline in its vote share across the country barring Himachal and Karnataka. Delhi is the most significant indicator of its health. Not only did Congress win all the seven seats its vote share has gone up to 57% a difference of around 22%.

Post election scenario has another aspect

that merits consideration. Interest groups have become hyper active to convince Congress party that the vote is for acceleration of reform process. Even Pascal Lamy, Director General WTO has expressed confidence that the UPA government's return to power would help raise the momentum for pushing through the Doha deal. Similarly other controversial issues like labour reforms the wrapper for hir & fire policy and opening of Indian markets need to be watched carefully. With opposition still traumatized civil society will have to play the watch dog. □□



share of different national parties both in %age terms as well as in terms of seats won. But there are several other reasons responsible for the same. For one; regional parties seem to have become vulnerable to further sub regional or individual aspirations. Praja Rajyam in AP and MNS in Maharashtra have had a definite influence on the outcome of the results. But that indicates cut in vote share of losing combinations.

Communists have been shaken to roots, with the worst ever performance. There are several reasons for their defeat most promi-

Who controls agricultural science in India?

With the appointment of top administrative and scientific positions being overseen by biotechnology industry, and with the GM regulatory system virtually in their pocket, these ensure that the scientific community in the university and ICAR institutes fall in line, divulges **Dr. Devinder Sharma**

Walk into an agricultural university or an agricultural research institute being run by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and you come back dismayed. Gone are the days when agricultural scientists were somehow free and independent to plan their research priorities. When at least you could sit with them and have a free discussion on what was happening in their own laboratories. You could talk to them about the politics prevailing in the university, and how a particular scientist was being benefited for what he was doing, and so on.

Gone are those days. Today, when I walk into an institute or even meet some of these scientists outside at a conference/workshop, I can see their level of discomfort, the uneasiness that settles in the moment you try to find out what is happening in their universities, forget about their laboratories. They are tight-lipped, and if I may say so they are simply terrorised.

And when in the US, a group of 25-odd scientists wrote that now well-known letter saying they were no longer being allowed to conduct any meaningful research, I wasn't surprised or shocked. What actually came to my mind after having read that letter was that how could these scientists



muster the courage to say this now? Nevertheless, I think it was very admirable on the part of these scientists to call a spade a spade, and this should inspire more scientists to come out of the GM shackles that is keeping their mouth shut. After all, for how long can you keep a good scientist in a box? For long can you bar a scientist from doing any meaningful research?

I wish someone in India also demonstrates the same kind of courage.

It all begins at the top. The entire research system is so well entrenched in the hands of these biotechnology companies that

nothing moves without their tacit approval. We are aware the Chairman of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), Dr C D Mayee, is also on the board of ISAAA in India. The biotechnology industry therefore has made it openly clear that they have in the past and will in future be overseeing all the selections to the top posts being made. And once this is done, it is easy to ensure that the scientific community in the university and ICAR institutes fall in line.

Isn't it strange that when Mulayam Singh's government appoints thousands of police personnel, the next government re-

moves them saying that these were political appointees. This didn't happen only in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab too has been faced with a similar controversy. I wonder when will a similar question be asked about all the appointments that Dr C D Mayee made in his tenure as the chairman of ASRB.

Such is the terror psychosis that prevails that you cannot aspire to be a professor what to talk of being the head of a department or a dean or director or a vice-chancellor in a university unless you join the GM chorus. Some of these scientists can go to any extent to demonstrate their loyalty. I remember the former vice-chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, had in a debate with me said that if we have accepted Microsoft, what is wrong with Monsanto. I still wonder what is the correlation.

Once the management of the institutes has been adequately managed, these centres become an open field for the company officials. I am amazed at the way the private company officials, move around in the corridors of not only the ICAR but also the universities and institutes. You have to see the easy access and the comfort levels with which these company officials operate. Sometimes I wonder whether these company officials are on a deputation with the university. No wonder, you don't hear of many examples of a revolving door in India. Who needs a revolving door when the university doors have been opened to private companies.

Take the case of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). It is loaded with scientists who are actually the cheer-

The entire research system is so well entrenched in the hands of these biotechnology companies that nothing moves without their tacit approval.

leaders for the biotechnology industry. And when Dr Pushpa Bhargava, the Supreme Court nominee to the GEAC, began to ask questions that challenged the unscientific cover the GEAC had very conveniently provided to the companies, the GEAC actually wanted him to be removed from the committee?

I thought any apex committee with good intentions would have drawn from the experience of Dr Pushpa Bhargava and set its own house in order. In fact, Dr Bhargava tells me an interesting story that should tell you for whom is the GEAC actually working for. Although I have been saying for quiet long now that GEAC is basically a rubber stamp for the industry, but still let us listen to what Dr Bhargava says. He only substantiates what I have been saying.

The Bt cotton varieties approved by the GEAC were all hybrids. The Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) at Nagpur, has recently developed a non-hybrid Bt cotton which means the gene is now in a variety from which the farmers can save seed and replant the next year. In case of hybrids, farmers have to buy seed for every sowing since the

hybrid vigour is lost in the second generation. The CCRI application for approving this variety had come before the GEAC several times, and yet it was not being taken up.

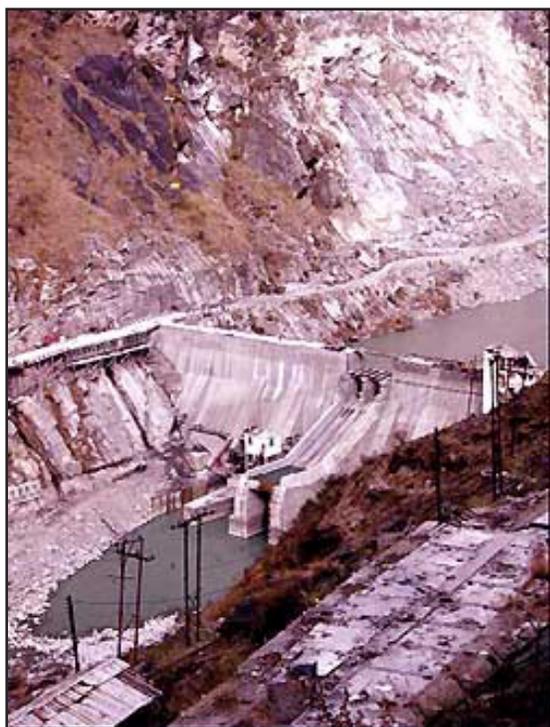
Dr Bhargava says that he finally asked the GEAC chairman as to why it was not being taken up. The chairman replied that this will invite objections from them. Who is them, Dr Bhargava asked, & replied, you mean Monsanto. The chairman is reported to have said yes.

With the appointment of top administrative and scientific positions being overseen by these companies, and with the GM regulatory system virtually in their pocket, these companies have nothing to fear. That is why they are not even remotely concerned at the political stand against GM crops taken by every major political party except for the Congress. If you read the election manifesto of the political parties, it seems very clear that the majority is against the unbridled introduction of GM crops in the country, and yet the industry is only feeling amused. They know for sure that with the agricultural scientists rallying faithfully behind them, they have nothing to fear.

While agricultural scientists never get tired to swear in the name of GM technology, I wasn't amazed when I asked at a recent workshop if any one of them had heard of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), I was only faced with blank faces. Ironically, India is a signatory to the IAASTD, and yet our agricultural scientists do not know anything about it. □□

Cheap electricity is anti-people

'Cheap' electricity is not pro-people. On the contrary it is pro-rich who consume most electricity. It is anti-people because the common man has to pay taxes to make up the losses, explains **Dr Bharat Jhunjunwala**



Power cuts have become commonplace once again with the coming of summers. Demand for electricity is more and supply is less. This leads to pressure on generators and electricity workers have to cut supply to reduce load. The main reason for high demand is low price of electricity. People consume more electricity like they clamour to take free food distributed at a langar. Say the true price of electricity is Rs 12 per unit. The homemaker will consume less electricity in running geysers and washing machines at this price. She will use more electricity if

available at Rs 5 per unit as presently. In this way low price leads to an increase in demand, shortages and power cuts.

Most electricity is consumed by tube well-owning rich farmers, industrialists and middle classes. About 24 percent of electricity is consumed in the entire domestic sector. My estimate is that about 90 percent of this, or 22 percent of total consumption, is undertaken by the upper classes. The consumption of electricity

by the common man is only 2 percent of the total. This may increase to about 3 percent if we add the electricity used in production of other goods purchased by him. In the result, 97 percent of all electricity is produced for and consumed by the upper classes.

The consumption by upper classes is more due to low price. This low price is created in three

The global standard of transmission loss is 10 percent. In India this is about 35 %.

ways. The first source of low price is theft. One industrialist told this writer that 3/4th electricity consumed in his factory is obtained on the sly. The price of this stolen electricity is about one-fourth of the official price. He has to pay about Rs 1 per unit to the electricity workers against Rs 6 charged officially. He does not install electricity-saving devices because he is getting cheap stolen electricity. Farmers also tap the electricity lines illegally and make a monthly payment to the lineman. The demand by the industrialist and farmer is more because cheap stolen power is available. This theft is shown as 'transmission loss' by the electricity workers. The global standard of transmission loss is 10 percent. In India this is about 35 percent. About 25 percent electricity is being stolen and sold at cheap rates. This leads to increase in demand and to power cuts.

The second source of cheap price of electricity is sale at low price by the State Electricity Boards. They buy electricity at a high price and are required to sell at a low price due to the politics of their masters. Most states are providing electricity to farmers at near-zero rates. The loss incurred by the Boards is made up by budgetary support from the State Government. But the State Government

does not have a magic wand to create money. It has to impose sales and other taxes upon the common man. In this way, the burden of cheap supply of electricity is indirectly passed on to the common man. In other words, 'cheap' electricity is not pro-people. On the contrary it is pro-rich who consume most electricity. It is anti-people because the common man has to pay taxes to make up the losses.

The third source of cheap price of electricity and consequent high demand is non-recovery of environmental costs of generation. Carbon dioxide is emitted from thermal power plants. This gas is leading to global warming, drying of water sources, increased skin diseases, etc. Radioactive waves are emitted from nuclear plants and the waste generated by them. It also brings forth dangers of theft of nuclear fuel for terror purposes.

Oxygen and beneficent chemicals in our river waters are reduced, forest biodiversity is reduced and coastal areas are eroded due to trapping of silt in hydropower projects. These negative impacts are mostly borne by the common man. He suffers from diseases, loses access to traditional water sources and is deprived of forest produce. This cost, which is borne by the common man, is not recovered from the consumers of electricity. Electricity generation companies do not have to pay for environment degradation wrought by their activities. They sell power at costs directly incurred by them such as in the purchase of coal. Say the direct costs incurred by a thermal power plant are Rs 5 per unit. The indirect cost of re-absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is Rs 7 per unit. The true cost of

Most electricity is consumed by tube well-owning rich farmers, industrialists and middle class. About 24 % of electricity is consumed in the entire domestic sector.

electricity is Rs 12 per unit. But the power company sells it at Rs 5 and makes profit because the costs of carbon dioxide emissions are borne by the common man. In this way, non-recovery of environmental costs leads to low price, high demand and shortage of power.

To revert to the main argument, power cuts are made necessary due to high demand which, in turn, is due to low price of electricity. The three sources of low price are: theft, sale at low price and non-recovery of environmental costs. These costs are passed on to the common man indirectly. He has to pay for theft, he pays taxes to meet losses of the State Electricity Boards and he directly bears the consequences of environmental damage such as by global warming. On the other hand, the benefits of cheap electricity are reaped by the rich farmers, industrialists and middle classes. Thus selling cheap electricity is not pro-people as claimed. Instead it is a policy of reaching benefits to the upper classes and electricity workers. If electricity is sold at its true cost of production of Rs 12 per unit and

theft is controlled, the demand will be less and power cuts will end.

There is a problem in this suggestion, however. The common man too will be hit by an increase in price along with the upper classes. How is he to be compensated? There are two solutions. One is to strengthen the policy of cross-subsidization. Sell electricity to small consumers at Rs 5 per unit as at present and increase price for domestic consumers with high consumption & commercial consumers to, say, Rs 13 per unit. Second solution is to implement pro-employment policies & to enable the poor to buy high-priced power.

A similar protection will have to be provided to our exporters. Indian industrialists complain they are unable to face competition from other countries like China and Korea because power is cheap there. The price of electricity in these countries is Rs 2 per unit against Rs 6 per unit in India. A hefty increase in price of electricity will increase the cost of production and price our goods out of the global market.

The solution is to impose import duty on imported goods to increase the price of goods imported in the country and make it possible for domestic producers to compete despite high price of electricity. These revenues can be used to provide subsidy on exports. In this way we will be able to compete with cheap electricity in foreign countries while also protecting our common man, our economy and our environment. □□

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Is Outsourcing Outrageous?

USA's concern over the negative impact of outsourcing on the labour market is unwarranted. The challenge of United States is to make American workforce more competitive in the global marketplace, pleads Dr. Deepak K. Srivastava

Overriding mission for the Obama, as 44th President of the United States, would be how to tackle unemployment situation when economy is swirling in the recessionary doldrums. According The Economist, unemployment rate in United States has reached at 6.7%. In his campaign for the presidential election, Obama's rhetoric had indicated some protectionist measures as allowing tax breaks for firms that create employment within the country and not for those outsourcing jobs to other countries in order to protect labor market. Therefore, Indian

industry fears lower number of outsourcing contracts from the United States.

A concern about unemployment is certainly appreciable, but at the same time it is pertinent to note that outsourcing is not outrageous. Outsourcing should be seen as a strategic tool for a business to grow rather cause for job loss.

Outsourcing does offer a bailout package for firms those are suffering from deep recession. In the time of economic turbulence outsourcing may provide a means to steep learning curves and gain economies of scale. Therefore,

firms would choose outsourcing in order to optimization of available resources that could lead to sustained profitability and cost effective structure.

In addition to the drive to cut costs, other factors would also support continuance of outsourcing trend, like an Information technology skills gap in the United States, where demand for tech skills is more than the supply as number of students opting computer science stream has plummeted after the dot-com bust of 2001.

On the other hand, India has entered into the new global order of 21st century as rising in the number of English-speaking engineers, and management students graduating from different educational institutions that have given com-



In addition to the drive to cut costs, other factors would also support continuance of outsourcing trend, like an Information technology skills gap in the United States, where demand for tech skills is more than the supply

parative advantage to India. No doubt Indian professionals are happy to earn a part of what their American counterparts may be earning. Owing to its abundant supply of labour, India has become prime outsourcing destination for countries such as the United States. As more tasks are assigned to Indian outsourcing firms there is widespread fear that such excessive outsourcing will drive down wages and result in massive job losses in the United States. However, the fear is not plausible.

According UNCTD report 'Shift Towards Service' 3.4 million service jobs to be outsourced from the United States till 2015 that is insignificant compared with the average turnover of four million jobs every month in United States market.

The fear that outsourcing kills jobs is based on the assumption that lower prices will mean lesser wages. In fact that is not true in global market. Famous Economist Dr. Jagdish Bhagwati has written in his book titled 'Defense of globalization' that the real wages

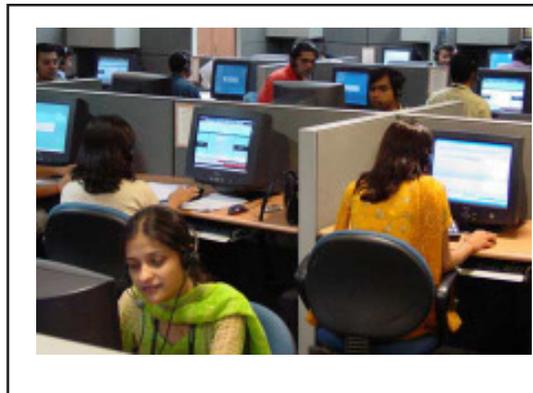
of United States workers remained stagnant, prices of labour intensive goods actually rose in relation to prices in the global market during 1980. But in the 1970s prices of goods fell while real wages rose.

One working paper of National Bureau of Economic Research entitled "Productivity measurement and the impact of trade and technology on wages: estimates for the U.S., 1972-1990," by Robert Feenstra and Gordon Hanson examined the impact of outsourcing on foreign suppliers of labour intensive components to United States manufacturing firms.

Their study also concluded that outsourcing raised the real wages of United States workers.

Perhaps the most contemporary study on welfare linkage of outsourcing "The Impact of Outsourcing to China on Hong Kong's Labor Market" published in American Economic Review 95(5) authored by Hsieh and Woo showed that shifting of low skilled jobs of Hong Kong based firms into the China owing to China's abundance of low skilled workers, while high skilled jobs remained in Hong Kong, increased the demand sharply for skilled workers in Hong Kong in those industries that outsourced to China.

In the United States driving



force of outsourcing is technical progress that encouraged traditional industries to shift to technology-intensive products, and outsourcing back-end services from developing countries like India to reduce the operational costs. This shift was supported by monetary expansion by Federal bank in post dot-com bust period as low interest rates and availability of loans increased investment in the United States that created incentive to manufacture capital-intensive products.

The reason for job loss is sluggishness in the United States

The reason for job loss is sluggishness in the US economy characterized by the slow growth rate which is attributed to current account deficit and poor saving rate of households.

economy characterized by the slow growth rate which is attributed by current account deficit and poor saving rate of households. Therefore, the United States concern over the negative impact of outsourcing on the labour market is unwarranted. Ban on outsourcing may be effective in only short term as keeping millions of job seekers from the developing countries like India out of the United States labor market. But the challenge of United States is to how to make American workforce more competitive in the global marketplace.

A more appropriate approach would be required for the United States that must stimulate domestic demand, reduce current account deficit. The main solution is for Americans to save more. There is need also to shift production towards exports. The Obama government should implement relief measures to help ease the pain of those who find themselves out of work like wage insurance that may help while workers face pain of displacement or shift from one job to another. □□

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Consumerism: A Threat to Mankind

The speed at which depletion of natural energy resources is taking place, human society is expected to have no stock of such resources after a few decades. It has threatened very survival of the planet itself. Immediate need is to develop an economic model based on Hindu way of living. Such a radical action would only help us to overcome the present catastrophic conditions created by capitalism, thinks D G Bokare

Developed nations are in deep trouble due to their 'don't care for others' attitude. Many are presently facing a threat to their lavish and vainglorious living styles. They have been blaming developing and poor countries for this kind of situation for many years. They feel that poor as well as developing countries have been responsible for the present crisis. More particularly the Americans feel that their "American Dream" is getting in serious problem. In 1995, there was some discussion on the theme of American Dream. It was expressed there: "We are fully aware that due to our excessive consumption and wasteful practices many in the world are facing difficulties. May be due to this, the social balance in many countries will be seriously affected. Our propaganda media are constantly and fully occupied to spread the culture of consumerism. The US is now attempting the lowest level of industrial democracy".

Many young people are attracted to migrate to developed nations and more particularly to

the US for 'enjoying' the life style of luxury, individualist approach, wasteful practices and 'don't care attitude towards others'. It is like a haven for all these migrants. This is the dream of life of young people across the globe. They want to migrate to these countries at any cost. This has become the culture of these so called developed (*sic*) countries. They migrate leaving behind their parents who had educated them and given cultural lessons from the childhood. This does



not matter for them.

Today, we witness three classes of human society in the world, and these are: developed, developing and poor nations. Every human

being is equal while taking birth in this planet. Nature has never made any distinction between man and man. Man is supposed to be the highest level of nature's gift. He has highest intellectual powers and a rational mind to analyze the surroundings. It is therefore expected that he will follow the nature's laws. But the selfish mind keeps him away from these noble thoughts. He becomes greedy to 'enjoy' the life. Due to this, the human society is presently facing not only a situation of its survival but also of the survival of the planet itself. The speed at which the depletion of natural energy resources taking place, it is expected to have no stock of such resources after a few decades. This had worried many scientists around the world during the last five decades.

In around 1970s, a 'think tank' of scientists and experts from concerned fields was formed to take stock of natural energy resources and the rate of consumption by a growing population. This was later called "The Club of Rome"

since it started from the city of Rome. They collected vast data of five basic elements and their trends to assess of the life of such materials. These were: population growth, industrialization, food production, pollution, and consumption of non-renewable natural resources. The data available from world's major consumption-centers were simulated by using then high-powered computer equipment then available with MIT institute of the USA. The details of this model were presented in a book, "The Limit To Growth" published in 1972. This book was made available in 37 world's major languages, and copies sold so far exceed twelve millions. It shows very clearly the importance of its contents. What were the major findings of the study?

1. If the trend of material consumption then seen were to continue at the same pace, the limit of growth of this planet will be reached sometime within the next one hundred years, i.e. roughly around the year 2070.

2. If material consumption and other growth elements are arrested, the resources might last only for some more time.

The amount of their increases each year follows a pattern that mathematicians call exponential growth. Let us be clear at this point that such high consumption of natural resources was mostly restricted to America, USSR, Japan, and some European countries. China and India have later joined the club of these high-consumption-growth countries from around 1980-90. Their present level of consumption is now getting close to that of developed countries. China's population has grown from

850 million in 1970 to 1.25 billion in 2000. It is still rising. China's oil consumption will grow six fold in next thirty years. Had their present data been considered at the time of simulation, the span of resource availability would have been less than one hundred years, say 60-70 years. In other words, the end of non-renewable natural resources could take place within the next 30-40 years (2040?). This estimated period of one hundred years was based on the estimated levels of natural resources as available in 1900. The estimated stock levels were doubled just to be on safe side in estimating the stocks.

This study was followed up after a gap of thirty years and these scientists had unequivocally endorsed the first findings. The scientists' original research work was criticized by many. Ironically, the conservative but influential British financial weekly, *The Economist*, which remains a critic of 'The Limits To Growth', produced a supplement on 'Development and Environment, on 21st March 1998, which presented the data on the extent of environmental destruction in the Third World. It warned the developed countries by saying, "If they fail, they will be risking not just the health of their citizens but also possibly the health of capitalism too. The people might start to assume, wrongly, that capitalism and foul leaving conditions are natural bed fellows". No body from the developed nations had shown any concern to this warning. The President of the USA had refused to sign the Kyoto declaration on environment safety. This shows only their arrogance. Australia's last elections were fought on the issue of environment's safety alone,

New president of the US is still not fully committing himself to stop excessive damage to the natural energy resources.

which was ignored by the earlier government. The new leader, who took the charge of the country's affairs last year, signed the Kyoto declaration immediately after assuming the power. Arrogance of the US government in this respect still continues. New president of the US is still not fully committing himself to stop excessive damage to the natural energy resources. He is making some vague statements in this regard.

The industrial activities release pollution at such a rate that the environmental pollution absorption mechanisms become saturated. Its speed is much faster than the nature's recreation cycles. Industrial activities if continued at the present rate, a large quantity of natural resources are expected to deplete without giving any fore warning to human beings. Investments cannot keep up with depreciation in energy-proving resources. It will result in collapse of industrial activities permanently. With this collapse the agricultural and services activities like hospitals, computers, chemicals and fertilizers etc) too collapse as these are by now made dependent on the industrial growth. This is quite serious since the population would suffer immensely. One of the authors of the above referred book states very categorically, "We have tried in every doubtful case to make the most optimistic estimate of unknown



quantities, and we have also ignored discontinuous events such as wars or epidemics, which might act to bring an end to growth even sooner than our model would indicate”. Due to all these factors, pollution is rising very rapidly, causing an immediate increase in the death rate and steady decline in food production.

Due to immense pressure from the West, many Asian and African countries are falling into an irreversible trap laid by the West in the name of ‘development’. They have developed an inferiority complex if others do not call them a developed nation. India is one such country. We are blindly following the most dangerous economic model of the West. The word ‘sustainable development’ was coined a few decades ago because till then it was found that their economic model was certainly ‘unsustainable’. When the things are going out of control and the future danger to mankind is clearly visible, the West has now started talking about sustainable development.

The scientists did not just call for a reduced level of consumption of resources. They said that

humankind needs to re-evaluate its exploitative attitude towards humans and the Earth itself. Today the world’s richest twenty percent of the population consume about 86 percent of goods and services, over half its energy and over half of fish and meat. It is doubtful whether these rich people are willing to take the warning seriously. ‘Enjoy today, will worry tomorrow’ is the attitude of the rich people and their nations. The model designed on such mindset of the “developed” people is being replicated by the Congress-led government.

Signs on climate condition are clear:

- Sea level has risen 19-20 cm since 1900.
- Polar glaciers are retreating at much fast speed unexpected earlier
- First Global assessment of soil loss based on many experts’ studies found that 38% or nearly 1.4 billion acres of currently used agricultural land, has been degraded.
- We are releasing wastes and pollutants at much faster rate than the Earth can absorb them

or render them harmless.

- Since Green Revolution had started in 1960s, agriculture activities have been consuming more fossil-based fertilizers and pesticides. When one adds in the oil used for processing and packaging foods and refrigerating and shipping them long distances, the activity accounts for almost twenty percent green gas emissions.
- IPCC report says that snow on mountains, polar areas could ultimately be reduced by 60-70 % in a matter of a decade. This will create huge problems of water availability, crop production etc. Supreme Court of India has very recently given an ultimatum to government to vacate seats if it cannot solve the water problems of India.
- BBC News of 21st April 2009 reports, “From the Yellow River in Northern China to the Ganges in India to the Colorado river in the US, the US scientists say, that the major sources of fresh water for much of the world’s population are in decline”.
- Pollution is not an accident, and it is also not a market-failure. It is the way the consumerism system works.

James Gustave Speth, an environmentalist and Dean of Yale University has put the entire blame for this dangerous condition for the mankind’s future on capitalism itself. Capitalism has been too destructive and taken the human beings so far down the road to catastrophe and one of the first tasks facing any sincere government will be to apply immediate brakes to consumerism. John Miller of Press Action says, “Capitalism, the sys-

temization of greed, selfishness, subjugation, and exploitation camouflaged by the narcotic of consumerism, the irresistible illusion of equal opportunity for all, and its ostensible compatibility with liberal democracy, has seduced hundreds of millions of people into ignoring its contradictions, injustices, and malevolence. Consumerism has inflicted deep wounds upon the Earth and is the persistent infection that must be eradicated to avert the sixth mass extinction, the ongoing torture and murder of billions of non-human animals, an acceleration of climate change, further economic collapse, mass starvation, severe shortages of potable water, perpetual resource wars, and a host of other catastrophic events”.

The consumerism-oriented West has provided US \$ 4,100 billions, still counting, to save the share market (Casino centers) during the last one year, but has spared only thirteen billions US Dollars for saving the ecological balance. This only shows their carefree lifestyle at the cost of large population of the world.

Time to Reverse the Process

It is absolutely essential to save not only the human beings but also the planet itself from total extinction; we have no choice but to look at our Hindu living styles and cultural values. These provide appropriate ecological balance for all the species including the human beings. Vedic books advise us ‘*aparigraha*’, i.e. moderate consumption of materials provided by

the nature to mankind. No other religion and ‘ism’ teaches this kind of balanced living. The mother Earth is not treated by Hindus as provider of raw materials for human consumption. But we treat it as not less than a God. It is time for nationalist political parties to ignore what the UPA government has done to this country and its people. Instead, develop an economic model based on Hindu way of living and its culture immediately after taking the seat of power at the center. Such radical action would only help us to overcome the present catastrophic conditions created by capitalism and put the entire mankind at the point of vanishing permanently. □□

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Let Happiness Measure the Development

Happiness should be an integral element in the measurement of development as increase in production alone could not be the basis of happiness of humans, opines Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

Normally increase in production and thereby increase in national income is considered to be a measure of development. If we look at our politicians, bureaucrats, policy makers, economists, all seems busy in talking about growth in production and thus Gross National Product (GNP). GNP therefore becomes the measure of development. In the last two decades, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has started the exercise of publishing Human Development Report and tries to measure development in terms of human development. Whereas GNP is measured by multiply production of goods and services by respective prices, human development in measured in terms of averaging per capita income, level of education and health indicated by life expectancy. If we closely look at human development index, we find that nations, which have achieved high levels of incomes, tend to achieve higher levels of education and health standards. These developed countries tend to rank higher even in terms of

human development index.

National Happiness Index

In 1974, then king of Bhutan figure Singe Wan chuck pro-pounded this concept of national happiness index. He believed that increase in production alone could not be the basis of happiness of humans. Thus in the measurement of development, happiness should be an integral element. Since then Bhutan started giving utmost importance to the happiness of its

citizens. In the last few years, countries are being ranked in terms of happiness of people by some agencies. In this regard 'Happy Planet Index' puts USA in 150th position in the list of 178 nations Singapore in 131st, France 129th, Canada 111th, UK 108th and Germany in 81st position in terms of this index. India is at 62nd position in this ranking. Surprisingly Bhutan which is ranked 131st in terms of Human Development Index as published by UNDP (2008) is at 13th position in terms of happiness index. Bhutan is the only developing country, securing a place in the top 20 nations in happiness index.

Why Rich Nations are deprived of Happiness

Whether it is physical development or human development, both perhaps are not much relevant for happiness. That is the reasons, why nations on top of the world in

terms of Gross National Product or other indicators of development are lying very low on happiness index. While earning more and more we tend to forget that ideally ultimate aim of all efforts



Feeling of depression is pushing people towards suicides.

According to the new constitution as adopted by Bhutan, all government policies & programmes related to agriculture, transport, external trade etc. would be judged based on happiness caused by them and not on the basis of economic benefit they bring.

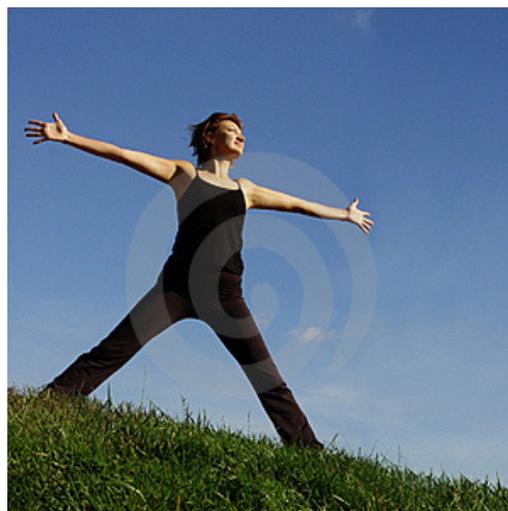
is human happiness. If we look at rich people, we find world's 85 percent of assets are concentrated in the hands of only 10 percent people. To maximise their profits these rich people and companies do not hesitate in snatching employment from the people. Cutthroat competition, envy, ill feeling etc. are common in the process of becoming rich. Inequalities also encourage crimes. Despite large police force, we find wide prevalence of murders, burglary, thefts etc in rich nation. There crimes are on rise in countries like India also. Feeling of depression is pushing people towards suicides.

How to Measure Happiness

At present, we include three factors in measuring happiness namely, life satisfaction, expected life span and environment. These three elements are put together in a formulae and an index is prepared accordingly. Nations are listed in descending order of happiness. Rich nations are devoid of happiness because attempts to raise production cause environmental degradation and lust of maximizing incomes, brings down life satisfaction.

In this context former king of Bhutan propounded the con-

cept of national happiness, which was substitute for national product. Today Bhutan is the only country in the world which has maximization of national's happiness as their declared goal and same goal is also the guiding principle for their government's policies. According to kinley Dorji,



information and communication secretary Bhutan, even industrialised countries are now compelled to rethink about, whether to retain or not, the objective of maximizing gross national product. According to the new constitution as adopted by Bhutan, all government policies and programmes related to agriculture, transport, external trade etc. would be judged based on happiness caused by them and not on the basis of economic benefit they bring. In this process, both government and people have their respective role.

On the one hand, Bhutan has adopted democracy and paved the way for constitutional monarch of democratically elected government and on the other hand, conducive atmosphere is provided to maximize happiness. Nine aspects have been identified in this regard, namely; environment, health education, culture, life standard, time use, community vitality and good governance. All these are analysed on the basis of 72 indicators designed for this purpose. All aspects are scientifically analysed. For instance, time utilisation aspect would include how much time one spends with his family and at work place. All these figures are then put into a formulae and happiness index is prepared. Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan makes reassessment of these indicators after every two years.

However, even Bhutan is finding it difficult to maintain its happiness due to cultural pollution. They fear that their happiness may get eroded, as pillars of happiness are in danger. However, at the same time a small Himalayan Kingdom is educating the rest of the world that they design their policies with a goal to maximise happiness, moving ahead of the objective of economic growth or even human development index. Perhaps this is the only way to make this planet prosperous and happy. □□

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Consequences of Environmental Pollution induced Global Warming

Human sustenance is facing the global environmental pollution and consequent climatic changes, reduced rainfall and river flows, decreased food and fiber production and human, cattle, fowl and plant pathological problems, explains Bhanwar Dan Bithu

The environmental pollution in

duced global warming, climatic changes, depletion of oxygen in the air, reduced rainfall and river flows and decreased agricultural and livestock production have been causing serious problems to human health and well being. The food and fiber production has been decreasing fast because of the reducing adaptation of the domesticated plant varieties to global climatic changes, low and erratic rainfall and longer and more intense hot periods. New and dormant plant diseases are coming up. The insect and pest nuisance has been increasing. It is therefore, necessary to face the formidable human sustenance problem through increasing oxygen content and rainfall, evolving

and discovering new adapted and mutated seed and plant varieties and sustainable use of the available land, water, natural vegetation and scientifically improved indigenous development technology after proper conflict assessment, management and resolution.

Air purification

Environmental pollution caused by indiscriminate industrialization, over use of fossil fuel

driven automobiles and unsafe disposal of gaseous, liquid and solid waste loads air by more carbon-dioxide and other harmful gases in addition to river and ground water contamination and landscape deterioration. The natural way of cleaning the air is through forestation and plantation of shrubs and



trees. It is feared that if the forest and plantation cover reduces below the critical limit of 13 percent, serious healthy living problems may crop up. (Brahma kumari 2007.). The trees generally take up carbon dioxide and give out oxygen thereby purifying the air. It is therefore, desirable to precede industrialization and large scale use of fossil-fuel automobiles by commensurate areas of forestation and

oxygen giving tree plantation. The safe and environment friendly solid and liquid waste disposal should also be ensured well within the assimilative capacity of the earth particularly in the case of urbanization and development of big cities. The area and intensity of forestation and tree and shrub plantation

should be decided depending on the degree of air pollution to be purified. Different field model green houses may be constructed with varying size and intensity of forestation and varying degree of air pollution to determine what degree of air pollution requires what size of forestation. The air purifying efficiency in the field may be taken as 50 to 70 percent of what it is found in the green

house experiments.

Rainfall stabilization

Pervasive environmental pollution has also reduced and destabilized rainfall and disturbed the summer and winter periods in space and time coordinates. This has resulted in decreased food and fiber production because of the changes in plant root zone soil moisture, soil salt and soil temperature. The low and erratic annual

rainfall can be manipulated for satisfactory plant growth through efficient field rain water harvesting and control of evaporation of useful soil moisture under micro catchment rain water harvesting, subterranean dam (soil trap) and preservation of natural perennial vegetation systems. (Bithu.2007.) In view of the environmental pollution induced global warming and consequent decline in annual rainfall, shrinkage of river head glaciers and reduced river water flows greater emphasis should be laid on field rain water harvesting and subterranean dam or soil trap systems. The decline and uncertainty of the rainfall may be controlled by increasing and stabilizing rainfall through temperature controlling forestation and green belt plantation and cloud seeding by Vedic yagya performance particularly in the arid and semi arid regions. Vedic Yagya smoke particles may provide organic base for cloud seeding and cloud vapor condensation. (Bithu.2008.). The Vedic yagya and forestation experiments may be conducted in field model green houses to see how and how soon the yagya smoke particles aided by temperature lowering forestation act as cloud seeding and cloud water vapor condensation to cause rainfall.

Social environmental pollution control

Environmental pollution control requires a multifaceted approach including biological, legislative and self disciplined minimum need based control and remediation measures. Requisite forestation and tree plantation commensurable with the degree of pollution should precede the environmentally manageable industri-

alization. Dispensable industrialization catering to the luxurious and excessive human comfort and convenience giving goods and service should be avoided. Agricultural and pastoral industries and national defense and scientific research industries should get higher priority. It may be kept in mind that dharma, knowledge and selfless service give true happiness. Artha or monetary growth may give human convenience and not necessarily happiness. (Bhagwat geeta).

Environmental pollution control requires a multifaceted approach including biological, legislative and self disciplined minimum need based control and remediation measures.

The biological pollution control and remediation measures may comprise forestation and tree, shrub and perennial grass plantation and green belt formation. The trees, shrubs and grass plants take carbon dioxide and emit oxygen and thus make up deficit oxygen content and clean the air. Self abnegation and renunciation of the lust for luxurious and excessive human comfort and convenience giving goods and services with their highly publicized promotion ways may also control and minimize avoidable industrialization and environmental pollution. Compatible environmental pollution control and remediation technology should be decided after proper assessment, management

and resolution of the industrialization, urbanization and inorganic farming technology conflicts of human comfort and convenience giving goods and services, employment and wealth generation and growth oriented increased but contaminated agricultural and livestock production versus air and river and ground water pollution, long term disease and human health hazards and social disintegration and poverty of the rural people.

Urbanization

The unregulated and unmanageable urbanization also leads to environmental pollution. The flight of the people from the villages and towns to the big cities in search of the concentrated and centralized educational, medical, employment and other civic facilities swell the cities depopulate villages, cause social disintegration of the rural population, decrease agricultural and livestock production, increase air and ground water pollution because of the sprawling industries, large number of fossil fuel automobiles and excessive and improper disposal of the sewage and liquid and solid waste in excess to what nature can assimilate and deplete ground water storage on heavy pumping of ground water for factories and city water supply. On the other hand development of self sufficient science education and research promoting villages will control and alleviate environmental pollution and social disintegration and uprooting of the rural poor people. Urbanization also causes increased demand of stones, bricks, cement, steel and wood thereby triggering deforestation and mine pollution. Therefore, control of avoidable urbanization and development of self

Control of avoidable urbanization and development of self sufficient environment friendly villages may greatly help control of environmental pollution.

sufficient environment friendly villages may greatly help control of environmental pollution, deforestation, river or effluent channel water contamination and ground water depletion and contamination. A paradigm shift in construction of the development policy towards development of self sufficient villages and rural poverty alleviation through rural sector organic farming instead of prolific growth of urbanization is essential.

Inorganic farming

The growth oriented excessively fertilized with chemical fertilizers and insecticide sprayed production of food and fiber using heavy tractor driven deep plowing in the prevalent inorganic farming has been causing land degradation, decline in soil fertility and land productivity, soil salinity, ground water pollution and transfer of injurious chemical fertilizer and insecticide elements into human and cattle food cycle leading to serious health hazards. The insects and pests generally develop resistance against continued insecticide spray making the insecticide spray less effective. Therefore, the excessively fertilized and drug addicted agricultural and livestock production should be replaced by organic

farming and indigenous light cultivation practice under field rain water harvesting (micro catchment rain water harvesting) and subterranean dam or soil trap systems with supplementary light irrigation using predetermined thin irrigation water application where available to alleviate the problems of environmental pollution and human and cattle health hazards. The choice between inorganic and organic farming should be decided after thorough assessment, management and resolution of the conflicts of somewhat increased but contami-



nated and adulterated food and fiber production with accompanying soil salinity and structural degradation of the soil under inorganic farming and good (but not necessarily low) food and fiber production without soil salinity and structural degradation of the soil under organic farming.

Adapted plant varieties

The environmental pollution and global warming induced change in climate and low and erratic nature of the annual rainfall have been causing decreased food and fiber production. The plant species hitherto grown do not tolerate and stand the longer hot spell, decreased and erratic rainfall and ill timed fog and hailstorm at the critical growth time of the plants.

Therefore, agronomic research should be conducted and new and mutated seed and plant varieties should be discovered and adapted to the changed climate to keep up increased demand of the food and fiber. Field experiments may be conducted in customized green houses where the expected changes in temperature and rainfall pattern can be generated and adapted seed and plant species can be evolved with no decrease in nutritional food value and disease resistance of the plants. However, the crop, shrub and tree growing should necessarily be within the regenerative fertility potential and productive capacity of the soil.

More importantly besides control of environmental pollution, indiscriminate industrialization and excessive use of fossil fuel automobiles, people should abjure and eschew inorganic drug addicted farming and post harvest food adulteration, ground water pumping in excess to the aquifer recharge capacity and unsafe disposal of the sewage, factory effluent and solid waste exceeding the assimilative capacity of the earth. The national spirit and good civic sense of keeping the cities, towns and villages clean and harmonious should prevail and rain water should be efficiently harvested under roof top and field micro catchment rain water harvesting and subterranean dam systems. The lust for luxurious but dispensable excess human comfort and convenience giving goods and services made available by the environment polluting industrialization may be controlled through development of the intrinsic faculty of discrimination and dispassion. □□

Towards a New Dharmic-Artha-Niti.

*India today is hurtling towards a major clash within itself in relation to the ideas of property and wealth distribution. It is time to revisit The Bharatiya conception of property and the accumulation and distribution of wealth, which is a sum total of societal and individual claims all of which need not be based on clear individual legal demarcation, advocates **Vikramjeet Baneerjee***

India today is hurtling towards a major clash within itself in relation to the ideas of property and how wealth should be distributed. The old ways of Marxism and Socialism are dead and there is no way of resuscitating them, nor should there be any attempt to do so. In any case socialism and Marxism do not grasp the intricacies of Indian problems relating to property, simply because they cannot acknowledge the history of the origin of the ideas of property in India or the values which guide the Indian populations relation to the land and property in spite of the fact that Marx himself acknowledged the same in letters to Frederic Engels in the year 1853 in his letter dated 14.06.1853.

The Bharatiya conception of property and the accumulation and distribution of wealth is by conception and therefore by definition not based on the idea of rights but on the conception of dharma. The basis of the conception of property in Bharatiya society is therefore not a rigid and clear demarcation of claims belonging to an individual but is a sum total of societal and individual claims all of which need not be based on clear individual legal demarcation.

The concept of “Svatva” which approximately translates as “Ownership” is roughly equivalent



to the Right to Property, the basis of which is traced back to the Vedas. There are broadly four methods of acquiring property, being (i) by purchase, (ii) by getting, (iii) by buying, and (iv) by exchange. There also remain social norms and injunctions for the accumulation, use and disposition of wealth so gathered since the claim of svatva is not merely an individual claim but are dependent on social recognition, and subject to social control.

Interestingly, the state has very little to do in the area of recognising property. This is probably because the state does not enjoy the concept of being owner

of all property in its lands or “eminent domain”, since Bharatiya jurisprudence specifically recognises that the king/state is only the owner of the lands which he/it owns privately or those lands which have not been granted to others, in other words, clearly showing that he/it has no claim on private lands. The king cannot even keep for himself what he has recovered from thieves and which does not belong to him.

In addition no claim on property is absolute and separate, equal and at times contradictory claims on the same piece of land / property are taken to be equally valid. All claims on property exist

within a web of claims, each claim individually and independently valid and transactions can be done on the claims alone.

Wealth is treated as a social and spiritual asset and though the individual can use various means of acquiring his wealth, but dharma puts in social guidelines so that the wealth is put to use both for social and spiritual upliftment of the individual and therefore for the entire society. The disposition of wealth or gifting of wealth is an integral part of the reason of acquiring wealth. Dharma however recognises that not only must a gift be made, it must be made to the deserving i.e. gifting of wealth should serve a definite social and spiritual purpose.

The conception of property and wealth as we know it today has been evolved in western civilisation through a complex process of transforming claims into clear legal entitlements.

Needless to say that these entitlement claims of property arose out of the relationships and the complexities of the western civilisation and its evolution. In India however, there has been no such process, we have applied western conceptions of law and property on Bharatiya society and have therefore left untouched the greater amount of claims which could be the basis of a true, practicable, equitable & indigenous market system.

Directly as a result of such a lopsided conception of property and the legal recognition of only westernised property, the westernised market system in India has not been able to transform rapid western style growth into genuine development. The system today

has therefore resulted in making wealthy those who have the benefit of a western education and therefore capable of understanding western conceptions of property and simultaneously at a single stroke impoverish those who are genuinely wealthy but whose wealth is not recognised by western conceptions of property. The present conception of property does not recognise the vast amount of Bharatiya claims which must be recognised if we are to evolve a genuinely Bharatiya market system.

The attempt to recognise Bharatiya conceptions of property has only been tangential and half hearted. The three most important being the recognition of the

The conception of property and wealth as we know it today has been evolved in western civilisation through a complex process of transforming claims into clear legal entitlements.

Hindu Undivided Family as a property holding unit, the conception of “devottur” and the recognition that the one who tills the land has a claim on the land.

Sadly the present property regime in India still does not recognise other genuine claims like the multifarious claims of villagers on common land, the complex claims of vanavasis on the use of forests and lands held jointly, the claims of the entire village on all properties of every individual in the said village.

It is therefore crucial and important that for the first time we acknowledge as valid claims on property that have existed in Bharat as an integral part of a Dharmic society, which as Marx himself acknowledges continues to us in spite of more than 1000 years of intervention. It is therefore more important than ever that while considering property as an inviolate claim, we proceed to recognise all types of claims on property by various groups of people and proceed to frame a legal framework which would recognise different types of claims on property without the state becoming an intermediary or usurper of property claims on behalf of the wealthy in India. This would be both a recognition of cultural and civilisational forms of ownership and would also be exactly what the doctor ordered in terms of the freeing the economy by bringing vast amounts of unaccounted for capital and creating a liberal, inclusive and harmonious society. It would in addition put at rest nearly 1000 years of alienation of the rural and urban underprivileged from the Bharatiya social mainstream by recognising their valid legal claims.

It is also crucial that we realise that the state being the owner of the land remains a concept which is unknown and very remote in India and therefore expropriation of land and setting at nought the various claims on property which various players have on the land for the purpose of creating new title holders in western terms is bound to create huge differences in society and result in social disruption. If we have to use the

[To be continued on page no. 30]



“High altitude Wetlands of Ladakh under severe threat”

Extension lecture on “Conservation and Management of Himalayan High Altitude Wetlands with a Focus on Black-necked Crane” at Jammu University. Himalayan Car Rallies in wetland areas have been stopped with the help of local tour operator

Global warming is threatening the very existence of high altitude Himalayan wetlands in general and wetlands of Ladakh in particular. Unplanned and unregulated tourism, tourist season coinciding with peak biological activity, infrastructure, tremendous grazing pressure, lack of awareness among the stakeholders, emerging threat of climate change and lack of coordination among various developmental agencies are some of the major challenges to the high altitude wetlands of Ladakh, according to Mr. Pankaj Chandan, India Coordinator, Himalayan High Altitude Wetlands Conservation programme. Pankaj Chandan was speaking at an extension lecture on the theme “Conservation and Management of Himalayan High Altitude Wetlands with a Focus on Black-necked Crane” organized by the Friends of Ladakh Society, University of Jammu, J&K in collaboration with The Vijay Suri Foundation.

Informing that the Himalayan high altitude wetlands of J&K not only support the unique biodiversity in the region but are also source of livelihood for the local communities, he said at the regional level these wetlands also act as source of major rivers originating from the regions & supports billions & Billions of people in the

downstream regions. Forty per cent of the world’s population is dependent on water coming from Himalayas, he added.

Enumerating few challenges before the conservationists working in areas like Ladakh, he said high altitude areas are very tough and difficult to work, working season is very short, and conservation outcome also depends on political situation. He said ownership of the conservation activities should be given to the local communities, conservation activities should be related to economic incentives and conservation should also help in improving the livelihood of poor and vulnerable communities

Ladakh has three main high altitude wetlands of Pangong Tso, Tso Morari and Tokhar which have been witnessing massive tourist activity thus threatening these wetlands. WWF Wetland projects started in Leh in year 2000 with a stakeholders meeting at Leh which followed by conservation actions and field presence at Leh, Tsomoriri and at Tsokar including Target Oriented Education and Awareness Activities, Publication of Resource material, Capacity Building Programmes for Stakeholders, Community Based Tourism Activities, Scientific Documentation of the High Altitude Wetlands and Institutional Mechanisms Evolved

What is most interesting initiative of WWF India for the conservation and management of Ladakh high altitude wetland is that it has started involving Indian troops at the wetland sites. “Training workshops for officers of armed forces are being organized. One training programme after every alternate year is being organized in Ladakh for Indian Army, ITBP, Indian Air Force Border Roads Organization and Jammu & Kashmir Police. The process of training the officers has been institutionalized. Many officers who were trained in these training programmes contributing in Conservation in other parts of India as well,” said Mr. Chandan. Besides, there are regular training programmes for tour operators. One training programme is organized every year for the tour operators.

Speaking at the occasion, Professor Anita Charak Billawaria, Secretary, Friends of Ladakh Society, University of Jammu, who is also heading Centre for History and Culture of Jammu and Ladakh regions, University of Jammu, said that the FoL has been working relentlessly for the past few years in the field of art and culture. She informed that “Friends of Ladakh” is a group of people who share common interests about Ladakh.

[To be continued on page no. 28]

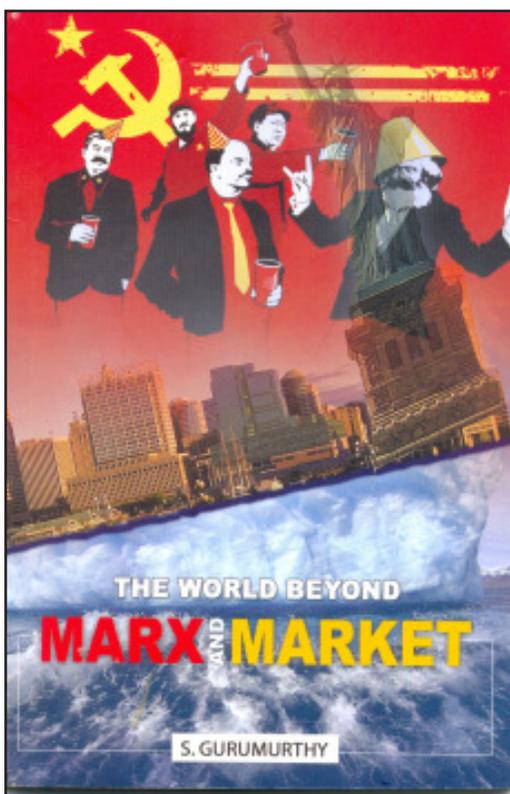
Remnants of communism – reminds one that it existed once! **Gurumurthy**

Marx got the philosophy from Hegel and the model of revolution from Anabaptists

Hegel may be rightly regarded as the fountainhead of the Marxian thought, as Marx based his entire philosophy on the dialectical method. But there the relation between Marx and Hegel seems to stop. Marx had to look elsewhere for the balance part of his theory, the idea of revolution. Marx seems to have copied socialism and public ownership of properties and also the communist revolutionary model from a medieval “revolution”, within Christendom – the experience of the Anabaptists in Germany from where, incidentally, Karl Marx also originated. It is not surprising, if one analyses the course of history that led to the development of Marxism, that this socialist revolutionary experiment, which was indigenous to

Christendom and an evolution out of Christianising process, provided the motivation for the Marxian theory of revolution. Without the philosophic structure that Karl Marx had later expounded, a communist revolution took place, in the year 1534, in the city of Munster, in Westphalia, in Germany.

The religious revolutionaries who brought about the original communist revolution were known as the ‘Anabaptists’. Anabaptist meant ‘baptized-again’, or ‘re-



Christianized’ (‘born again Christian’). To understand the evolution of the Marxist philosophy and the model of his theory of revolution as indigenous to Christianity, it is necessary to look at the advent of the Anabaptists. For grasping the advent and the phenomenon of Anabaptists, it is necessary to understand the Christian belief about the end of times or Eschatology, which signifies the end of the world that would follow the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. When will the Kingdom

of God be established on the earth? That will happen when the world is fully Christianized with no other religion around [Is this the perfect State and Society that also inspired Hegel, according to his believers?] Without grasping the Christian theological basis for the end of the world, it is not possible to understand the drive behind Anabaptist revolution.

In the entire course of European history, one single thought was driving the political and religious institutions in Christendom for centuries. That was the Biblical belief about the end of the world – the Eschatological belief. Many thinkers in Christendom had thought at different times that the end of the world was imminent. But before

that occurred, and, in fact, for that to occur, the belief was that Jesus Christ would come back and establish the Kingdom of God on earth and rule this world for thousand years. But that – the return of Christ and the establishment of Kingdom of God – would not happen on its own and by just Divine Will. Christians would have, and had, to exert and prepare the world – namely clear it of all false faiths and purify it with the only true faith, namely, Christianity – make it deserving of the return of

Jesus Christ. And the Christendom was clearly obsessed with it till as recently as the middle of the last century. That hundreds of thousands of Christians were killed by fellow Christians in Spain as part of this cleaning process and that the Jews were ordered to accept Christianity or die, as late as in the first half of the 20th Century, bears testimony to how obsessive this belief was, till recent times. Why, as the Encyclopaedia of Britannica would say, even today this exciting idea of return of Christ is the inspiration for many global Christian evangelical institutions, in the same manner as it was also the principal drive of colonialism. Thus, the eschatological belief in the return of Christ and in the end of the world has been the single most obsessive thought that has shaped the history of Europe and Christendom. It is the Kingdom of God that, according to the Christian belief system, is the perfect rule on the earth. That is the same perfection in the evolution of the humans and the state which Hegel had hypothesised in his Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis tussle model. And that is precisely what Karl Marx had internalised in his Communist theory of state and society. The point to note here in the context of His that in the non-Christian, and particularly the non-Abrahamic world, there is no evidence of any such eschatological belief working as a powerful historic drive in shaping the history and the course of the peoples.

Now back to the Anabaptists. The Anabaptists were Protestant Christians, very rigid, very simple, very committed and absolutely religious. They were highly regarded and respected because of their pi-

ety and commitment to religion. The Anabaptists were sensitive to many wrong things going on in Christianity of their times. They were of the view that Christians were not moral, not pious, and not following the Biblical texts. They believed that that was precisely the reason why Jesus Christ was not coming back to form the Kingdom of God. They felt that a revolutionary approach was needed to set things right. So, believing that the return of Christ was imminent, but, that was not occurring because Christians were not virtuous enough to deserve the return of Christ, the Anabaptists decided to seize power; and they seized power in the city of Munster, in Westphalia in 1534. They did, three centuries earlier, precisely what the communists did after seizing power. The Anabaptists burnt all the books other than Bible, enforced common communal ownership of property, including – believe it – women! They legislated polygamy, because they felt anything about which one may feel possessive, including women, delayed the return of Christ. Their belief was that a world in which there was no possessive feeling – of property or persons – was the perfect world to which Jesus would return. Everything should be commonly owned, so that there was no individual ownership of anything. Everything should be available to everybody. On this basis, the Anabaptists ruled for one year, till they were militarily defeated by the Lutheran Church.

Many studies have seen and established similarity between the earlier Anabaptism and later Communism. What the purely religious Anabaptism sought to achieve, and in what manner it set out to do so,

were the same as what the materialist Marxism aimed to achieve, and through the very models of Anabaptism, that was older to Marxism by more than three centuries! These studies have shown that the philosophy and structure of communist organization (even the training of the communist workers) and the revolutionary content of communism were all derived all from the Anabaptists. In fact the Christian inquisition models generally inspired the later revolutionary movements in Europe, particularly Communism.

Another factor has to be borne in mind. Europe was full of turmoil, wars and violence, from almost the beginning of the Common Era. A simple search in the Internet will highlight how more than a billion people are estimated to have been killed in the last two thousand years. And more than 90% these killings can be traced to the ideas, ideologies, philosophies and institutions which originated from Christendom and as acted upon by their adherents. So, it was a society of manifest inner tensions and pain. It is the compelling effort to seek relief from such violent past that produced the philosophy of Marxism, which continued the thread of violence that inhered in the atmosphere in which it evolved. So Communism was a product of a society in constant turmoil and tension. Understanding this is crucial in order to comprehend communism and its collapse.

Communism—antithetic to Capitalism? Or its hostile cousin?

The materialist philosophy of communism was a reaction to another equally strong materialist philosophy of free market capitalism, which evolved with industri-

alism. With the advent of Capitalism, Communism also evolved, but as a reaction. In the Marxian application of Hegel's dialectics, Capitalism had its own contradictions. He further theorized that the struggle of these contradictions will finally lead, after several successive tussles of Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis, to the ultimate and Absolute State of an ideal and perfect Communist society as the Synthesis. So Marx saw the advent of Capitalism as the beginning of the dialectic process.

But, closely seen, communism and capitalism are not opposites; they are founded on the same materialist philosophy and thought. Both look at the world as exclusively materialist. And, both implicitly and explicitly rejected the idea of God and divinity. Both had concluded that human beings were just a bundle of wants and desires and the only question was how to fulfil such wants and desires. In this respect, both are the products of the world view of the Abrahamic faiths which proceed on the premise that the world is secular, that is purely materialistic, and only the so-called other world is sacred. So, the whole course of the evolution of the West, be it in science and technology or economics and politics, was influenced by the view that the world created by God is for the enjoyment of men.

However, Capitalism and Communism differed on the mode of fulfilling the desires of the humans. One, free market Capitalism, would say 'according to merit' and the other, Communism, would say 'equally, regardless of merit'. As the American thinker Noam Chomsky pithily put it, at the time of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in So-

viet Russia, the only difference between capitalism and communism was this: "Communism will have Chernobyl at any cost, capitalism will have it only if it yields profit." Communism's objection to capitalism was only the profit element in capitalism. That's all the difference. Another way of looking at the two is that they differed on only who should own the property – the state or the individuals. In that sense it is just an ownership dispute in the material sense!

Thus the underlying philosophy of both communism and capitalism is one and the same. They are influenced by the same materialist philosophic approach to the world. Subject only to this difference, in their assessment of human beings, their nature and their inter-relationship, there is really no difference between the two. The only thing is that capitalism knew how to allow people who dissent and cannot measure up to its demands, to survive. But communism will now allow those who dissent to survive. That's the difference between the materialist twins.

Karl Marx founded his theory on the premise that the advent of Capitalism was a precondition for the evolution to Socialism. But

contrary to the Marxian view it is communism which has collapsed and Capitalism seems to have prevailed, at least for the present.

Remnants of communism – reminds one that it existed once!

Now Communism has collapsed. And there is no doubt that it has collapsed as a philosophy - though you see broken physical remains of it here and there. This is because nothing collapses completely. Look at the Egyptian or Babylonian or the Greek or Roman civilizations. Even though they are all gone, there are broken structures of those civilizations still standing, as Swami Vivekananda says 'spider weaves its web where the Caesars ruled'. Like that, a Communist Party of China [CPC] will exist in China although it is talking about Socialist Market and a Communist Party Marxist [CPM] will be around in Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram in India, without even talking about a Socialist Market. Broken structures always remain, as reminders of, and to prove, something that existed once, and that does not exist now. Even the CPC and CPM dare not assert that the world will rise up and unite as a communist society through proletarian unity. All that is gone. □□

[Continued from page no. 25...]

"High altitude Wetlands of Ladakh

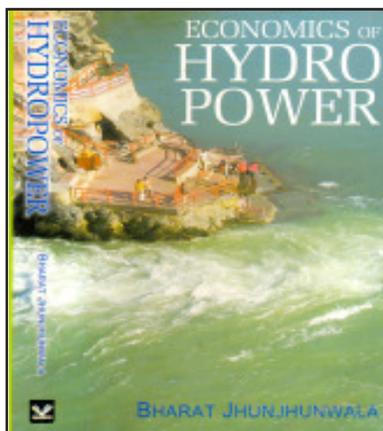
Centre for History and Culture of Jammu and Ladakh Regions, University of Jammu is the nodal agency for this group while The Vijay Suri Foundation (IVSF) is a social organization working in the field of art, culture and languages. She informed that the Society would be organizing many activities in the near future including Ladakh food festival.

Professor Jasbir Singh, Department of Economics, University of Jammu and the joint secretary, Friends of Ladakh, presented vote of thanks. Earlier, Dr Kavita Suri, member, Friends of Ladakh introduced the speaker to the audience. The lecture was attended by a number of students, researcher and teaching community of the University. □□

Destroying Rivers for non-existent demand for Hydropower

“These handful of environmentalists are coming in the way of saving the river (Yamna). These so-called environmentalists are vociferous against clean development schemes vital for the city (Delhi)”, says Dr. E. Sreedharan MD of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and one of the most respected professionals in the government. Sreedharan is neither a lonely voice nor does he belong to the denigrated category of bureaucrats whom people disregard. He, in fact, represents a class of people principally responsible for effective implementation of government policies and problematic projects. And common people normally tend to believe their description, for they have become symbols of honest administrator among the vast crowd of crooked, money swindling public-servants.

Hydro Power is projected to be cleanest source of energy and there is no denying the fact that country needs more energy and electric power for economic growth and for uplifting the standard of living of the people of India. The middle class urban Indian using lifestyle gadgets and irritated by frequent power cuts needs no lessons on this issue. He experiences it every day. To have and to propound a different view in such an environment is a daring act. That exactly has been done by

**Title:**

Economics of Hydropower

Writer:

Dr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala

Publisher:

Kalpaz publications, Delhi.

Price: Rs. 750**Pages:** 306**G. Raina**

Dr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala by asking the question; is hydro power clean, cost-effective and least disruptive of environment source of energy as is being projected by planning commission and Central Electricity Authority? Dr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala, the renowned author, economist and columnist believes it is not. He has dared to go against the tide and challenge conventional wisdom. The learned writer has actually worked very hard to bring this point to the fore by publishing his latest book on the subject. The book is titled “Economics of Hydropower” and has been published

by Kalpaz publications, Delhi.

The book is valued input to this important theme. Bharat Jhunjhunwala has convincingly disputed not only the fashionable view that hydropower, specifically the Run-of-River dams as green, clean and renewable but also attempted to establish its larger long term economic costs. He says, “ as I pored over the environmental assessment of Kotlibhel 1B, it became clear time that the benefits projected were unsubstantiated, even imaginary , while many costs were ignored. A proper assessment of benefits and costs led me to the conclusion that this project was harmful for the economy of the country.”

He has also questioned the perception that needs of the country for power is immense. Popular belief, particularly in urban areas is that economic growth required to improve the standard of living of common masses needs uninterrupted supply of low cost energy to sustain the increasingly competitive world. Protectionist measures adopted by developed economies to tide over negative impacts of global meltdown have further sharpened this perception. Government has projected future requirement of electricity. Author believes these to be inflated and has explained same with the help of official data along with the experi-

ences of different countries that Ministry of Power and Planning Commission have grossly exaggerated our requirements. He believes that in the process country may be destroying rivers in the long run for non-existent demand. He suggests:

- Actual requirement in much less.
- Power is in reality required more for consumption and pilferage and less for production and economic growth as made out to be.
- Consumption of power does not add to standard of living beyond a certain point. Unending increase in consumption, therefore, does not add to standard of living.
- Lesson from other countries indicate that a glut of power is indeed likely in India.

- It is possible to meet genuine requirements of power by alternative approaches.

The well-informed author has used his scholastic aptitude to refute the claims of the so called experts, all powerful officialdom and power generating corporations and has substantiated his arguments with studies, reports and surveys of reputed people including leading agencies of the government

Yet another feature of the book that indisputably makes it serious reading is the chapter 'Reply to hydropower Expect'. Author has done well by taking up the objections/reactions to the earlier version of the book and has replied to them systematically. In absence of mainstream media attention this

approach is healthy and promotes debate. And a spirited productive discussion augments well for any civilized society.

To sum it up Dr. Bharat Jhunjhunwala has come up with yet another gem adding it to the vast treasure of books published so far. Dr. Jhunjhunwala has attracted the attention of Indian society towards an issue that needs instantaneous tackling. He has succeeded in highlighting second opinion in an effective manner. Even if a small number of readers are convinced to take the issue seriously and study it further the book serves the purpose. The book is a useful reading for economists, power sector officials, students of Indian economy and environmentalists. □□

[Continued from page from. 24]

Towards a New Dharmic-Artha-Niti.

said properties to create industry it therefore remains incumbent on those who are the ultimate beneficiaries being the wealthy to address the various claims on the land by the various players who exist on the land.

The responsibility to create a harmonious society is more burdensome on the wealthy and the powerful.

It is also incumbent on the wealthy to act with restraint and attempt to create a society which would be dharmic and harmonious and to that end they should reinvest back into the society what they have acquired from it by building social institutions and economic infrastructure for the benefit of those who are not wealthy. As Swa-

mi Vivekananda strikingly wrote:

“Going after wealth in such a case is not bad, because that wealth is for distribution. The householder is the centre of life and society. It is a worship for him to acquire and spend wealth nobly, for the householder who struggles to become rich by good means and for good purposes is doing practically the same thing for the attainment of salvation as the anchorite does in his cell when he is praying; for in them we see only the different aspects of the same virtue of self-surrender and self-sacrifice prompted by the feeling of devotion to God and to all that is His.”

The question as to whether the state should facilitate this or enforce this remains controversial, but it is my view that the state always retains the right to impose

“danda” or punishment to ensure that the wealthy fulfil their dharma and infact it would fail in its own dharma if it fails to do so.

Lastly , it is time that we Bharatiyas enunciate our own conception of the role of market in society i.e. our conception of “Kachangala” (Kachangala or KachagGala is the Sanskrit word for free market which means “free market (a place of sale paying no duty or custom)” which reflects our unique concerns and ideas as a Bharatiya society) being a free market where the players inherently act for a harmonious and equitable society based not on state injunctions but on their conscience and for greater harmony in society, the state being a fair arbiter and an aid for them to live up to their dharmas as grihashta or householder in society and as a facilitator to create a true Dharma Rajya or a spiritual, just, equitable and harmonious. □□

This Environment day spare a thought for this message

BOTTLED WATER — DO WE NEED IT?

- ☛ Bottled water costs \$1.50 per bottle (in USA); that is 1900 times the price of tap water.
- ☛ Which means an average US citizen spends \$400 every year on bottled water
- ☛ Health can be damaged by toxic chemicals like Bisphenol-A (BPA), leached from bottled water.
- ☛ BPA can also cause cancerous cells in your body
- ☛ Environment is tainted by the production, transportation, packaging and disposal of plastic bottled water.
- ☛ In the year 2004 the bottled water usage was marked at 26,000,000,000 litres. That needs 28,000,000,000 plastic bottles a year of which 86% end up as garbage.
- ☛ 1500 water bottles end up as garbage every second.
- ☛ 26,000,000,000 litres also means 17000,000 barrels of oil was used to produce those plastic bottles. That oil could have been enough to fuel about 100,000 cars for that year.
- ☛ In addition 2500,000 tons of carbon dioxide that was produced in the manufacturing of the plastic bottles.
- ☛ \$1,00,000,000,000; one hundred Billion dollars was spent every year by consumers on bottled water.
- ☛ Research shows that for a fraction of that amount every one on planet could have safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

This is an emailed message received by Swadeshi-patrika. These figures are for the USA. When we imitate this consumerist life style we can understand what we are doing and draw our own conclusions. Ed.



Garbage



Photo of Pacific Ocean
The 2006



Photo taken in Los Angeles, California

An addition of **2,500,000** tons of **carbon dioxide** that was produced in the manufacturing of the plastic bottle.

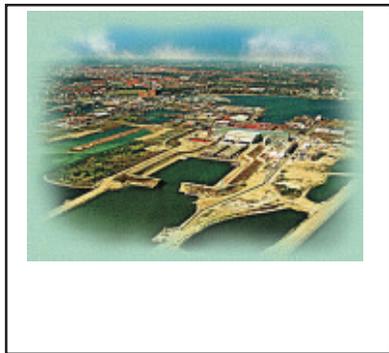


Garbage

Slowdown blues for SEZs

With slowdown in economic activities, scores of leading SEZ promoters, including Infosys, Hindalco and NIIT, have been given extension by the Commerce Ministry for developing the tax-free enclaves. However, the Board of Approval headed by Commerce Secretary GK Pillai during its meet on June 2 will consider proposals for setting up 17 new special economic zones (SEZs), including those of Larsen and Toubro, Emaar MGF and Gulf Oil Corporation.

The BoA, which will meet soon after taking over of the UPA government for the second time, also takes up request from realty major DLF for de-notification of its IT-ITeS SEZs in Gujarat, Haryana, West Bengal and Orissa. "The developer (DLF) has re-

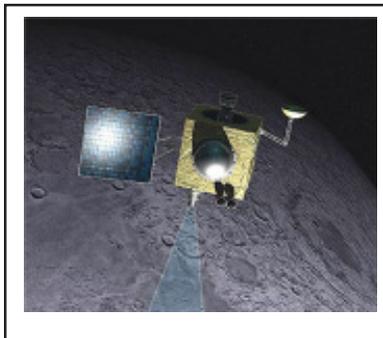


quested for de-notification ... Due to slowdown in the economy and liquidity crunch in the overall industry," the agenda document of the meeting said.

The BoA would consider the proposal of Larsen and Toubro for setting IT SEZ in Mumbai, while Gulf Oil Corporation has moved application for a tax free zone in Bangalore. Other proposals for new SEZs include Emaar MGF's IT related SEZ in Kerala. (PTI)

Chandrayaan-1 orbit raised

The orbit of Chandrayaan-I has been raised to 200 km. It will facilitate further studies of orbit perturbations. The orbit of Chandrayaan-1, which was at a height of 100 km from the moon since Nov. 2008, has been raised to 200 km. Manoeuvres to raise the orbit were performed between 9 a.m. & 10 a.m. on 19th May 2009. According to a release from the Indian Space Research Organisation, Chan-



drayaan-1 going round the moon in this higher orbit will facilitate further studies of orbit perturbations & gravitation field variations of the moon, & imaging a wider swath of the lunar surface.

Over the past seven months, all the 11 payloads on board the spacecraft were successfully put into operation and data of excellent quality were obtained, the release said. Scientists from India and international agencies were analysing the data, and several interesting results were obtained, it said. The scientific data is being archived and disseminated from the Indian Space Science Data Centre at Byalalu, near Bangalore.

The spacecraft operations are being performed at the Satellite Control Centre of the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bangalore and the Indian Deep Space Network at

Byalalu. Chandrayaan-1 was put into orbit on Oct. 22, 2008.

3G, spectrum auctions top list

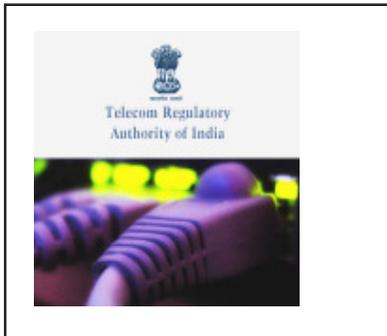


India's telecom sector is the fastest growing in the world. Major policy changes are being pleaded to sustain the momentum in the sector. Telecom secretary Siddharth Behura has underlined key issues that the telecom ministry hopes to achieve. He is reported to have said, "Our first priority is to go ahead with the much delayed auctions for both third generation (3G) and WiMAX spectrum. Right now, I cannot predict if the entire process will be completed within 100 days. But if the government were to decide so, then we will ensure that the auctions are done.

The second is to have a new spectrum policy. We hope to finish the consultation process within the next three months. We are studying the spectrum panel report. It has far-reaching consequences as it proposes major reforms. In reply to a question about other policy issues to be addressed immediately, he said that there were two important issues that are likely to be announced within the first three months. The first concerns the guidelines for Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) to launch operations in India. We have studied the TRAI report and the policy should be announced soon.

DoT panel opposes lock-in on stake sales

A government panel is op-



posing a safeguard measure aimed at preventing owners of companies which acquired telecom licenses in early 2008 from making windfall profits, laying itself open to criticism on an issue which has already resulted in a lot of controversy. The department of telecom's (DoT) high-powered committee is citing the long-term interests of the sector to argue against the telecom regulator's recommendation of a three-year lock-in on stake sales by the owners of companies which were allocated spectrum allegedly at throwaway rates.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendation was made in March based on a proposal by DoT. A panel of the department is now objecting to the regulator's suggestion. The telecom department will soon ask the regulator to reconsider its recommendation. The government does not have the power to overrule TRAI without first referring the matter back to the regulator. But in case Trai refuses to change its stance, the government can go ahead and do away with the lock-in requirement.

DoT's high-powered committee, which was asked to take a final call on TRAI's views, said in a report dated May 9 that the lock-in

should apply only to future telecom licencees and not any of the existing players.

PM for pushing reforms, jobs & investment

The new Government will revive economic growth and make it even more inclusive, Prime Minister elect Manmohan Singh said after being re-elected by Congress party to lead the new coalition. The daunting challenges lay ahead as the global economy was passing



through difficult times.

"Equally important is the challenge of reviving economic growth and creating new employment opportunities," Singh said in a speech to party MPs.

Growth in Asia's third-largest economy is expected to slow to a seven-year low of about 6 percent this fiscal year from around 7 percent in 2008/09, and from rates of 9 percent or more in the previous years. Millions of jobs have already been lost. "There is some slowing down of investment and employment generation, we have to reverse this. We have to revive growth and make it even more inclusive," Singh said.

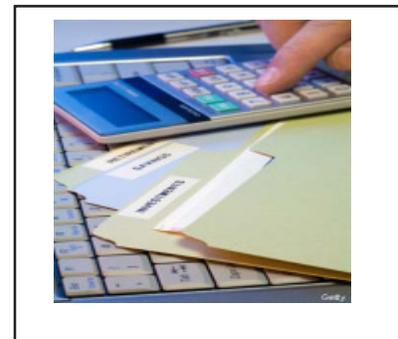
India's GDP to grow at 5% in 2009-10: EIU

India's economic growth is likely to slow down further in 2009-10, to five per cent as against the

Government's estimate of above seven per cent, according to Economist Intelligence Unit. "A lower growth in private and government consumption, investment and net exports are likely to lower the GDP growth further...we expect the growth to be at five per cent in 2009-10," EIU's Economist, Anjalika Bardalai, told reporters in Mumbai.

In the current fiscal, India's GDP is expected to expand by six per cent, Bardalai said.

Noting that India was a victim of the global financial crisis, Bardalai said that imbalances in the domestic economy has also contributed to the slowing growth. In the medium term, India's growth prospects remain robust, Bardalai said, adding that the onus to support the growth momentum will now be with the Reserve Bank, Bardalai said.



Direct tax kitty short of target by over Rs 6,000 cr

Direct tax collections fell Rs 6,000 crore short of the government's Rs 3.45 lakh crore target for 2008-09 fiscal, as corporate earnings were badly hit by a slowing economy.

This was despite the government lowering the collection target from Rs 3.64 lakh crore to Rs 3.45 lakh crore to allow for the dent the economic crisis could make on its revenues.

Japan's GDP shrinks 15.2%

Japan's economy contracted at the fastest pace since 1955 as exports plunged, companies slashed production & families spent less. Japan's gross domestic product, or the total value of the nation's goods & services, shrank at an annual pace of 15.2% in the Jan.-March period, according to the govt.

The drop was the steepest since Japan began compiling GDP statistics more than five decades ago. It also marks the fourth straight quarter of decline after the GDP fell a revised 14.4% in the October-December period. Economists surveyed by a news agency had expected a 15.8% contraction on average.

"Weakness in the corporate sector is gradually spreading to households," PM Taro Aso told lawmakers in a parliamentary budget hearing. "This is a very serious situation, so we need to respond



appropriately." On a quarterly basis, GDP fell 4% from previous three-month period, according to the Cabinet office's data. Japan's first quarter results were markedly worse than other major economies. (AP)

No job in hand, students in US, UK head back home

The Harvards, Whartons, NYU Sterns, Kelloggs, MIT Sloans, Michigans & Dukes – the dream destinations of students till

the other day—no longer guarantee top-dollar jobs. One year of downturn has turned the students' world upside down. According to a recent study by the University of California, Berkeley, almost 84% of Indian students & 76% of Chinese students in the US think it will be difficult to find a job in their field in the country.

Even lenders are tightening the noose on international students. First-year MBA students, who were relying on loans from US banks to fund their second-year expenses, are in trouble because the banks have stopped lending to in-



ternational students without co-signers. Some students say the Obama administration's move to put visa restrictions on companies accepting Troubled Asset Relief Programme (TARF), a bailout fund set up by the government to help US companies come out of the downturn, too has hit international students' prospects there.

Now, most Indian students in the West are betting on their home country. The US has been in recession for 18 straight months now and has lost 5.1 million jobs so far. The world's largest economy shrunk 6.1% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2009, following a 6.3% decline in the last quarter of 2008. A recovery is unlikely before the end of the year even in a best-case scenario.

Sharp fall in exports from China

China's exports in April were down 22.6% from a year ago, the sixth successive month of decline. April's fall in exports was also bigger than the 17.1% annual decline



recorded in March. But other data suggest that Chinese government efforts to stimulate the economy are pushing up investment levels in the country.

For those Chinese factory owners who send most of their products abroad, there is little relief in these latest trade figures. Some had hoped the worst was over for exporters, but the 22.6% fall was greater than many analysts had expected.

On the other hand, investment in industrial plants and property in cities was 30% higher in the first four months of the year than it had been in the same period of 2008. In recent months, the government has encouraged banks to lend huge amounts to businesses to help them get through the downturn. That money has been spent on new equipment as well as massive infrastructure projects.

The outlook for exporters remains uncertain, because they are reliant on improvements in economic conditions elsewhere, which the Chinese government has little control over.

Mexico to lay off 700,000 workers in 2009

Mexico will lay off around 700,000 of its total workforce in the current year because of the sharpening of the economic crisis in the country, official sources said. The prediction was made on the



basis of the data compiled by the National Confederation of Industrial Chambers of Mexico (CONCAMIN).

According to the data by CONCAMIN the deepening of the financial crisis coupled with the recent slowdown in the tourism sector because of the H1N1 influenza epidemics will further cause a setback to the Mexican Gross Domestic Product which is expected to be around 6 per cent.

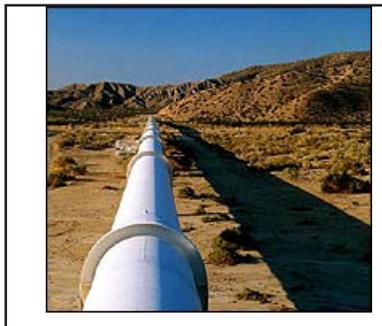
The industrial sector will see a fall of 13%, while the maquilas will see a fall of 16 per cent, CONCAMIN president Salomon Presburguer said. They can revert the impact by fostering into the domestic market, Presburguer added. The Mexican GDP has already dropped to 9.8% with a loss of 626,000 jobs with the industry laying off around 323,000 workers. (PII)

Pak, Iran pipeline deal

There are no outstanding issues impeding the project for laying a gas pipeline between Pakistan and Iran and a final deal will be signed in three weeks, according to

an Iranian official. 'The final contract will be signed between the National Iranian Gas Export Company and Interstate Gas System of Pakistan in three weeks,' chief executive officer of the National Iranian Gas Company, Reza Kasaizadeh, told ISNA news agency.

Kasaizadeh said: 'Issues of price, revision of price, the pricing formula and other questions have been finalised.' Although a date for the completion of the multi-billion-dollar pipeline has not yet been announced, Kasaizadeh said that about 250 kilometres of pipeline remained to be built and that



export to Pakistan could then start within four years.

The deal, coming after 13 years of negotiations, is being seen more as a tactic to put pressure on India as the project's financial viability remains doubtful without New Delhi's participation. For the record, doors remain open for India to join the \$7.2 billion project in future. Agency reports quoted officials of both countries saying that "India or any other country can join later".

N Korea conducts 2nd nuclear test

North Korea said it had carried out a second and more powerful nuclear test, despite international pressure to rein in its nuclear programmes after years of dis-

armament talks.

The communist state, which stunned the world by testing an atomic bomb for the first time in October 2006, had threatened another test after the UN Security Council censured it following a long-range rocket launch in April.

The North "successfully conducted one more underground nuclear test on May 25 as part of the measures to bolster up its nuclear deterrent for self-defence in every way," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

Five nations—China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States—have been involved in long-running talks intended to get the secretive North to abandon its nuclear programmes in exchange for energy and security guarantees. India voiced its worries over the underground nuclear test carried out by North Korea, saying it is a "development of serious concern."



The UN Security Council (UNSC) condemned North Korea's latest nuclear test, terming it as a "clear violation" of its 2006 resolution passed immediately after Pyongyang's first atomic test. The non-binding statement came after the Council met in an emergency session on a holiday, hours after the second nuclear test by the impoverished North Korea sent shock waves around the world drawing international condemnation. □□

Lamy banks on strong India to push Doha deal

World Trade Organisation (WTO) director-general Pascal Lamy has expressed confidence that the UPA government's return to power in India would help raise the momentum for pushing through the Doha deal.

"The elections have given a clear vote of confidence to the Congress Party and its allies.... India is a key WTO member and has been actively engaged in the Doha Round since its launch in 2001. I am confident this will remain the Indian policy in the future," Lamy has told TOI in an email interview on the WTO's expectations from the new dispensation in Delhi.

"Given the current state of the world economy and the importance of greater global cooperation, I believe the WTO needs a strong India, and likewise, India needs a strengthened WTO," he added.

Lamy said it was still premature to think of dates to convene a ministerial/mini-ministerial to conclude the Doha Round. "I remain of the view that it is a question of substance rather than timing. Obviously, the state of the world economy pleads for positive action on trade sooner rather than later. A Doha Round deal offers the lowest hanging global stimulus package. Every day which passes without a deal is a lost opportunity. But I also believe we need to get the substance right," he said.

"I think it is important that negotiators roll up their sleeves and start re-engaging in earnest to solve the remaining issues. Ministers will meet in various configurations in the coming months in Indonesia, on the margins of the OECD meeting, on the margins of the G8 in Italy or in Singapore at the end of July. All these provide useful opportunities for political engagement," he added.

Lamy said the WTO would come out with a fresh report next month to take stock of whether countries were taking steps to reduce protectionism. "G-20 leaders' meeting in London identified protectionism as one of the risks which could aggravate the crisis. The WTO is helping countries keep protectionist pressures at bay by monitoring measures

taken by members," he said. "I believe countries should remain vigilant and avoid taking isolationist measures which could provoke a downward spiral and end up hurting all countries. As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'an eye for an makes the whole world blind.'"

US to join EU in opposing Andhra duty on wines

The US has said that it would like to join the consultations requested by the EU at the WTO challenging a local levy imposed by the Andhra Pradesh government on imported liquor. The EU had contended that the "assessment fee", which was 100% for certain wines and 200% for certain spirits, violated WTO rules as it was not applied on domestic liquor.

The US, in its submission to the dispute settlement body of the WTO, said that it wants to participate in the talks as it has a substantial trade interest in the consultations.

As per WTO norms, any product brought in from another country has to be given national treatment which means that it has to be subjected to same regulations as the domestic ones. This means that states are free to apply local levies on imported wines and spirits as long as the same are applied on local products too.

The EU, in its submission, had argued that the "assessment fee was inconsistent with India's obligations under WTO, because it subjects imported bottled wines and spirits to internal taxes that are in excess of internal taxes applied on domestic like products."

Underlining the reason for its interest in joining the consultations, the US said that it was a leading producer and exporter of wine and spirits worldwide. Over the period 2002-2007, US exports of wine and spirits worldwide was about \$750 million and \$806 million, respectively, making it the world's 6th largest exporter of wine and 3rd largest exporter of spirits.

Both the EU and the US had played an instrumental role in making India bring down its import tariffs on wines and spirits to 150%—the level committed by it at the WTO. □□

