

# Swadeshi

PATRIKA

NOVEMBER 2018



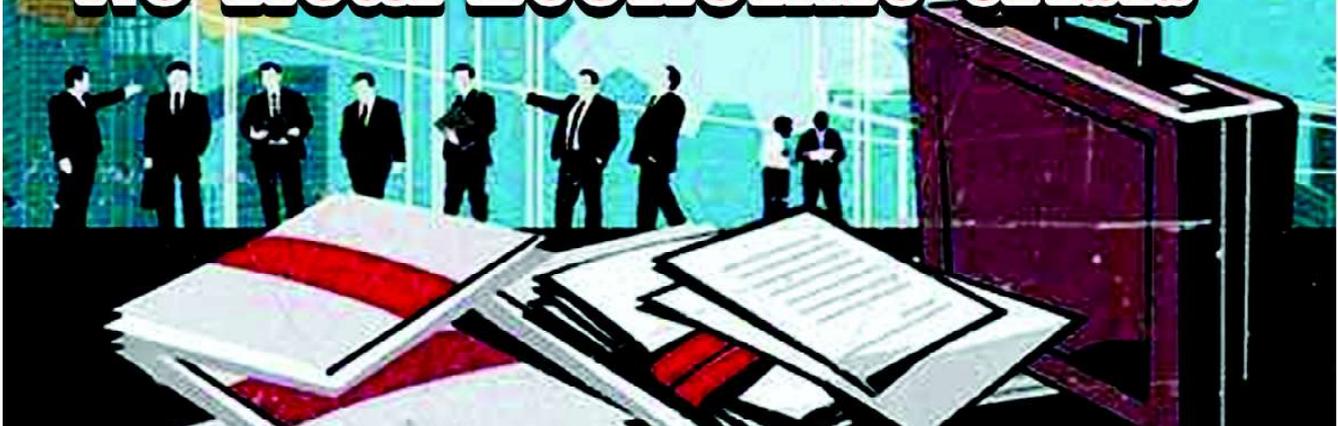
EASE OF DOING BUSINESS INDIA RANK

## WORLD BANK



Ease of Business Improving:

# No Real Economic Crisis



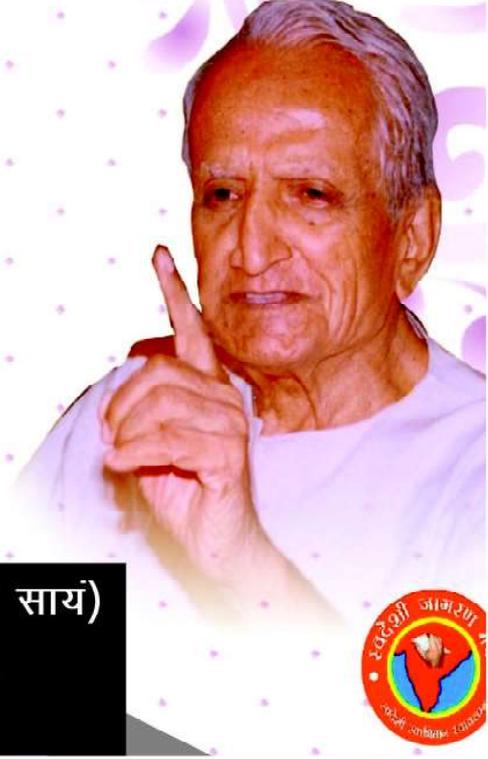
“साम्यवाद और पूँजीवाद के पतन के बाद  
तीसरा विकल्प भारत देगा”

# दत्तोपंत ठेंगड़ी स्मृति व्याख्यान माला

मुख्य वक्ता

डॉ. मोहन राव भागवत

प. पू. सरसंघचालक  
राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ



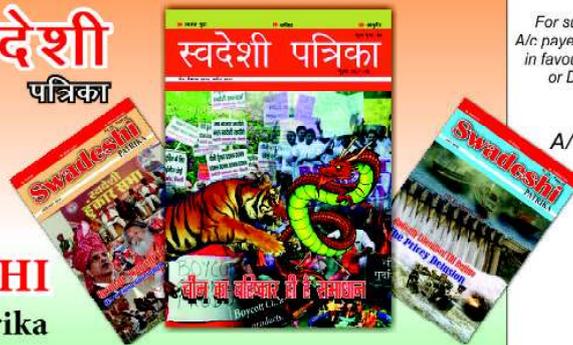
शनिवार, 10 नवंबर 2018 (4.00 बजे सायं)

डॉ. अंबेडकर इंटरनेशनल सेंटर,  
15, जनपथ, नई दिल्ली

**VOICE OF**

SELF RELIANT INDIA

स्वदेशी  
पत्रिका



**SWADESHI**  
Patrika

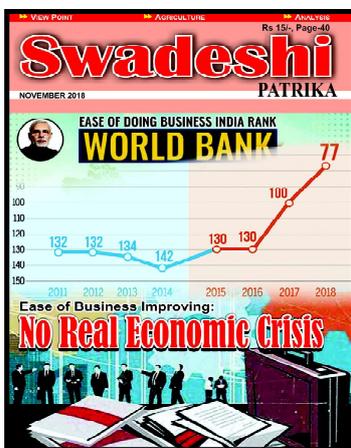
वार्षिक सदस्यता :  
Annual Subscription : 150/-  
आजीवन सदस्यता :  
Life Membership : 1500/-

For subscription please send payment by  
A/c payee Cheque/Demand Draft/Money Order  
in favour of 'Swadeshi Patrika' at New Delhi,  
or Deposit the subscription amount in

Bank of India  
A/c No. 602510110002740,  
IFSC: BKID 0006025  
(Ramakrishnapuram)

Kindly write your full name and  
address in capital letters.  
If you do not receive any issue  
of Swadeshi Patrika,  
kindly e-mail us immediately  
or contact Sh. Suraj Bhardwaj  
(9899225926)

# पढ़ें और पढ़ायें



Vol-23, No. 11  
Kartik–Margshirsh 2075 Nov. 2018

EDITOR  
**Ajey Bharti**

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR  
**Dr. Phool Chand**

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

COVER & PAGE DESIGNING  
**Sudama Dixit**

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

**LETTERS** 3

**NEWS** 32-36



# CONTENTS

**COVER ARTICLE** 6

*Ease of Business Improving:*  
**No Real Economic Crisis**  
*Dr. Ashwani Mahajan*

1	Cover Page	
2.	Cover Inside Page	
<b>08</b>	<b>OPINION</b>	
	Only strong rules will curb graft in public policy	<b>Arun Gupta</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	
	Clean Ganga needs clear procedures : CAG	<b>Shivaji Sarkar</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
	Hedgewar: A native vision of nationhood	<b>Sandhya Jain</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>FOCUS</b>	
	The Seeds Of Suicide: How Monsanto Destroys Farming	<b>Dr. Vandana Shiva</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>VIEW POINT</b>	
	Frauds in Indian Banks	<b>Anil Javalekar</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>ANALYSIS</b>	
	Why Alcohol Risks Get Less Attention?	<b>Bharat Dogra</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>STUDY</b>	
	Challenge before the Solar Alliance	<b>Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE</b>	
	Lack of mandis, funds may blunt PM-AASHA	<b>Devinder Sharma</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>SCRUTINY FARMING</b>	
	The long-ignored army of women fighting India's nutrition crisis	<b>Kavitha Kuruganti</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>PERUSAL</b>	
	Modi, Trump Take Indo-US Ties To New High	<b>Dr. R. Balashankar</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>REMEMBERING</b>	
	Dattopant Thengadi – Visionary architect	<b>Saroj Mitra</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>REVIEW</b>	
	Death of Silent voices	<b>Maulik Sisodia</b>
39	Back Inside Cover	
40	Back Cover	



### Paradox of Importing Hazardous Food While Our Own Farmers Suffer From Livelihood Crisis

While reports of serious livelihood crisis of farmers have been pouring in from various parts of the country for a long time, more recently there have been reports also of consumers in India being exposed to very serious health risks due to large-scale imports of highly hazardous food.

Firstly there have been reports of very huge amounts, possibly millions of tons, of imported genetically modified (GM) food products, particularly edible oils, being sold to completely unsuspecting consumers in India. Secondly there have been reports of very huge amounts of imports of pulses which have been sprayed by very harmful chemicals, particularly by a very harmful herbicide and desiccant called glyphosate. These contaminated pulse imports have been mainly from Canada and Australia. These hazardous foods were sold without being labeled to millions and millions of food consumers in India who had absolutely no information about their health risks and hence were completely clueless about the possible link to the health risks that are likely to have occurred. Treatment and even diagnosis of health problems therefore became all the more difficult.

At the same time India has millions and millions of highly skilled farmers who are very knowledgeable about the farming of pulses and oilseeds, and also the mixed farming systems in which these crops can be grown. They have a lot of traditional wisdom about the innumerable varieties of pulses and oilseeds and low-cost methods of growing them. The land and soils of India are most suitable for growing many different types of highly nutritious pulses and oilseeds as well as other sources of obtaining edible oils.

We need to ask this very basic question-with some of the best land and human resources for producing plenty of pulses and oilseeds and becoming self-reliant in the production of these staple foods on a sustainable basis, why are the people of India being pushed into such a situation where they have to buy and consume the most hazardous imported pulses and edible oils. This is clearly a case of systematic failure, a failure of systems due to which both livelihoods and health are suffering a lot of completely avoidable but very serious harm.

- Bharat Dogra, C-27 Raksha Kunj Paschim Vihar N.Delhi-110063.

#### EDITORIAL OFFICE

#### SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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

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

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

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

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

#### Disclaimer

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

## Quote-Unquote



Deleting corruption is the first condition for the creation of a new India. Corruption is like a termite that hides the economic system, it also has a bad effect on social and moral values.

Ram Nath Kovind

President, Bharat



Even after adopting the noble principles from the world, it is absolutely essential for the progress of the nation that we devise our own, distinct model of development and corresponding framework based on our philosophical foundation.

Dr. Mohan Bhagwat

Sarsanghchalak, RSS



Delighted at yet another rise in India's 'Ease of Doing Business' rank. We are unwavering in our commitment towards economic reforms, which will ensure an environment that fosters industry, investment and opportunities.

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister, Bharat



I want to continue to walk firmly hand in hand with PM Modi, aiming at bringing about a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Shinzo Abe

President, Japan

## Impose cap on royalty and technical fees payments by MNCs

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has written a letter to the Prime Minister requesting his to curb huge outflow of foreign exchange by MNCs in the name of royalty and technical fees, causing erosion of value of Indian rupee. Letter says that according to recent empirical estimates, depreciation by one rupee increases our import bill on oil by \$2 billion dollars and given Rs. 6 depreciation of rupee; our oil bill for 2018-19 is estimated to increase by \$12 billion dollars.

One of the important reasons for depreciating rupee is the payment of royalty and technical fees to foreign companies. Royalty payment outflows are payments made domestic companies to their foreign parent firms or by Indian citizens to foreign entities for use of property, patent, copyrighted work, license or franchise. Royalty and technical fees is one of the many ways in which MNC extract huge sums of money from the developing and underdeveloped economies. For the year 2017-18, while FDI inflows accounted for USD 60.96 billion, the payments relating to Royalty and technical fees amounted to US\$ 20.65 billion. This shows how benefits of FDI are clearly being negated by the outflow on royalty and technical fees. Moreover, these outgoes would continue in future too, even when there is no FDI inflow.

Prior to 2009, royalty payments were regulated by the government and were capped at 8 per cent of exports and 5 per cent of domestic sales in case of technology transfer collaborations and was fixed at 2 per cent of exports and 1 per cent of domestic sales for use of trademark or brand name. This was in tune with international standards and practice. The outflow of these payments started increasing significantly after the Ministry of Commerce, under then UPA government 'liberalised' the FDI policy in 2009. It had removed the cap and permitted Indian companies to pay royalties to their technical collaborators without seeking prior government approval. After lifting of the cap on the royalty outflows on account of royalty and fee for technical services, has been increasing at a very fast pace.

Cap on royalty as it existed prior to 2009, was a prudent policy as it helped in keeping outgo of foreign exchange and therefore keeping the Current Account Deficit in BOP low and therefore reduced requirement of foreign exchange. It's notable that prior to 2009, outgo of foreign exchange on royalty and technical fees was hardly 4 billion \$US, which has henceforth been increasing in leaps and bounds and has reached more than 20 billion \$US by now.

Given the grave situation, the nation is facing in terms of eroding value of Indian currency, it's imperative to keep the acts of foreign companies in discipline, as they have been increasing outflow of foreign exchange for royalty and technical fees unilaterally after lifting of cap on the same in 2009.

There is an urgent need to reimpose caps to save valuable foreign exchange as there is no logic to continue the same. These curbs would help increase the profits of domestic companies mainly in the automobiles sector, prevent depletion of foreign exchange reserves and protect the interest of minority shareholders. It will also increase the revenue for the government.

# Ease of Business Improving: No Real Economic Crisis

According to the report of World Bank on October 31, in the 190 countries, India has reached 77th rank in the 'Easy to Doing Business' improving from 100<sup>th</sup> position last year. Significant is the fact that from 2014 onwards, it has jumped from 142<sup>nd</sup> position to 77<sup>th</sup> position, that is, an improvement by 65 points. It is considered an important achievement. This news is a big relief to the Indian government, which has been facing rough weather from the point of view of many other counts. Since the beginning of the year 2018, Indian rupee depreciated by more than 20% reaching at rupee 74.72 per dollar by October 10, 2018, before improving to rupee 73.5 per dollar. On the other hand, the prices of petrol and diesel had been skyrocketing in the last two months; though in the last two weeks, they have taken a downward trend. Current Account Deficit in the Balance of Payment (CAD), which was hardly 1.9% of the GDP in 2017-18, is expected to reach 3% of GDP in the current financial year. Sensitive Index of the Mumbai Stock Exchange (SENSEX), which reached near 38,900 level, by October 11, 2018 has come down to 34,000. In these circumstances, it seems that India is once again in the grip of crisis. However, if we look at the history, this kind of situation is no new for India. In the year 2011-12 and 2012-13 the CAD had reached nearly 4% of GDP, prices of petrol and diesel were also very high and rupee was also getting depreciated fast and had reached a record level then at rupees 68.84 per US dollar by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The question arises whether India is once again in the situation of economic crisis as it was in 2012-13. If we look back, the situation then was very grim. During tenth and eleventh five year plans, economy was growing at the rate of nearly 8% and GDP growth came down to 6.2% and 4.2% in the year 2011-12 and 2012-2013 respectively. However in 2017-18 the economy had achieved GDP growth rate of 7.3% and for the year 2018-19 growth is expected to reach nearly 7.6%, as per the international agencies. In the year 2012 and 2013 the rate of inflation had peaked two digits, and the same is revolving around 3.5% now. On the basis of this we can safely



*Economy which is the fastest growing economy of the world, in terms of GDP, where all economic indicators are moving in the right direction, a short-term increase in the demand for dollars and stress on Indian rupee does not indicate towards any big crisis.*

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**



say, that though Indian rupee continue to be under pressure, prices of petrol and diesel are also rising fast; however, Indian economy is standing on a strong footing.

### **Agriculture and Industrial Development**

In the last 4 years not only the rate of growth of GDP has accelerated and growth is clearly seen in almost all the sectors of the economy. It is notable that the growth in industrial production, which had come down to 1.1 percent in 2012-13 and, by 2013-14 it had dipped to (-)0.1 percent, recorded a growth of 5.2 percent between August 2017 and August 2018. Similarly we find accelerating growth in agriculture. We find significant increase in production of almost all commodities including food grain, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugar etc. Food grain production which was 253 million tonnes in 2014-15 has increased to 277.5 million tonnes by the year 2017-18. Increase in agricultural production has not only dipped general inflation, its impact is more seen in food inflation. Food inflation which had reached 14.7 in November 2013, by June 2017, came down to -2.12%, which means instead of rising, prices have actually started falling. In the last few years, rate of inflation is revolving around 3 to 4 percent. Data shows that though the prices of petrol and diesel are rising fast, however in case of pulses food grain, edible oil etc. the rate of inflation is very meagre.

### **Fiscal balance**

Inflation is under control, not merely because of the rising industrial and agricultural production, but also because of the fiscal balance achieved in the last four years. Fiscal deficit of 5.7 percent of

GDP in 2011-12, had come down to 3.5% of the GDP in 2017-18. Rising GDP on the one hand and declining fiscal deficit, on the other hand, is keeping inflation under control, despite rising prices of petrol and diesel.

### **No big crisis**

Situation of crisis is there if business environment is not favourable, production is stagnated, inflation is rising, whereas, many countries of the world are facing the problem of external payments, in India foreign exchange reserves have increased by 25% in the last four years. Many countries are dependent on the foreign nations for their basic requirements and the governments are not able to provide social security net and civil services. In India there is nothing like this. Stocks are overflowing and country is even exporting agricultural commodities hugely. Government's budget is totally under control. Taxes both direct as well as indirect are increasing in leaps and bounds and states which used to face severe resource crisis in earlier days have comfortable fiscal position. In the last few months because of the global factors, there has been a huge increase in the demand for dollars, causing stress on Indian rupee. However there is no crisis like situation. Rise of crude oil has increased from US\$ 55 per barrel to US\$ 80 per barrel in the last few months. There are two reasons for increase in the demand for dollars; rising prices of crude oil in international markets in the last few months and withdrawal of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). However, these factors are not going to have a long-term impact on Indian economy. On October 10, 2018 there has been a decline in the

price of crude oil in future market and it seems that from now onwards, the price of crude oil will take a downward trend. Foreign investors have made huge profit in Indian markets. Therefore, though, they are taking their money out in the short run, but in the long run it is not going to continue and once they come back, supply of dollars will increase once again, and rupee may return back to its original level. Whether its Ease of Doing Business, improved growth, controlled inflation or booming foreign exchange reserves, all indicate towards a better future.

### **What to Do?**

There is an urgent need for RBI to intervene in the foreign exchange market. Government can also try to reduce foreign trade deficit by increasing the tariffs on non-essential commodities. Apart from this we have to take strict action against the dumping of products in Indian markets, by some countries. Foreign Institutional Investors also are needed to be disciplined by imposing minimum lock-in-period, so that they cannot take their money back overnight. We can also impose 'Tobin Tax', according to which, as and when foreign investors convert to the international currencies, the tax is imposed. In conclusion we can say that the economy which is the fastest growing economy of the world, in terms of GDP, where all economic indicators are moving in the right direction, a short-term increase in the demand for dollars and stress on Indian rupee does not indicate towards any big crisis. However there is a need to manage the present situation in an efficient manner. □□

## Only strong rules will curb graft in public policy



The phenomenon of conflicts of interest was in the news recently for the right reasons, when Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) organised a roundtable on “Conflicts of Interest in Public Policy”. Professionals from law, economics, media, nutrition, anthropology, medicine, research, social work, human rights, public health, people’s movements and politics took part in this. The meeting presented and discussed the concepts and definitions of the situation of conflicts of interest. Examples of revolving door dominated the discussions. A concrete example of revolving door is when a head of India’s national health mission joined a vaccine advocacy group-GAVI,

and a retired joint secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development joined as an advisor to a foundation floated by a biscuit manufacturer.

“Duty of Loyalty”, is a phrase used in corporate law to describe a fiduciary’s “conflicts of interest”, according to which the fiduciaries must put the corporation’s interests ahead of their own. Similarly, government officials/representatives can be considered to be in a position of trust due to their duty of loyalty towards the country’s citizens. They are obliged to work in the interest of the public, which pays for them, or has brought them to power.

Conflicts of interest situations may influence or even appear to influence the conduct of government servants, or decisions/recommendations of the governance institutions meant for public good. It becomes even more serious when corporate sector or their lobbyists are directly or indirectly involved in such situations. No wonder the Rajya Sabha’s department-related Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, Government of India in its 69th Report recommended that conflict of interest be included under bribery.

There are several available definitions of conflicts of interest. It is defined as a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a “primary interest” will be unduly influenced by a “secondary interest”. The West’s Encyclopaedia of American Law defines conflict of interest as “a term used to describe the situation in which a public official or fiduciary who, contrary to the obligation and absolute duty to act for the benefit of the public or a designated individual, exploits the relationship for personal benefit, typically pecuniary”.

Conflicts of interest situations can be institutional or personal. It can stem from financial or other interests, including post-employment opportunities or during public-private partnerships, and in situations when institution’s secondary financial interests or those of its senior officials poses risks to the integrity of the institution’s primary interests and missions; when public officials take policy deci-



*To curb graft in Public Policy, Government of India should bring a Bill in Parliament to identify, prevent and manage conflicts of interest in policy development.*  
Arun Gupta

sions based on their personal interest; when representatives of food manufacturing companies sit on scientific panels to evaluate research and to set food standards; when food (including junk food) manufacturers or front organisations take on the task of educating children about healthy foods and nutrition; when vaccine manufacturers or their front agents/organisations that lobby for introducing new vaccines, sit on public health committees/boards nationally or internationally; when the “regulators” partner with “to be regulated” and to develop policy for the people; when politicians sit on the parliamentary committees dealing with sectors they are doing business in; when legislators alleged to have committed criminal offences develop a law to curb criminalisation of politics; when judges join political outfits; when public servants including bureaucrats and elected representatives of the people, after leaving public service, work for the companies they used to regulate, potentially using their experience and contacts to get decisions made in the favour of the company or organisations lobbying for a particular interest; when public servants join private players serving the same sector; and when public regulatory bodies accept the evaluation done by companies producing genetically modified seeds calling their own products as “safe”.

With the growing abundance of PPPs in the public policy sector, especially noted in the health and nutrition policies, it involves complex relationships among various actors. Unless it is logically identified through objective tools and managed, it is likely to be over-

***As per RTI, Central or state governments don't have any guidelines or rules to abide by for identification (prevention) or managing conflicts of interest.***

looked compromising public interest in favour of “interested” partners only to have negatively impact on public health. The RTI has revealed that several ministries in the Central or state governments don't have any guidelines or rules to abide by for identification (prevention) or managing conflicts of interest. Some states don't even understand what it is.

Is it not a clarion call for having such rules and tools?

While the Constitution of India, Article 246, Schedule 7-List III Concurrent List item 12, provides for oath, the Rajya Sabha's Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, Government of India recommended that conflict of interest be included under bribery, and in July 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also called for a law on conflict of interest within his 17-point agenda. But the issue remains to be addressed.

If there is will, India can learn from global standards available for identifying and managing conflict of interest. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provides guidance and tools to identify, prevent and manage conflicts of in-

terest, and Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control guides on the protection of public health policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. These tools are useful. Let NITI Aayog develop the rules and tools for India and ministry of personnel implement these.

At the roundtable, declaration of interest and management of revolving doors was thought to be urgent, with a focus on health and nutrition. The group also recommended immediate notification for declaration/registration of interest at any government meetings of any sector, including meetings of the expert committees/working groups/task forces etc., set up by the governments or by others concerned. Let NITI take the lead in development of a framework for reporting such situations. If there is conflict of interest, appropriate remedial action should be applied like recusal. Such a practice could change the way we govern. To be transparent, minutes of any meetings of the public servants with concerned players and private sector should be made public immediately through its web sites. The group also thought that that conflicts of interest could be prevented through a longish cooling off period of five years, and recommended that ministry of personnel issues a “notification” with immediate effect.

As a long-term strategy, Government of India should bring a Bill in Parliament to identify, prevent and manage conflicts of interest in policy development. □□

Dr. Arun Gupta is a senior paediatrician, working as regional coordinator Asia for International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN). IBFAN is a Right Livelihood laureate 1998.

## Clean Ganga needs clear procedures Delays raise cost by 2314 percent for 5 river projects, Payments to contractors “irregular”: CAG

“The Ganga cleaning has cost the nation Rs 7304 crore”, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) noted in its observations. It says the money has gone waste. The expenses were done, as per NGT from 2015 to 2017. It is not restricted to Ganga. Most such water and river projects have not been able to achieve the objective. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its audit of national projects of central ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation from 2008 to 2017 has noted that of the 16 national projects only five could come under implementation. These five were conceptualised from 1975 to 1983. Thus delays are part of the process leading to enormous cost escalation. The original cost of the five projects were Rs 3530 crore. The CAG says the current cost estimates are Rs 86,172.23 crore – an escalation of almost 22 times or 2341 percent. The shortfall ranged from eight to 99 percent.

In February 2008, the central government approved a scheme of 16 major national water resource development and irrigation projects that were languishing due to various constraints like land acquisition, inter-state coordination, financial constraints and issues relating to rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons. The fundamental objective of the five schemes was to ensure coordinated and focused action to expedite their execution. “The performance audit brought out that the objective remained unachieved though an expenditure of Rs 13,299.12 crore had been incurred till March 2017”.

The projects aim at creating 25.10 lakh hectare irrigation potential. So far a



*The CAG does not say if there is any corruption. It speaks of poor contract management and undue assistance to contractors from public funds.*  
**Shivaji Sarkar**



mere 5.36 lakh hectare (37 percent) is being utilized. The projects are — Indira Sagar Polavaram project (ISP) in Andhra Pradesh, Goshikhurd irrigation project in Maharashtra, Shahpur Khandi Dam (SKD) project in Punjab, Saryu Nahar Pariyojana (SNP) in Uttar Pradesh and Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal. Despite its poor implementation Teesta project has led to tension between India and Bangladesh.

Now power was generated of the envisaged 1236.50 mega watt. The remaining 11 projects with estimated irrigation capacity of 10.48 lakh hectare are at different stages of approval. The approval for the five projects took 17 to 65 months - over 12 years. The delays were due to inaccurate survey and investigation by the state agencies. In some cases like Goshikhurd in Maharashtra and Bursar in Jammu and Kashmir the cost increase were for change in the basic contours. The Goshikhurd had an additional cost of Rs 778 crore and till March 2017, the Central Water Commission had not approved it. The CWC recommended Bursar in 2008 but the NHPC in 2012-13 suggested shifting of the site to Pakal from Hanzai. The NHPC survey cost an unnecessary Rs 132.17 crore.

The CAG observed that project approvals were complicated and rendered inaccurate due to adoption of redundant survey and outdated price levels. It led to incorrect calculation of economic viability of projects. Inaccurate survey and duplication of efforts led to additional cost of Rs 904 crore in these two cases.

The observation is important. What NGT has observed about

Ganga cleaning is also linked to such procedural problems. The system is rickshank and sites are changed or modifications are made without factoring the variables. Even land acquisition in all these projects take too long. For the Teesta project though proposal for partial land acquisition was submitted in September 2012, it could not get West Bengal government approval till March 2017. The proposal for 2084 hectare was yet to be forwarded by the Teesta authority.

The process is similar in ISP in Andhra, SKD in Punjab and SNP in UP due to various administrative weaknesses and inability of states to reach a figure for rehabilitation due to submergence of villages. In the ISP, the Andhra government took five years to reject the farmers demand for cancellation of some land acquisition. The SNP also suffered for similar reasons.

It was found that funds to contractors were released beyond agreement conditions. Various codal provisions were also not adhered to leading to financial costs almost in each of the projects.

The CAG does not say if there is any corruption. It speaks of poor contract management and undue assistance to contractors from public funds. Payments to them over and above the terms of agreement “was irregular”, it observes and says, “This amounted to financial assistance to contractors from public funds”.

Such assistance cost the exchequer at least Rs 102 crore and cost escalation of Rs 225 crore on papers. The actual may be much more as “there is no assurance as to the transparency and objectivity of the process of selection of contractors, award of works and their

execution”, says CAG.

The revisions of agreements for relief and rehabilitation cost Rs 1332 crore and Rs 82.35 crore in interest payments due to delays. There are major lacunae in the monitoring by state agencies and shortfall in technical inspection.

In the Sarayu project, excavated earth of canals was dumped in a haphazard manner resulting in flowing it back to the canals during rains decreasing rate of water flow by 25 to 58 percent.

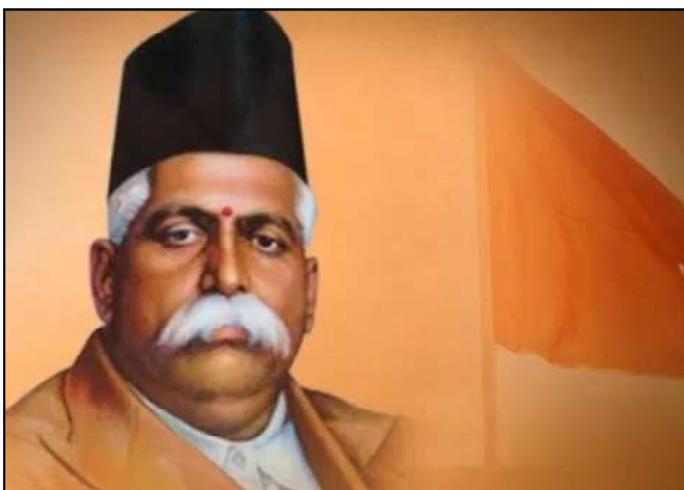
In Goshikhurd, catchment area treatment necessary for safety dam, maintenance and protection of downstream areas were neglected for eight years. The retaining walls were constructed in a defective manner leading to its collapse in the middle of the canal during rains.

The CAG stresses on adequate procedures for implementation, operation and maintenance so that the infrastructure created is safeguarded and the beneficiaries are enriched.

The CAG observations give cue to the rest of the 11 projects and Ganga cleaning. The Namami Ganga of prime minister Narendra Modi is a process that was started in 1980s. Millions of rupees have flowed down but Ganga has yet not been cleaned. The NGT observations are crucial as it also calls for investigating the issues.

The failure of the projects since 1975 is an eye opener. The Ganga cleaning project needs to be reviewed and not rushed through in the light of the audit report and reshaped to reduce delays, costs and siphoning of funds. It is a major task but not undoable as many nations in Europe and southeast Asia have proven. □□

## Hedgewar: A native vision of nationhood



*Bhagwat's decision to put Hedgewar at the centre of his outreach at the RSS conclave was a necessary corrective. Long a shadowy figure at the edge of historical consciousness, Bhagwat has done justice to a visionary.*  
**Sandhya Jain**

Hindu *rashtra* (nation) is not *rajya* (state), though critics try to obfuscate the issue. A state is a politico-legal entity; a nation is a civilisational, cultural, and psychological entity, generally identified with an ancient or distinct geography linked to its people. Hindus form the bedrock and mainstream of the Indian nation; a Hindu polity respects its minorities precisely because it is Hindu. This is true of both Hindu *rashtra* and *rajya*.

Keshav Baliram Hedgewar founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1925 as an ideological alternative to the dominant Indian National Congress, to uphold the primacy of Hindu

civilisation and Hindus in India. Though *Hedgewar* and many swayamsevaks joined the freedom movement under the aegis of the Congress, mutual distrust due to the Partition and murder of Mahatma Gandhi persuaded the organisation of the need for a political praetorian guard. The fortuitous availability of Syama Prasad Mookerjee led to the formation of the Jan *Sangh*; his tragic death in Srinagar consolidated the fledgling party's nationalist credentials, a legacy that transferred to its remake, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Unsurprisingly, Jawaharlal Nehru loathed both the RSS and the Jan Sangh because they did not value his Western liberal worldview and sought inspiration from India's native ethos, which was by definition Hindu. Like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and BR Ambedkar, Nehru understood that the RSS was not innately anti-Muslim, but was astute enough to realise that painting it in such colours would give him the consolidated Muslim votebank, which kept his party in power for several decades.

RSS *sarsanghchalak* Mohan Bhagwat addressed a complex range of political, social, cultural, civilisational and psychological issues that have crystallised with the ascent of the BJP as India's ruling and dominant political party in 2014. At a three-day conclave titled, "Future of Bharat: An RSS Perspective", Bhagwat sounded the bugle of an ideological war at a modern-day Kurukshetra, where none of his invited opponents turned up. Round one to Bhagwat.

Critics have questioned the reasons for the outreach, linking its timing to the parliamentary election of 2019. Some have taken his assurances that Hindutva does not and cannot exclude Muslims as an exercise in 'Congress-isation'. The issue is more complex. Some things have changed unimaginably. The hitherto inviolable Muslim personal law has been challenged by Muslim women, who

have got triple *talaq (talaq-e-biddat)* legally invalidated, and are now fighting to ban polygamy, *nikah balala* and female genital mutilation. The state is standing by them; the days of inhumane orthodoxy are over.

Then, the politically dominant State of Uttar Pradesh has asked *madrassas* to incorporate the national school curriculum in their teaching programme. It is a matter of time before parents decide what kind of education they want the *madrassa* to emphasise in future. The internal dynamics of the Muslim community, therefore, are destroying mental ghettos and driving Muslims to build bridges with Hindu civilisation and Hindu India.

A return to the patronage offered to Muslim orthodoxy by the Congress and other secular parties is no longer possible. Hence, Muslim investment in such parties is no longer necessary. A Hindu India must seek to make this transition as painless as possible, especially as the challenge of Islamic terrorism increases and innocents have to be protected. Bhagwat's speech is a nudge in that direction. The decision to put Hedgewar at the centre of his outreach was a necessary corrective. Most *swayamsevaks* have grown up under the shadow of MS Golwalkar (*guruji*), who led the RSS for 33 long years and established it in northern India. Some speeches made in the troubled Partition years and thereafter have derailed the public discourse to the detriment of the RSS' prestige. The situation-based editing of Golwalkar's speeches in Print must be seen in this context. Given Congress president Rahul Gandhi's vituperative attacks on the RSS, and his allusion that it did not partici-

***Most  
swayamsevaks  
have grown up  
under the shadow of  
MS Golwalkar  
(guruji), who led  
the RSS for 33 long  
years and  
established it in  
northern India.***

pate in the freedom struggle, Bhagwat presented a stalwart who opposed British colonialism from early childhood and rubbed shoulders with Bal Gangadhar Tilak, BS Moonje, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Savarkar brothers.

As a student in the sixth standard, he threw the sweets received on Queen Victoria's 60th coronation day in the dustbin, saying slavery to the British empire was nothing to celebrate and motivated children not to go to see the lights on Nagpur Empress Mill as part of the celebrations. In the 10th grade, Hedgewar managed to organise students of Neil City High School to shout '*Vande Mataram*' when the inspector visited the classrooms. When investigations began to identify the mastermind, he confessed to save fellow students from trouble, and was rusticated. He passed the metric exam from Pune as a private student under the Lokmanya Tilak Yojana. While there (1908), he threw a bomb at a police post on Vijayadashami; he was arrested but released because he was a student.

Tilak and Moonje sent Hedgewar to study at Calcutta

Medical College and meet leaders of the Anushilan Samiti and organise the revolutionaries of Bengal and Maharashtra. During his six years in the province, he helped the Ramakrishna Mission to provide relief during a famine in Bengal; the Mission later sent MS Golwalkar to join Hedgewar after he founded the RSS. Returning to Nagpur with his degree in 1917, Hedgewar decided to dedicate his life to the nation. He joined the Congress and as general secretary of the Nagpur Congress Sewa Dal, helped organise the Non Cooperation Movement in 1921. He was arrested for sedition and jailed for one year. Later, he became secretary of the Congress in Central Provinces.

Deeply influenced by Moonje, Hedgewar felt that the nation needed a vehicle, different from the Congress, which placed Hindutva as the basis of nationhood. The RSS was founded at a meeting in his home, where like-minded people would gather for weekly meetings, which gradually evolved into the daily *shakha*. The emphasis was on character building (*vyakti nirman*); the rest would follow. Hedgewar and many RSS workers remained in the Congress and participated in the freedom struggle under Gandhi's leadership. In 1932, he inspired the Jungle Satyagraha, wherein 6,000 persons cut jungle grass in defiance of a Government ban, similar to the ban on making salt. He was jailed for nine months. Long a shadowy figure at the edge of historical consciousness, Bhagwat has done justice to a visionary with formidable organisational skills. □□

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

## The Seeds Of Suicide: How Monsanto Destroys Farming (and the Lives of Farmers)



*“Monsanto is an agricultural company. ... We apply innovation and technology to help farmers around the world produce more while conserving more. ... Producing more, Conserving more, Improving farmers lives.”* — These are the promises Monsanto India’s website makes, alongside pictures of smiling, prosperous farmers from the state of Maharashtra. This is a desperate attempt by Monsanto and its PR machinery to delink the epidemic of farmers’ suicides in India arising from the company’s growing control over cotton **seed** supply — 95 per cent of India’s cotton seed is now controlled by Monsanto.

Seed is the first link in the food chain because seed is the source of life. When a corporation controls

seed, it controls life, especially the life of farmers.

Monsanto’s concentrated control over the seed sector in India as well as across the world is very worrying. This is what connects farmers’ **suicides** in India to Monsanto vs. Percy Schmeiser in Canada, to Monsanto vs. Bowman in the US, and to farmers in Brazil suing Monsanto for \$2.2 billion for unfair collection of royalty. Through patents on seed, Monsanto has become the “Life Lord” of our planet, collecting rents for life’s renewal from farmers, the original breeders.

Patents on seed are illegitimate because **putting a toxic gene into a plant cell** is not “creating” or “inventing” a plant. These are seeds of deception — the deception that Monsanto is the creator of seeds and life; the deception that while Monsanto sues farmers and traps them in debt, it pretends to be working for farmers’ welfare, and the deception that GMOs feed the world. GMOs are failing to control pests and weeds, and have instead led to the emergence of superpests and superweeds.



*Monsanto’s talk of ‘technology’ tries to hide its real objectives of control over seed through genetic engineering.*

**Dr. Vandana Shiva**

### Altered Genes, Twisted Truth

The entry of Monsanto in the Indian seed sector was made possible with a 1988 Seed Policy imposed by the World Bank, requiring the Government of India to deregulate the seed sector. Five things changed with Monsanto’s entry: First, Indian companies were locked into joint-ventures and licensing arrangements, and concentration over the seed sector increased. Second, seed which had been the farmers’ common resource became the “intellectual property” of Monsanto, for which it started collecting royalties, thus raising the costs of seed. Third, open pollinated cotton seeds were displaced by hybrids, including GMO hybrids. A renewable resource became a non-renewable, patented commodity. Fourth, cotton which had earlier been grown as a mixture with food crops now had to be grown as a monoculture, with higher vulnerability to pests, disease, drought and crop failure.

Fifth, Monsanto started to subvert India's regulatory processes and, in fact, started to use public resources to push its non-renewable hybrids and GMOs through so-called public-private partnerships (PPP).

In 1995, Monsanto introduced its Bt technology in India through a joint-venture with the Indian company Mahyco. In 1997-98, Monsanto started open field trials of its GMO Bt cotton illegally and announced that it would be selling the seeds commercially the following year. India has rules for regulating GMOs since 1989, under the Environment Protection Act. It is mandatory to get approval from the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee under the ministry of environment for GMO trials. The Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology sued Monsanto in the Supreme Court of India and Monsanto could not start the commercial sales of its Bt cotton seeds until 2002.

And, after the damning report of India's parliamentary committee on Bt crops in August 2012, the panel of technical experts appointed by the Supreme Court recommended a 10-year moratorium on field trials of all GM food and termination of all ongoing trials of transgenic crops. But it had changed Indian agriculture already.

Monsanto's seed monopolies, the destruction of alternatives, the collection of superprofits in the form of royalties, and the increasing vulnerability of monocultures has created a context for debt, suicides and agrarian distress which is driving the farmers' suicide epidemic in India. This systemic control has been intensified with Bt cotton. That is why most suicides are in the cotton belt.

An internal advisory by the agricultural ministry of India in 2012 had this to say to the cotton-growing states in India:

*Cotton farmers are in a deep crisis since shifting to Bt cotton. The spate of farmer suicides in 2011-12 has been particularly severe among Bt cotton farmers.*

The highest acreage of Bt cotton is in Maharashtra and this is also where the highest farmer suicides are. Suicides increased after Bt cotton was introduced — Monsanto's royalty extraction, and the high costs of seed and chemicals have created a debt trap. According to Government of India data, nearly 75 per cent rural debt is due to purchase inputs. As Monsanto's profits grow, farmers' debt grows. It is in this systemic sense that Monsanto's seeds are seeds of suicide.

The ultimate seed of suicide is Monsanto's patented technology to create sterile seeds. Called "terminator technology" by the media, sterile seed technology is a type of Gene Use Restriction Technology, GRUT, in which seed produced by a crop will not grow — crops will not produce viable offspring seeds or will produce viable seeds with specific genes switched off. The Convention on Biological Diversity has banned its use, otherwise Monsanto would be collecting even higher profits from seed.

Monsanto's talk of "technology" tries to hide its real objectives of ownership and control over seed where genetic engineering is just a means to control seed and the food system through patents and intellectual property rights.

*As part of the process, they portrayed the various concerns as merely the ignorant opinions of misinformed individuals — and derided them as not only unscientific, but anti-science. They then set to*

*work to convince the public and government officials, through the dissemination of false information, that there was an overwhelming expert consensus, based on solid evidence, that GMOs were safe. —*

**Jane Goodall, *Altered Genes, Twisted Truth.***

A Monsanto representative admitted that they were "the patient's diagnostician, and physician all in one" in writing the patents on life-forms, from micro-organisms to plants, in the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Stopping farmers from saving seeds and exercising their seed sovereignty was the main objective. Monsanto is now extending its patents to conventionally bred seed, as in the case of **broccoli** and capsicum, or the low gluten **wheat** it had pirated from India — which we challenged as a biopiracy case in the European Patent office.

That is why we have started Fibres of Freedom in the heart of Monsanto's Bt cotton/suicide belt in Vidharba. We have created community seed banks with indigenous seeds and helped farmers go organic. No GMO seeds, no debt, no suicides. The beauty of seed is that out of one you can get millions. The beauty of the pollinator is that it turns that one into millions. And that's an economy of abundance. That's an economy of sharing. To me that's the real economics of growth — because life is growing. The economics and technology of hybridization, of genetic modification, is a deliberate creation of scarcity.

*Genetic engineering has never been about saving the world, it's about controlling the world. □□*

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/seeds-suicide-how-monsanto-destroys-farming-and-lives-farmers>

## Frauds in Indian Banks



Indian governance system is prone to corruption and Indian banks are prone to frauds. India is the 81 least corrupt nation out of 175 countries according to the 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Indian banks, particularly PSBs are known more for its NPAs and frauds. The number of cases on frauds reported by Indian banks were hovering at around 4500 in the last 10 years and increased to 5835 in 2017-18. The amount involved in frauds was also increasing gradually, followed by a significant increase in 2017-18 to ₹ 410 billion.

The Central Vigilance Commission which is known as the apex vigilance institution has recently (October 2018) undertook a review of frauds in Indian banks and analyzed top 100 Banks Frauds. Their observations are worth noticing.



*Frauds in loans accounted for more than 75 per cent of frauds involving amount of Rs. 0.1 million. We need to break the selfish collusion between banks personnel and large borrowers and stop politico-bureaucratic interference in bank affairs.*  
**Anil Javalekar**

### Frauds in Indian Banks: Status

As per RBI Annual Report 2017-18, during 2017-18, PSBs accounted for 92.9 per cent of the amount involved in frauds of more than ₹ 0.1 million, as reported to the Reserve Bank while the private sector banks accounted for 6 per cent. As regard to cumulative amount involved in frauds till March 31, 2018, PSBs accounted for around 85 per cent, while the private sector banks accounted for a little over 10 per cent. At the system level, frauds in loans, by amount, accounted for more than 75 per cent of frauds involving amounts of ₹ 0.1 million and above while frauds in deposit accounts were at just over 3 per cent. Within the loan category of frauds, PSBs accounted for a major share (87 per cent) followed by the private sector banks (11 per cent). The share of PSBs in frauds relating to 'off-balance sheet items' such as Letter of Credit (LCs), LoU and Letter of Acceptance was even higher at 96 per cent. New private sector banks accounted for more than 20 per cent of the frauds related to 'cash/cheques/clearing' and 'foreign exchange transactions'. New private sector and foreign banks accounted for 36 per cent each of all cyber frauds reported in debit, credit and ATM cards, among others. Out of the seven classifications of frauds in alignment with the Indian Penal Code, 'cheating and forgery' was the major component followed by 'misappropriation and criminal breach of trust'. In 'cheating and forgery' cases, the most common modus operandi was multiple mortgage and forged documents. Mumbai (Greater Mumbai), Kolkata and Delhi were the top three cities in reporting of bank frauds through 'cheating and forgery'. In respect of staff involvement in frauds, banks reported that it was prominent in the categories 'cash' and 'deposits', which had a much smaller share in the overall

number of fraud incidents and the amount involved.

### **CVC analysis of Banks frauds**

CVC analysis is like RBI analysis. CVC mainly focused on the Modus-operandi, Amount involved, Type of lending viz. Consortium/ Multiple/Individual and anomalies etc. The top 100 fraud cases that CVC took for analysis were pertaining to 13 sectors namely Gem & Jewellery, Manufacturing/Industry, Agro, Media, Aviation, service projects, discounting of cheques, Trading, Information technology, export, Fixed deposits, demand loans and letter of comforts.

Though CVC has not given amount involved in any of the cases while analyzing the frauds in Indian banks but discussed other aspects like modius operandi and loopholes/lapses. Sector-wise number of firms/companies involved in the top 100 frauds have also been given. Five companies from Manufacturing Sector, four from Export Business Sector, three each from Gem & Jewellery Sector, Agro sector, service sector, trading sector and Information Technology (IT) Sector, two from Media sector, one from aviation sector perpetrated the frauds. One CA firm also find a place in top 100 frauds. A firm was empanelled for conducting concurrent audit of the bank branch.

A qualified CA who was a sleeping partner in the firm had gone through the nitty-gritty of the CBS system while conducting audit of the branch. The CA had created several fake and false documents pertaining to his clients. Misusing this information, CA committed a mind boggling fraud

***Consortium  
Mechanism under  
the leadership of  
lead bank broadly  
failed to check and  
monitor the  
transactions. The  
lead bank did not  
share the areas of  
concern.***

against the bank. As regard to the Fixed deposit fraud, the miscreant pretended to the Govt Organizations/Corporates as representative of a Bank and to the Bank as financial advisor of these Organizations/ Corporates who brought bulk deposits to the branch of different Banks. This apart, the fraud perpetrated by a staff member of PSU bank by way of sanctioning of unauthorized Demand loans, unauthorized entries in Demand loan accounts, Saving Bank accounts, have also been analyzed.

### **Important findings of analysis of CVC**

The important finding of the CVC is that the firms/companies seeking loan facilities were cheating banks by way of varied methods and banks were unable to detect the defective documentation and failing to act promptly. CVC observed that:

1. The balance sheet figures were fudged/ fabricated by Companies; the Companies cheated the bank by suppressing facts in the financial statements and diverting the funds to related entities for the purpose other than those for which

finance was made; the companies deliberately inflated the valuation with the malafide intention to avail higher credit facilities from the lenders and also to indicate the security coverage available with the lenders; the details of receivable/debtors submitted by the companies to the bank in order to avail credit facilities appeared to be manipulated, false and fabricated; the Companies had submitted inflated and fabricated invoices which amounted to misrepresentation of facts to the Banks for securing higher limits.

2. Out of all shipping bills, only a small number were genuine. Mismatches were found in products mentioned in LC invoice documents and products mentioned as per books of the company. There was mis-match of accounting data vis-à-vis the banking statements and the non-reporting of the same in the audited financials by the auditors of company. The Companies had defrauded the banking system by unscrupulous activity such as manipulation of books of accounts, removal, depletion & disposing of hypothecated stocks without the bank's knowledge.

3. The companies resorted to diversion of funds through group/ associate concerns, inflated the cost of capital expenditure, had shown debtors which were non-existent, had misrepresented the performance of the company to the consortium lenders at various occasions. The Companies willfully cheated the banks with an intention to siphon off funds.

4. Bank was discounting the export bills of the company against LCs from prime banks of the buyer. The export had not tak-

## View Point

en place against most of the bills. Goods produced for exports against packing credit (PC) were also not available.

5. The fraudsters acted as representatives of the organizations, created a forged fixed deposit receipt and handed over the same to the beneficiaries. Subsequently, the original deposit receipt was utilized by the fraudsters for availing loan against the deposit without the knowledge of the organization.

cerned column of OCC was not verified with the print out of exchange control copy of the Bill of Entry submitted by the importer as proof of import.

iv. Apart from Bank accounts with consortium members, transactions were carried out in other Bank accounts of company. The nature and purpose of these transactions could not be ascertained.

v. The company/ firms to whom payments were made by

had been diverted through shell companies. The loans were granted at the highest level by most of the banks. There was lack of competence & skills to appraise technical aspects of a project for finance from banks & invariably banks accepted whatever was stated by the borrower.

ix. All Banks under consortium financed the company on the basis of brand capitalization. Valuation got done through a private company which was much higher than what was valued by other valuers.

x. The signatures of applicants/ borrowers were not obtained in person. Bank handed over the documents to the officials of the company for getting them executed. Therefore, there was no base document with the specimen signature of the borrower which could be relied upon to conclude that the documents were signed by the respective borrowers only.

***The fraudsters acted as representatives of the organizations, created a forged fixed deposit receipt and handed over the same to the beneficiaries. Subsequently, the original deposit receipt was utilized by the fraudsters for availing loan against the deposit without the knowledge of the organization.***

### Loopholes/lapses observed

i. No credit assessment was done for these customers.

ii. Consortium Mechanism under the leadership of lead bank broadly failed to check and monitor the transactions. The exchange of information was more a ceremonial formality rather than to sift the data. The lead bank did not share the areas of concern. They did not take note of warning signals mentioned in the business rating reports. The lead bank did not exchange the information in meetings to alert other member banks at early stages.

iii. The status of Bill of Entry in the ICEGATE system under option "Bill of entry at ICES" was not checked and "Out of Charge" (OOC) date in the con-

banks were dealing with products not related to the business of the borrower company.

vi. The company did not submit stock statements. Proportionate sales transactions were not routed through working capital limits with consortium member banks. Round-tripping of funds was resorted between various working capital limits with member banks.

vii. Commodities were not exported in the case of export finance availed from the consortium member Banks. Working capital fund was diverted to another entity controlled by a company and various other accounts including current accounts of promoters of the company.

viii. Public money availed from banks in the form of loans,

### Systemic Improvement needed

CVC observed that 'there were frequent attempts by fraudsters to fabricate documents and avail finance from banks. Heightened awareness of loopholes, consequences of bypassing procedural aspects and check points for evaluating genuineness of various essential documents was very much necessary. These points should be the learning lesson for future' and suggested that 'It should be ensured that appropriate accountability is fixed in the chain of command including sanctioning authority in the event of such frauds instead of fixing entire responsibility on lower functionaries'.

[Continued on page no. 29]

## Why Alcohol Risks Get Less Attention?

In recent years need for strong action against drug addiction has been rightly emphasized, but somehow alcohol addiction and alcoholism have not received the same attention. This is despite the fact that new research has been bringing forward more and more serious risks of alcohol consumption.

According to the WHO status report on health and alcohol, in 2012 about 3.3 million net deaths or 5.9 per cent of all global deaths were attributable to alcohol consumption – 7.6 per cent for males and 4 per cent for females. In 2012, 139 million net DALYs (disability adjusted life years) or 5.1 per cent of the global burden of disease and injury was attributable to alcohol consumption.

The same report has pointed out that the harmful use of alcohol is a component cause of more than 200 diseases and injury conditions, the most notable being alcohol dependence, liver cirrhosis, cancers and injuries, the latest causal relationships established are those between alcohol consumption and incidence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs.

However, the alcohol industry and its lobbyists have worked overtime to ensure that the massive adverse impacts of alcohol consumption are not reported adequately and properly in the media so that people do not become aware about the full dimensions of these tragic impacts. A recent study led by scientists at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Sweden's Karolinska Institute has concluded that the alcohol industry “uses denial, distortion and distraction to mislead people about the risks of developing cancer from drinking, often employing similar tactics to those of the tobacco industry.” However, the



*It has been ascertained that violence leading to loss of life and disruption of close relationships caused by alcohol can never be fully calculated in money terms; it goes beyond that.*

**Bharat Dogra**





WHO says that drinking alcohol is a well established risk factor for a range of cancers including tumors of the mouth, liver, breast, colon and bowel, and the risk of cancer rises with the level of alcohol consumed.

Earlier also heavy drinking was linked to damage to brain, adverse impact of memory and dementia, but recent findings by researchers of Oxford University and University College London (published in British Medical Journal) has found that this damage is possible also at much lower alcohol consumption. This is also confirmed by another study involving 1300 women in the USA. Brain damage is likely to be higher in the case of binge drinking, particularly binge drinking involving adolescents.

According to the Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol and Addictive Behavior, alcohol has been found to have a role in 44 per cent of fatal road accidents. Up to 50 per cent of motorcyclists who crashed to death are likely to have been under the influence of alcohol. Regarding non-fatal accidents, this encyclopedia tells us that alcohol is involved in 23 to 30 per cent of these accidents. In the case of fatal fire and burn accidents, alco-

***According to the Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol and Addictive Behavior, alcohol has been found to have a role in 44% of fatal road accidents.***

hol was found to have a role in 46 per cent of such accidents.

### **New Guidelines**

Less than two years after these were issued by a determined woman medical official with the support of senior cancer experts, new British guidelines on liquor are being seen as a big help by campaigners against the many-sided risks of alcoholic drinks not just in Britain but in other countries as well.

The new guidelines came in the wake of growing concern over reported 500 per cent increase in deaths from liver disease among working age people in Britain since the 1970s. Another serious concern came with growing evidence of higher risks of a range of cancers associated with liquor, including red wine.

The new guidelines on liquor consumption released on 8 Janu-

ary 2016 by the Chief Medical Officer to replace nearly two decade old guidelines warn that drinking any level of alcohol increases the risk of a range of cancers. The guidelines also make it clear that no level of alcohol is safe for drinking in pregnancy.

These guidelines inform that drinking regularly over time can lead to a wide range of illnesses including cancers, strokes, heart diseases, liver diseases, and damage to the brain and nervous system.

On the other hand, these guidelines also make it clear that there is no justification for drinking for health reasons.

In addition to adverse health impacts there are also very adverse social impacts of alcohol. For example there are very heavy social costs of alcohol consumption in the form of various forms of violence, crime and disruption of relationships. The WHO status report has presented various estimates that have been made from time to time about financial implications of these social costs:

- i) Estimate for the European Union, Year 2003 - 125 billion euros
- ii) Estimate for UK, Year 2009 - 21 billion pounds
- iii) Estimate for USA, Year 2006 - 233 billion dollars
- iv) Estimate for South Africa, Year 2009 - 300 billion Rand (10-12 per cent of GNP)

While this data about financial implications of social costs is very disturbing, at the same time it needs to be emphasized that violence leading to loss of life and disruption of close relationships caused by alcohol can never be fully calculated in money terms; it goes beyond that. □□

## Challenge before the Solar Alliance



*PM Modi ji has creditably accelerated Solar Mission and Alliance. If the multi-pronged challenges including fund-generation & recycling solar power business can be handled successfully then the Alliance can become a challenge to OPEC.*

**Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala**

The Jawahar Lal Nehru Solar Mission was started in 2010. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pushed it forward dramatically and set a target of generation of 100 Gigawatts of solar power by 2022. That would involve increasing solar generation four times in the coming four years. Mr. Modi has taken two laudable steps towards achieving this target. One, the Government is proactively acquiring land required for these projects. Two, he has established the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to buy electricity from solar plants and sell to the consumers such as the State Electricity Boards. This provides security to the producers that the electricity produced

will be lifted and payment will be received. These steps are laudable and will push the production of solar power in the country. It must be remembered that our reserves of coal are limited for the generation of thermal power and we have very limited availability of uranium for the generation of nuclear power. Hydropower comes with huge environmental and cultural impacts and is also expensive. Therefore, development of solar power could take India towards self-reliance in electricity generation.

Mr. Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron launched the International Solar Alliance in 2015 to push solar power. The Alliance plans to assist member countries in designing policies for promoting solar power, establishing standard specifications for equipment such as solar panels, mapping of potential locations for solar farms and provide training to the connected persons. These are again laudable steps and could help in the development of solar electricity globally. However, these steps do not remove the roadblocks in the development of solar electricity.

Mr. Modi has asserted that the Solar Alliance will play the same role as the cartel of crude oil exporting countries— Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). For this to happen we need to deal with cross-border transmission of electricity. Oil is a commodity that can be transported across borders, stored and used when required. Solar electricity has to overcome the roadblocks of transmission and storage. Cross-border transmission of electricity requires establishment of transmission lines from the producer to the consumer country. These lines have to be dedicated to the specific countries. For example, a transmission line from Bhutan to India cannot be used to transmit electricity from Bhutan to Bangladesh. Therefore, Solar Alliance can challenge the OPEC only

when the infrastructure for cross-border transmission of electricity is put in place. It is necessary to build international transmission lines along the lines of the Belt Road Initiative of China. The need is to initiate the process now even if the lines are established later.

The second challenge lies in storage of electricity. Oil can be extracted and stored in large tanks and used when required. Not solar electricity. It is produced when the sun is shining. It is often the case that the buyer is unwilling to lift the solar electricity when it is being generated because at that time it may have other cheaper sources of electricity available. The cost of power has two components. The variable cost is the payment made for the numbers of units of electricity purchased. In addition the buyer is required to pay certain amount towards the fixed cost of solar supply. This cost has to be paid by the buyer irrespective of whether it purchases the electricity or not. According to Union Power Minister R K Singh, the variable cost of solar electricity is Rs 2.44 per unit, and the fixed cost is Rs 1.60 per unit making a total of Rs 4.04 per unit. Against this average cost of thermal electricity today is Rs 3.25 per unit. Hence solar power remains expensive despite the steep fall in the variable cost in the recent times.

Solar has another disadvantage in the time of the day when it is generated. Solar electricity is available only during the day when the sun shines. The demand for electricity, however, is more during the morning and evening which are called "peak hours." Therefore solar electricity is like warm clothes in the summer. It is produced when the demand is less. The chal-

***It is necessary to build international transmission lines along the lines of the Belt Road Initiative of China.***

lenge is to store solar electricity during the day and release it during the peak hours. Various methods are available for doing this. These include storing electricity in super-heated oil, in batteries, or in pump storage schemes. In the latter, water is pumped from a lower reservoir to a higher reservoir during the day time; and released from higher reservoir to the lower reservoir while generating electricity during peak hours. The challenge is to undertake research to reduce the cost of storage of electricity.

The third challenge is of providing the money for promoting solar electricity among the members. The Alliance has very little money of its own. France has committed Euro 700 million but that will probably not be sufficient even to manage the secretariat. The Alliance proposes to help channel funds from established multilateral banking institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and the New Development Bank. But the priority of these institutions is different. Moreover, access to these institutions is already available to the member countries. The Alliance does not add to the availability of funds in a significant way. The challenge is to establish a "World Solar Development Bank." Certain de-

veloped countries that are deeply concerned with global warming could provide big-ticket funding for this initiative.

The fourth challenge, and an opportunity for India, is to develop a solar power waste recycling business along the line of ship breaking business. Solar panels have a life of about 30 years. The panels have to be physically dismantled and the glass, silicon, copper and plastic have to be separated. The glass, copper and plastic are easily reused. The silicon cannot be reused for making new solar panels because it contains some glass. It is presently reused in cast iron foundries. The challenge is to develop methods for reusing silicon for making new panels. Ten years from now large numbers of solar panels will have to be recycled. The Alliance must invest in that research now. Unfortunately, according to a report published in *Down to Earth*, I P Singh, a Director in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said, "At one point in time, the ministry was looking to do a research and development project on the recycling of solar PV cells and modules, but the project could not come to fruition."

There is no doubt that the future belongs to the Solar Alliance. However, for the Alliance to become a challenge to OPEC, Mr. Modi should undertake the following steps. One, initiate the establishment of an international electricity transmission grid. Two, Undertake research to bring down the cost of storage of electricity. Three, establish a new multilateral bank dedicated to the promotion of solar power. Four, invest in research on reuse of silicon extracted from used solar panels. □□

## Farm economics deteriorating

**In a tweet** to mark Gandhi Jayanti, Prof MS Swaminathan wrote: “Once Mahatma Gandhi was asked by the National Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, to fill in its visitor’s book. Under the column occupation, he wrote ‘Farmer’. And, ironically, it was on the Mahatma’s birthday that the police lobbed teargas shells and fired water cannons to keep thousands of peacefully protesting farmers on a 10-day march, which started from Haridwar, from entering New Delhi.

The same day, a 65-year-old farmer, Ranbir Singh, from Haryana died in police custody in the Bhiwani jail. He was convicted in a cheque bounce case 10 days ago for his inability to honour the repayment commitments. He had an outstanding loan of Rs 9.83 lakh and was sentenced to jail for two years. As per news reports, he died of shock when visiting relatives informed him two days ago that his standing crop had suffered losses due to recent rains. Ranbir Singh was not the only farmer to have been sent to jail following a bank default. Hundreds of farmers who have defaulted on bank loans are in jail in Punjab and Haryana. This news comes at a time when the government has superseded the governing board of the debt-ridden IL&FS, which has 169 group companies, and had accumulated bad loans exceeding Rs 90,000 crore. None of the top executives has been arrested so far.

Both the developments on the Mahatma’s birthday signify what is wrong with agriculture. Farmers have since gone back, promising to return if their demands are not met, but have loudly conveyed the brewing discontent prevailing in the rural hinterland.

In the past six months, the nation has seen a peaceful long march, from Nasik to Mumbai, followed by a 10-day protest in June to stop food supplies to the cities, and then again another march to New Delhi by the All-India Kisan



*The basic problem is that neo-liberal economics does not consider agriculture to be an economic activity. That’s the primary reason why farmers are despised and are considered to be a national burden.*

**Devinder Sharma**



Sabha. In addition, numerous protests across the country have gone unnoticed.

While some more marches are under way, including one of adivasis and the landless that started from Gwalior a few days ago, the angry farm protests are only multiplying. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, from 687 protests in 2014, these demonstrations increased to 2,683 in 2015, and then doubled to 4,837 a year later. In other words, protests have multiplied seven times in three years, a clear reflection of the farmers' growing anger. While the reasons could be many, the fact that farming is passing through a terrible distress is widely acknowledged.

That is exactly what the march by the Bhartiya Kisan Union that started from Haridwar was trying to reaffirm. Among the 15 demands listed in the demand charter, at least half a dozen pertained to the deteriorating farm economics. While simple and local issues like lifting the entry ban for tractors that have completed 10 years in operation, removing GST (5 per cent) on farm implements etc have received a positive assurance, it is the economic issues that remain largely unaddressed. In fact, all previous protests have also returned empty-handed, with the government citing inadequate resources for its inability to measure up to farmers' expectations.

Two demands which have now become central to every protest that happens across the country pertain to writing-off farm loans and the implementation of the government's own promise of providing minimum support price (MSP) plus 50 per cent profit as

***Farmers' incomes have remained frozen and it is obvious that farmers have been denied their rightful income all these years.***

per the recommendation of the Swaminathan Commission. The government has, instead, manipulated the formula that measures the production cost, and presenting it as action taken. Against the comprehensive (C2) cost estimate, which includes interest over capital investment and the rental value of own land, the government has lowered the estimate by only taking into account farmers' paid out cost (A2) and added to it family labour cost (A2+FL). For illustration, the procurement price announced for paddy is Rs 1,750 per quintal. But if calculated as per Swaminathan's formula, the paddy price works out to Rs 2,340 per quintal, which means a loss of Rs 590 on every quintal of paddy sold. Similarly, for maize, the loss is Rs 540 per quintal.

To say that the government doesn't have the resources to procure each of the 23 crops for which the MSP is announced is not correct. Estimates show that the total amount required will be a little over Rs 1 lakh crore every year. The question, therefore, that arises is where the money will come from. Well, the immediate need is to discontinue the economic stimulus package of Rs 1.86 lakh crore that was doled out to the industry

for one year after the economic meltdown of 2008-09. The package has continued for 10 years with no questions being asked.

Since farmers' incomes have remained frozen when adjusted for inflation for almost four decades now, it is obvious that farmers have been denied their rightful income all these years. Studies have shown that even in the frontline agricultural state of Punjab, 98 per cent of the rural families are in debt, and 94 per cent of these have more expenditure than income. For the country, the total farm loan has been computed at Rs 12.60 lakh crore as per a statement presented in Parliament.

Compare this with the Rs 10.3 lakh crore of bank defaults that the country is faced with. Already, Rs 3.16 lakh crore of corporate NPAs have been written off between April, 2014 and April, 2018. However, the moment the demand for farm loan waivers is raised, policymakers, economists and business writers are quick to scream that it will lead to an increase in fiscal deficit. Strangely, no question of widening fiscal deficit is ever asked when corporate NPAs are written off. That's how the economic design has been so cleverly laid out.

The basic problem is that neo-liberal economics does not consider agriculture to be an economic activity. That's the primary reason why farmers are despised and are considered to be a national burden. But what is not being understood is that only agriculture, the largest employer in the country, has the potential to reboot the economy. That's what the Mahatma had strongly advocated, and that's what we have ignored. □□

## The long-ignored army of women fighting India's nutrition crisis

“How many Anganwadi workers have you met?” When I posed this question to the APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives) team in Odisha—one that has been set up to help the state government improve nutrition outcomes for its children, the answer was “not many.” Most of them had seen these Anganwadi women only in training centres.

To my mind, knowledge that was high-level and top-down was going to be inadequate if we, as a foundation, were planning to devise programming that would impact the lives of millions of children in Odisha.

Instead, we thought, what if we went in and spent time on the ground, inside the system, and with the frontline Anganwadi workers (AWWs)—the primary agents of change when it comes to nutrition. Would our worldview change? Could we watch and learn ground-up, and see what emerged as possible (and probably, better) ideas for nutrition-related programmes in the state?

### The Anganwadi system forms the backbone of the country's ICDS

With a workforce of 1.4 million women and a 2018-19 budget allocation of Rs16,335 crore, the Anganwadi (AW) system forms the backbone of the country's Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)—the world's largest community-based programme for child development. The state of Odisha itself has more than 130,000 Anganwadi workers (AWW) and AW helpers (AWH).

This is a cadre made up entirely of women: the AWWs, the helpers, supervisors, and district Child Development Protection Officers (CDPO). Yet at a state and national level, the AWW is an abstraction: the women are just faceless numbers, or at best cogs in the wheel that keep the ICDS running. There isn't enough information or interest in understanding what makes them tick, what their lives and work look like, and what can be done to motivate and galvanise our largest



*Women belong to AWW, the helpers, supervisors, district Child Development Protection Officer (CDPO) are being ignored continuously, rather shall be empowered exponentially.*

**Kavitha  
Kuruganti &  
Ananthapadmanabhan  
Guruswamy**



AWWs at the monthly sector meeting.

## Scrutiny

cadre of barefoot workers.

Muniguda block in Odisha—where we spent 20 days as a result of our decision to spend time in the field—has 174 Anganwadi workers and 174 Anganwadi helpers. It's easy to recognise these women—AWWs wear a red saree with a yellow border while the helpers' sarees are blue with white borders.

If you are in the block, you can see the women through the day—going into the centre, going back home. Some take buses, for some, their husbands drop them to the centres, some walk the long distances while yet others come from next door.

The government has specific guidelines for these AWWs—for instance, one task should take you two minutes, another five minutes. There are various “days” that have to be organised and specific functions that must be performed. On certain days eggs have to be given to the children, on another day, vaccines; on a third day, babies have to be brought to the centre to be weighed. Then there are “meeting days”—when they must go to the meeting centres, do home visits, and meet pregnant and lactating women. It's an impossible schedule.

And if this is not enough, AWWs have now been tasked with additional responsibilities—early childhood education (ECE), where they are expected to teach their young wards, and Self Help Group (SHG) formation and training—neither of which they were recruited or trained for.

### Watching them at work

The various elements of the AWWs' schedule and activities are



AWWs have now been tasked with early childhood education as well.

entered in paper-based registers. Each woman carries 13 of these registers—each 50 pages thick and with hundreds of fields of data that needs to be captured, tracked and recorded. It ranges from measuring the children's height and weight, tracking their food intake and training the new mothers, all the way to undertaking ECE activities, administering surveys, and conducting awareness programmes.

These registers, which are filled manually, are the lifeblood of an AWW—the only proof of their performance in a system that has given them multiple roles, but still sees them merely as data collectors. And even the most illiterate of the AWWs know this and guard these books. They are carefully kept—in most centres they are locked up in steel almirahs, so that the rats don't get to them. It's also the first thing they show you when you visit them—*aap register dekhna chahte ho?*

Every month all the AWWs in one cluster shut down their individual centres for the monthly sector meeting. This meeting is for them to review the month and consolidate the detailed data they collect in their multiple registers. Each sector comprises 30 AWWs, and has one supervisor.

The AWWs are required to fill

out a monthly performance report (MPR)—this is data that they have to transfer from their registers onto the MPR form, which in turn is sent to the district office. Given the amount of data that is asked of them and its complexity, this one-day sector meeting is not enough; so, they have a “pre-sector” meeting to make up and consolidate this data.

This pre-sector meeting is now an institution in its own right. This is when, what we Indians call “group study” happens. It's a wonderful atmosphere—all the women gather in their red and yellow sarees in one of the centres. They sit around in circles and there is a fair amount of chatting. Some of the women know how to fill the forms, many don't. Different groups are filling different forms from different registers; clearly this is a problem—the lack of accurate data, and a well-recognised one at that.

In Bhubaneswar, this problem is seen as one where you get data that is unanalysable, doesn't tell you anything useful, and is not accurate. To those in power, the solution is a digitised MIS. Even under the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) the proposed solution to this problem is CAS (Common Application Software),

which is a frontline worker (FLW) digital platform that aims to improve efficiency, provide real-time monitoring, and support FLWs with their work.

The vision is that every AWW will get a tablet where she will enter the data in real-time. There are other hopes for it as well—that it will introduce checks and balances that will ensure accurate data recording and collection. If for instance an AWW is visiting a pregnant or lactating mother, she will have to show a video to the mother before she's allowed to enter data about the mother. The problem though is that many of the women we met don't even know how to use regular feature phones; all they can do is answer a call. But when they are asked via an IVR message to press one, very few can do it; leave alone working with smartphones and tablets.

**Focusing on purpose, rather than protocol**

Despite the deterrents—the unreasonable workload, the low salaries, the indifference of the state apparatus—the AWWs have a sincerity that is something else. When they get together for their pre-sector meeting, they pray, they sing; there's a quality of seriousness and earnestness.

In our many conversations with them, you could see that they are trying to do something, they are quite open about their difficulties and they don't cover up their faults.

They work on contract at Rs6,000 per month; some of them have been doing this for 30 to 40 years; they grow old in the job. What's amazing is that none of them have become cynical. If at all, they shower a lot of affection on the children.

If you look at it from Bhu-

baneshwar however—where the decisions makers sit—the AWWs are seen as people who need to be controlled, managed, monitored, disciplined, trained, and demanded from; they are not seen as a workforce that can be motivated to deliver its best.

This is a cadre of only women, every single one of them: the AWW, the helpers, supervisors, district Child Development Protection Officer (CDPO); and we as a nation, should be proud of an institution like this. But we aren't taking sufficient advantage of this all-women cadre. All the things they say about women being more responsible about families, society, and development, you can see it play out here, but the system isn't recognising this and designing for it. □□

This is an edited excerpt of a longer article that was originally published on India Development Review. You can read the original here. We welcome your comments at [ideas.india@qz.com](mailto:ideas.india@qz.com).

# SWADESHI PATRIKA

## *Voice of Real Economy*

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

**SUBSCRIBE AND/OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

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

Name .....

Address.....

.....Contact No.....

City ..... Pin .....

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

**Website: [www.swadeshionline.in](http://www.swadeshionline.in)    Email: [swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com](mailto:swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com)**

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

# Modi, Trump Take Indo-US Ties To New High

**From message** to body talk, Narendra Modi-Donald Trump meeting in White House set a new milestone in Indo-US relations. The joint declaration to fight terror together, asking Pakistan not to use its soil to perpetuate terror, designating Hizbul head a global terrorist, agreeing on OBOR of China and greater defence exchanges clearly indicate a new high in the ties between the two countries. Terming India and US the global engines of growth, the warmth displayed by Trump for the Indian Prime Minister has established the chemistry between the two leaders a notch higher than between Modi-Obama. This is a big achievement for the negotiating skills of the Indian Prime Minister. Never did the two countries look closer and never before an Indian PM's US visit more substantive. The ease and spontaneity Trump and his family demonstrated at the dinner meeting must have shell-shocked Pakistan and its allies on the global scheme. The big takeaway is the promise of partnership in terror fight.

Modi had a good personal rapport with Barack Obama. It helped to take Indo-US relations to a new level. But India did not hugely benefit from that bonhomie. The sale of drones to India had to wait for the new President. It's obvious, defence is on top of the Modi agenda.

It is clear that the US concurs with India on the terror threat to humanity. The recent Islamist terror attacks in Europe and the US have convinced the world as Modi told the CEOs to meet in Washington that terrorism is a global threat, its



*The ease and spontaneity Trump and his family demonstrated at the dinner meeting must have shell-shocked Pakistan and its allies on the global scheme. The big takeaway is the promise of partnership in terror fight.*

**Dr. R.  
Balashankar**



epicentre is no longer in Asia but in the West. Terrorists have spread their tentacles to new areas.

Understandably there was less hype about the Prime Minister's US visit. There was no stated agenda. Both sides kept it low key despite the red carpet welcome. The President calling Modi a "true friend" and the exclusive one on one and dinner which no other world leader was accorded by Trump so far showed the importance Trump attaches to India. But the fact that the two leaders are meeting for the first time, that Trump has created a veneer of unpredictability around his persona, made many speculate that the two leaders will utilise the June 26 meeting to size up each other rather than do real business. They will again be meeting early next month at Hamburg for the G-20 meet.

There are a few commonalities between the two – both are self-made, struggled their way up and emerged strong leaders. Both have clear visions about their respective nations, both are vowed to erase terrorism from the face of the earth, and both are open to trying out of the box solutions. Trump's America First Policy has created the H1 Visa issue, on which there is not much to debate. But India as a big investor and job giver in the US has a strong case. Modi seems to have convinced US administration to have a more liberal approach on this front.

Modi told the US business honchos that India is the best destination to invest. The day he met Trump in an op-ed article in The Wall Street Journal Modi listed the advantages of better Indo-US relations. Indians who constitute about 3 million and growing at 60

***The Democratic Party background and its ideological baggage were a constraining factor in Indo-US relations under Obama.***

per cent have invested \$40 billion in 35 states and are major job providers and growth dynamos, contributing richly to the intellectual capital of that country. It is a friendship of shared values and global perspectives, mutually benefitting and India's growth, economic reforms like GST which unleashes the huge market of 1.3 billion people with a growing middle class of a billion is a great opportunity the US cannot afford to

ignore. That is why Apple, Google and Facebook are vying with each other for a share of the burgeoning online India market.

The warmth and excellent personal equation, displayed by the two leaders give the indication that the road ahead is smooth and mutually rewarding.

The Democratic Party background and its ideological baggage were a constraining factor in Indo-US relations under Obama. With Trump, those constraints seem to have taken a positive trajectory. It is Modi's personal charm, diplomatic savvy and wide experience in the international affairs that made this visit such a roaring success. □□

*Writer is Member, BJP Central Committee on Training, and Committee on Publications and former Convener BJP National Intellectual Cell and Editor*

*Organiser.*  
Source: <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Modi-Trump-Take-Indo-US-Ties-To-New-High/27-06-2017-120902/>

[Continued from page no. 18]

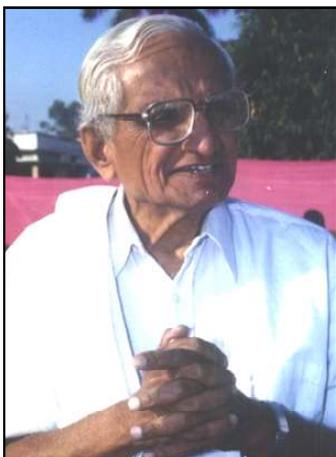
## Frauds in Indian Banks ...

CVC further suggested that the Bank must immediately delist third party valuers, Chartered Accountants/Chartered Engineers, Advocates etc. who have questionable credentials/have been negligent in their professional duties or have caused financial loss to the bank by their willful acts of omission/commission/dishonesty.

A periodical review of all empanelled professionals should be ensured by banks for weeding out undesirable third-party service providers. CVC's other important recommendations include the meticulously looking in to the irregularities arising out of credit transactions, ensuring compliance of in-

structions, paying required attention to the area of internal control system and the fraud prevention measures, reading and studying the Audited balance Sheet of the borrower as expected and taking comprehensive approach towards Managing fraud risk in large value advances.

True, banks are aware of all its loopholes and lapses and have comprehensive guidelines/ procedures for loan sanction and its monitoring. However, there is a need to Break the selfish collusion of bank personals and large borrowers apart from stopping politico-bureaucratic interference in bank affairs. □□



## Dattopant Thengadi – Visionary architect (10 November 1920 – 14 October 2004)

**Rashtrarishi Dattopant Thengadi** was a visionary architect (Drasta and Srasta) who created mass organisa-

tions like Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (NO.1 TU), Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch encountering stiff opposition, worked against time and molded it according to his vision. Though it appears to be contradictory Dattopant Thengati developed mastery over dialectical materialism and embraced Anashakta Yoga. Following illustration will reveal above cited phenomenon.

Dr. Hedgewar and Narendra Bhattacharya were active members of revolutionary organization called Anusilan Samiti in Kolkata during 1905-1950. Narendra Bhattacharya went to Batavia to collect information about German ship carrying arms ammunition for Indian revolutionaries reaching coast of Balasore in Odisha which was leaked and Baga Jatin along with his colleagues were martyred in a battle with armed forces of British govt. at Chasakhand near Balasore. Narendra Bhattacharya left India as police was after him and reached Soviet Russia changing his name as MN Roy. MN Roy founded Communist Party of India at Tashkhant in 1925.

Later MN Roy came to India and formed Radical Party and presented his doctrine on Radical Humanism based on western world view of materialism. Contrast this with Thengadi ji. RSS was initiated by Dr. Hedgewar at Nagpur in 1925. Dr. Hedgewar's world view was based on Hindu concept on Dharma, Artha, Kama and Mokshya. Thengadi ji joined RSS and became its pracharak in 1942. Thengadi ji created BMS, BKS, SJM etc. with a roadmap. "What is mind does not matter and what is matter do not mind" remarked Chesterton which Thengadi ji though jokingly cited he embraced tra-

ditional Hindu world view.

Rarest of rare personality having mastery over dialectical materialism Dattopant Thengadi was a living embodiment of Anashakta Yoga.

He took charge of Loksangharsh Samiti created by Jaiprakash Narayan in 1975 and launched movement against emergency regime of Indira Gandhi till she was defeated in 1977 general election. He did not accept any post in the government of Morarji Desai though on his advice Jan Sangh was merged in Janta Party. He refused to accept Padmavibhushan title later on. Communism was in reverse gear in Russia was his observation in 1968. Speculative trade practices like stock exchange, Derivative trade, currency market etc. etc. he opposed and preferred self employment against wage employment. He was for Technological Ombudsman to determine know what against know how, not rape of nature but milking of nature.

Author of more than hundred books on various issues his inspiring and thought provoking titles like "Karyakarta", "Third Way", "On Revolution" and "Prefaces in Hindu Economics" etc. are extremely popular. Born in 10 November 1920 at Arvi in Maharashtra Thengadi worked for Dr. Ambedkar and formed Adim Jati Sangh, joined RSS as pracharak in 1942, worked in Kerala and later in Bengal. He was member Rajya Sabha for two terms.

### Thengadi ji's world view



Western Paradigm-Individual, Nation, world are independent entities where interests collide. Hindu Paradigm from individual to cosmos it is progressive unfoldment of consciousness without collision. □□

*The author is National Co-convenor of SJM.*

## Death of Silent voices

**Last week** the voices of civil society in Indian democracy hit rock bottom. A scientist and saint, Dr. Guru Daas Agarwal aka Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand died on the 112th day of his fast-unto-death on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018. He was demanding the special law for the protection of River Ganges, which is a lifeline for 400 million population of world residing in India.

I am not writing this article about the demands of Dr. GD Agarwal but on my worry for the ignorance he faced from a democratic government and 'we the people'. He was on a hunger strike for more than four months and nobody from bureaucracy and polity bothered about him. Why? Is it because he had taken up a demonstration on the principles of non-violence as taught by Mahatma Gandhi or he was not able to dent in their vote-bank. Was it because his demands were unworthy for human kind or medias' pen obliged the government with over obedience. His death is not a coincidence but a result of strategic move by the state to kill another voice silently. If a voice like Dr. Agarwal is eliminated, no other activist will raise their voice in the future. This is the new age mantra for success!

Now let's meet the civil society whose voice he was. Have 'we the people' become so insensitive that nothing less than sensationalized news on death raises our brows, and that too it lasts for a very little time. A numbness is confining the whole society and forcing many true voices to death, every day. This is exactly what any (past, present and future) government would desire. This is the face of Monopoly. Monopoly of ideas & systematic promotion of their dystopic views on progress, development, culture, idealism and patriotism. Behind doors, these governments along with some perverted corporates define their own dreams, sketch realities and are encroaching, exploiting and minting over natural resources and rights of local communities of the country.

We as a society need to be more vigilant and vocal. We do not need to be over-obedient and over-submissive to the government. Their visions and thinking is only limited to the upcoming elections but as a society our thought reaches out to the next generation and generations to come. Youths have to choose their battles wisely; otherwise we will find ourselves brawling with each other on issues of caste and religion with no future for self and country. It is now considered anti-national to raise questions on government decrees. Barely a century ago, a non-violent and non-cooperation movement was a means of protest for our Independence against mighty imperialism.

Dr. Agarwal was fighting for a river in the society where human beings are unable to think beyond their self-interest. We as society failed him and left him alone on the doors of the cruel canines of the state. In democracies, government is only afraid of its voters and in this case, the voter was trapped in muddled realities, seeing and listening what they wanted them to see.

ONE voice is made by listening and including others voices, not by killing them. We need to support activists who think and speak critically. They take responsibility to stand out, someone has to. Those who are standing up and standing out are paying a price to do so. So it is better to stand with them when they are alive rather than attending funeral of their voices. □□

The author is engaged in climate change adaptation through water conservation and river rejuvenation with local communities. He is a prestigious LEAD India fellow.

*Dr. G.D. Aggarwal who died on the 112th day of his fast-unto-death was the voice of 'We the People' took to non-violent method of protesting for protection of the Ganges. Our duty is to stand with the likes of Dr. Agarwal.*  
**Maulik Sisodia**

### **RBI officials should exercise restraint, or resign: SJM**

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, the economic wing of the RSS, Wednesday said RBI officials should exercise the discipline of restraint or resign. Amid the reports that the government has issued directions to the RBI on issues such as easing lending norms to infuse liquidity in the system, SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said RBI should not see government's suggestions negatively and as a curb on its independence. SJM also said that RBI was ignoring ground realities.

Mahajan said, "In my opinion, the independence of the RBI is a farcical and faulty narrative to talk about." He also said that RBI doesn't have expertise over fiscal arrangements and it should work in sync with the government. "The fact is that the RBI is not accountable to the people of this country, the government is. Therefore, the government has to do many things for their welfare... it sends suggestions to the RBI..." Mahajan said. Recently, RBI deputy Governor Viral Acharya, in a speech, pitched for maintaining RBI's autonomy. Mahajan said Acharya has defamed India internationally. He said, "Undermining the credibility of the country by going in public is inappropriate...if (officials) cannot restrain (themselves), then resign," he said.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rbi-officials-should-exercise-restraint-or-resign-swadeshi-jagran-manch-5428165/>

### **RBI Should Play its Role More Actively: SJM on Rupee Fall**

"Extremely concerned" over the continuous fall in the rupee, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch is organising a round table to deliberate on the issue, a co-convenor of the RSS-affiliated group said Tuesday and asserted that the RBI should play a proactive role in checking the decline.

Various economists, including Economic Advi-



sory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC) member Prof Rathin Roy, have been invited for the round table on 'True value of rupee' on October 13, said SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan.

"We are extremely concerned over the continuous fall in rupee. The economists, who are at important positions in the government should not take it lightly, as eventually this fall in the currency increases burden on the common man," Mahajan told PTI.

Discussing RBI Governor Urjit Patel's remarks that the domestic currency is still better than its emerging market peers, Mahajan said the Central Bank needs to play its role more actively. Economists working in the government should be cautious before making any statements on the rupee, Mahajan said, in an apparent reference to Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar's remarks that the rupee should find its fair value. However, Mahajan did not name him.

"It is wrong to say the rupee is overvalued, it is not at all overvalued. On the contrary, such statements from important voices in the government affects the sentiment in the market," he said.

<https://www.news18.com/news/business/rbi-should-play-its-role-more-actively-rss-affiliated-swadeshi-jagran-manch-on-rupee-fall-1903583.html>

### **SJM wants PM Modi to thwart possible ITC takeover**

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention to stall a possible takeover bid on ITC by the British American Tobacco Company (BAT).

In a letter October 16, SJM has expressed concern over the decline in the share holding of domestic financial institutions in public listed ITC and cautioned that it will result in BAT, a 29.6 stakeholder in ITC, gaining control over the agri-business and hospitality major. The recent decision of BAT to not support a decision by ITC board to give stock options to its employees is what has enraged SJM.

"In case of ITC, shares held by domestic financial institutions used to be 32 per cent of total and by BAT's group companies (foreign entity) is 29.60 per cent. As a consequence of the share sales management by agencies, the shareholding of public sector financial institutions and the government of India in ITC has come down significantly, narrowing the gap between the shareholding of the government of India and its institutions and BAT," SJM notes. The letter says, "This has increased the risk of the possible



takeover of management by the foreign company BAT, by virtue of the fact that BAT would become the dominant shareholder and the company will go into the hands of foreign management, and for all practical purposes, become a foreign company, which at present is an Indian company with an Indian soul”.

According to Ashwani Mahajan, National Convenor, SJM, ITC had a turnover of Rs. 43,957 crores in 2017-18 with no transfer of royalty to foreign countries. “The company also has significant cash reserves. If it goes into the hands of an MNC, as per the existing rules with regards to transfer of royalty payments to foreign masters; and as per the projections of sales, by the company in 2018-19, royalty outflow would be over Rs. 2,200 crore which in next 5 years would cumulate to over Rs. 13,500 crores. Apart from this, the government would lose dividend income of over Rs. 4,000 crores over the next 5 years”, Mahajan warns.

Mahajan says that ITC has been earning huge profits, doing enormous value addition and contributing greatly to the exchequer in recent times. “Past experience clearly tells us that with the change in management from Indian to foreign nationals or other entities, the entire nature, working and objectives of the companies change altogether. The thrust shifts to maximising profits by increasing import intensity that increases outflow of money in the form to royalty, technical fees, salaries and others, directly affecting the country’s forex reserves,” he says.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/itc-takeover-rss-sjm-swadeshi-jagran-manch-modi/story/285426.html>

### **Co-op comes Centre stage: Sahakar Bharati officials meet Niti Aayog**

In order to push co-operative centre-stage in the govt scheme of things the Sahakar Bharati team led by its patron Satish Marathe met NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar on Monday and held a wide-ranging discussion on the future of co-operatives in the country. Besides Marathe, Sahakar Bharati

delegation comprised of Dr Uday Joshi, National General Secretary and LN Gupta, National Treasurer. Prof Ashwani Mahajan of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch was also in the delegation calling on Dr Rajiv Kumar at his office in Niti Aayog Bhavan.

Talking to Indian Cooperative Satish Marathe said that the Delegation held wide ranging discussion on the current scenario in the co-operative sector in India. We also touched upon co-operative scenario globally, added Marathe who was recently appointed to the RBI Board. Soon after the meeting, posting the photograph with the visiting delegation, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar tweeter handle @rajivkumar1 tweeted “Met with Sahakar Bharati team led by Shri Satish Marathe, Patron of the organisation. We discussed the way forward for reviving and rejuvenating the cooperative sector in India.”



The Sahakar Bharati team tried to impress on the Vice-Chairman the need to recognize co-operative not as a business but as a distinctive form of Economic Enterprise. Policy makers have to realize that cooperative is a distinct form of ownership and cooperative institutions are not for profit. On average a co-op does not give more than 10-15% dividend, the rest it spends on social assets, he told in the meeting. It is in this background that there is a need to involve Cooperatives in Development Initiatives & Financial Inclusion, Marthe argued.

The delegation also tried to convince Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman of the need to amend archaic co-operative laws still extant in states. The laws must be attuned with changing times so that a truly co-operative era could be ushered in, the delegation underlined. It bears recall that recently the NCUI team led by its President Chandra Pal Singh Yadav had also met the Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman. The meeting of cooperators led by NCUI President mooted the idea of setting up a Consultants’ committee with IIM professors as members to find out why the sector has failed to generate the impact it should have, given its ubiquitous presence in all walks of life.

<http://www.indiancooperative.com/featured/co-op-comes-centre-stage-sah-bharati-officials-meet-niti-aayog-vc/>

## Yet another green energy auction flops as investors stay away

The government's efforts at accelerating green energy capacity through large-scale auctions suffered a jolt yet again on Friday as bidders shunned the auction for 1,200-MW 'hybrid' projects, forcing state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India to extend the deadline for the fifth time. This is the second renewable project auction to have flopped in a month as policy paradox kept investors away taking the aggregate capacity to have been annulled till date to over 10.8 GW (giga watt). This could deal a blow to the Centre's target of installing 175 GW (giga watt) renewable energy capacity by 2022.

The tender for the hybrid projects, which entail housing wind and solar power units at the same site, has been extended till November 14. Investors kept away in spite of the tender being halved from 2,500 MW. The absence of bidders had last month forced SECI to extend for the fifth time till November 12 a tender for setting up of 10 GW solar power projects, entailing setting up 3 GW per annum solar manufacturing capacity, a day before its September 12 closing date. Reduction of tender size and extensions have become the order of the day. Industry bodies say this has created uncertainty among domestic players and is making foreign investors wary. Allegations of cartelisation by bidders levelled by the ministry recently hasn't helped sentiments either.

Developers say capping of tariff in competitive bidding turns investments unviable. They say competition, wind density and solar irradiance should determine tariffs. SECI had set the tariff ceiling for the hybrid projects at Rs 2.60 a unit. Developers say this doesn't work for them and point to the tariff of Rs 2.76 discovered at a recent SECI bid for wind power projects. They say this tariff was discovered because promoters were forced to bid with Category B or lower quality land since there was no land available under Category A 'wind density'. Since the same applies to hybrid projects, the tariff ceiling is unviable.

For solar tenders, much of the blame for lack of interest among promoters lies with the safeguard duty imposed by the government recently and the subsequent decision to allow promoters to pass the impact on to consumers, while setting a tariff ceiling.

In May, SECI had tendered 5 GW of manufacturing capacity to be set up across the country. The

manufacturing capacity was to be linked to ISTS-connected solar projects for an aggregate capacity of 10 GW. But subsequently, SECI reduced the capacity of the manufacturing tender from 5 GW to 3 GW. The minimum capacity developers could bid for manufacturing too was reduced from 1 GW to 600 MW (mega watt). India is dependent on China for 85% of the solar equipment used in the country and developers find it difficult to compete with Chinese solar panels without any support from the government. The maximum permissible tariff also acts as a deterrent in the case of projects that also entail setting up manufacturing capacity.

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/yet-another-green-energy-auction-flops-as-investors-stay-away/articleshow/66385904.cms?utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=IOSapp&utm\\_source=twitter](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/yet-another-green-energy-auction-flops-as-investors-stay-away/articleshow/66385904.cms?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=IOSapp&utm_source=twitter)

## Can resort to 'other actions' if Pak's support to terror continues: Army chief

Army chief General Bipin Rawat sent a tough message to Pakistan, saying if Islamabad continues to support cross-border terrorism, then the Indian Army can resort to "other actions" too. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event to mark the Infantry Day, the Army chief, however, did not elaborate on what could be the possible action he was talking about. The Army had carried out "surgical strikes" on terror launch pads across the Line of Actual Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on September 28, 2016, following a string of terror attacks on military installations in India by Pakistan-based terror groups.

The Army chief also asked Pakistan to desist from aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the Indian state was "strong enough" to ensure that the border state remains a part of India and no one can take it away by force or any other means. Talking about Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, General Rawat suggested that the neighbouring country



was resorting to a “proxy war” to avenge its defeat at the hands of India in the 1971 war when Bangladesh was liberated. The aim of Pakistan, he said, is to keep the Indian Army “embroiled in this proxy war that they have lost.”

“But, let me assure you, Indian Army and the Indian State is strong enough to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir remain part of India ... No one else can take it away by force or by any other means, because legally, legitimately J&K is an integral part of India,” he said. Asked about the cross-border infiltration, he said Pakistan would be wise to know that by indulging in such activities, harm is coming only to the neighbouring country. “We are capable of finishing any infiltrators who reach our side. But, if Pakistan continues to support infiltration, we can use other kind of action too,” Rawat said. He said Pakistan was continuing to fuel disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir, fully knowing that they will never succeed.

“Legitimately, legally and by all rights, J&K is part of India. Pakistan somehow has been trying to annex this part of the country, more so after they lost East Pakistan with liberation of Bangladesh,” he said. The Army chief said despite the passage of so many years, Pakistan still has a desire to succeed in that.

“And, with liberation of Bangladesh they decided to create a similar situation in Kashmir ... Has Pakistan succeeded? They have not. And, Pakistan is fully aware they cannot succeed in Jammu and Kashmir, but they still hope they can succeed. It is just another way to keep the turmoil going and not allow development in the state,” he said. The Infantry Day is observed every year to commemorate supreme sacrifices made by Indian Army’s infantry against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rawat earlier laid a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti to pay tribute to numerous infantry soldiers who died in the line of duty.

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/can-resort-to-other-actions-if-pak-support-to-terror-continues-army-chief/articleshow/66390320.cms?utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=iOSapp&utm\\_source=twitter.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/can-resort-to-other-actions-if-pak-support-to-terror-continues-army-chief/articleshow/66390320.cms?utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=iOSapp&utm_source=twitter.com)

---

### US agrees to grant India waiver from Iran sanctions

---

The US has broadly agreed to grant India a waiver from Iran sanctions, which would allow Indian oil companies to continue to import about 1.25 million tonnes of oil a month till March from Tehran, sources familiar with the matter said. The US plans to re-impose oil-related sanctions on Iran on November 4

to choke the Islamic Republic’s biggest source of income and pressure it to renegotiate a new nuclear deal. Any country, or company, trading with Iran without US consent after sanctions kick off risks getting cut off from the American financial system.

The US has insisted all along that it wanted everyone to reduce oil imports from Iran to zero eventually, but was open to country-specific waivers that would allow limited imports by those pledging ‘significant’ cut. India and other key importing countries have been engaged for months with the US for a waiver.

“India and the US have broadly agreed on a waiver. India will cut import by a third, which is a significant cut,” a source said.

India had imported about 22 million tonnes of crude oil from Iran in 2017-18 and planned to raise that to about 30 million tonnes in 2018-19. But, as a condition of waiver, Indian oil firms will reduce their imports significantly, the source said. Indian companies can import 1.25 million tonnes a month up to March 2019, the same as they ordered for October and November, the source said. State oil firms are yet to decide on how this quantum will be split between them. A waiver will come as a big relief to Indian Oil and MRPL, the two largest Iranian oil consumers. How companies will pay for Iranian oil is still being negotiated between India and Iran, sources said, adding that it’s likely that the two countries will stick to the existing mechanism under which 55% of payment is made in euro and 45% in rupee through UCO Bank. Under this, rupee is used for import of rice, drugs, and other products from India while the balance proceeds in rupee and euro sit idle in the Indian bank waiting for sanctions to go.

The Indian side, while building its case for a waiver, assured the US that this payment mechanism ensures Iran can’t use oil money from India for any terror-related activity, a key American concern. During the negotiations, India also told the US that it would like to import more American oil if it came on competitive terms, sources said.

India and Iran still have to figure out shipping and insurance details for a smooth trade. Currently, Iran provides its tankers as well as insurance for oil cargoes to India. The US sanctions have driven away Indian and international shippers and insurers from extending their services for Iranian oil imports. Refineries using Iranian oil have also faced insurance issues during renewals in recent months.

Indian and the US officials have been negotiating for months on terms of waiver from sanctions. India prefers Iranian oil as it comes cheap and suits many refineries' technical configuration.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/us-agrees-to-grant-india-waiver-from-iran-sanctions/articleshow/66454042.cms>

## Nearly 90 per cent of free apps on Play store share user data with Google: Report

Nearly 90 per cent of free apps on the Play store share user data with Google without their consent, according to a new Financial Times report. This data, which is said to include age, gender, location, and information about other apps, helps build detailed user profile. The harvested data can then be used for a number of purposes including targeted advertising, the report adds. Making revenue for tech behemoths like Google in the process. The report also suggests that free news apps and apps aimed at children are more likely to share user data with Google.

Google has however denied the report saying it mischaracterises some ordinary functions of apps and that the company takes action if an app violates its policies. "It mischaracterises ordinary functional services like crash reporting and analytics, and how apps share data to deliver those services. Across Google and in Google Play we have clear policies and guidelines for how developers and third-party apps can handle data and we require developers to be transparent and ask for user permission. If an app violates our policies, we take action," a Google spokesperson was quoted by BBC as saying.

Google is not the only tech company in the middle of all this data harvesting, according to the report. Nearly 43 per cent of apps share data with Facebook, and multiple apps share user data with companies like Twitter, Verizon, Microsoft, and Amazon.

Google, Facebook et al are known to collect user data and monetize it through targeted advertising. They have been doing this for a while now. Only now, multiple scandals have emerged, leading privacy advocates and users to demand greater transparency from tech companies in how much data they have stored on them. There has been growing demand to let users have complete control over their data and delete it as and when they like.

[https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/nearly-90-per-cent-of-free-apps-on-play-store-share-user-data-with-google-report-1376085-2018-10-26?utm\\_campaign=fullarticle&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=inshorts](https://www.indiatoday.in/technology/news/story/nearly-90-per-cent-of-free-apps-on-play-store-share-user-data-with-google-report-1376085-2018-10-26?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts)

## Make in India: Suresh Prabhu asks states to opt for local products for public procurement



Commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu has asked states to emulate Centre's model of giving preference to products manufactured under the Make in India initiative for public procurement to provide impetus to local manufacturing.

Besides giving a "big boost to domestic manufacturing of goods and provision of supplies, it will also lead to growth in employment and income", Prabhu wrote to all chief ministers earlier this week.

Under the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, it was envisaged that all central government departments, their attached or subordinate offices and autonomous bodies controlled by the Centre should ensure purchase preference is given to domestic suppliers in government procurement. It also provides 20% margin of purchase preference, while the minimum local content required shall ordinarily be 50%.

"As state governments/UTs and their companies, autonomous bodies, etc., also spend a significant amount on procurement of goods and services, similar policy measures at the state level can provide an additive thrust to the manufacturing sector in India, in line with the vision of 'Make of India'," Prabhu wrote.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) had directed all departments last year to evolve an internal system of vetting the restrictive and discriminating terms against domestic manufacturers, especially included in the tenders they float with state governments. Procuring agencies of the Centre have to make sure that eligibility conditions on issues such as turnover, production capability and financial strength do not result in unreasonable exclusion of local suppliers who would otherwise be eligible.

"In this regard, I would like to once again stress upon the need for undertaking similar policy measures at state level and formulate appropriate guidelines for providing preference to locally manufactured goods in public procurement to provide impetus to local manufacturing," Prabhu said.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/make-in-india-suresh-prabhu-asks-states-to-opt-for-local-products-for-public-procurement/articleshow/66369297.cms?utm\\_source=twitter\\_app&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=socialsharebuttons&from=mlr](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/make-in-india-suresh-prabhu-asks-states-to-opt-for-local-products-for-public-procurement/articleshow/66369297.cms?utm_source=twitter_app&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialsharebuttons&from=mlr)

## SWADESHI ACTIVITIES

# Swadeshi Mela

24–29 October, 2018 (Dwarka, New Delhi)



Under the aegis of Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), a 'Swadeshi Mela' was organized at the grounds of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Sector 7, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 during 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. The Swadeshi Mela formally began with the lamp lighting by Dr. Ashwani Mahajan (National Co-convenor), Sh. Saroj Mitra (National Co-convenor), Sh. Kashmiri Lal (Akhil Bhartiya Sangathak), Sh. Deepak Sharma 'Pradeep' (National Prachar Pramukh), Sh. Kamaljeet (Sangathak of Delhi & Haryana Prant), Sh. Balraj Singh (Karyalya Pramukh). Hawan puja was also performed with vedamantras. Saraswati Vandana and the National song 'Vande Matram' was performed/played during the Swadeshi Mela inauguration which was followed by the cultural program performed by the school students. In the Swadeshi Mela, there were more than 150 stalls which were provided to the artists, artisans, charitable organizations/forum, venders, entrepreneurs etc. Some Government and charitable organization viz. Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine and other departments/councils of Yoga, Naturopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH, Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) and Mother Dairy etc. also displayed their stalls in the Swadeshi Mela. Being in tune with the aims and objectives of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, this Swadeshi Mela provides opportunities and a platform to the micro and small indigenous/swadeshi artists/artisans/

traders/entrepreneurs, so that they can showcase their 'Hunar' and get a better sizeable share in the market thereby compete/beat the foreign players' products in general and the Chinese products in particular. It is pertinent to mention that earlier in October 2017 (through a Swadeshi Maharally at Ramlila Maidan), a call/message was made to the masses/public to boycott the Chinese Goods/products.

One of the main focuses of the Swadeshi Mela was on 'Start-Ups' by bringing them at the Centre-stage where the emerging entrepreneurs inspired others by sharing their experiences of setting up their 'Start-Ups' thereby becoming job providers/givers instead of job seekers. Sh. Kamaljeet remained in a torch bearer/pivotal role for bringing the 'Start-Ups' in the Centre-stage of the Mela whereas Shri Praveen Kappur, Mentor and Sh. Manu Goyal, Delhi Head endeavored in shaping the 'Start-Ups' program in the Swadeshi Mela.

A special initiative called 'Sanwad' among the 'Janprathinidhi – Janta- Swadeshi' i.e. interaction among 'the Leaders/Officials – Public – Swadeshi' was also organized on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 wherein Hon'ble Members of Parliament Sh. Pravesh Verma and Shri Ramesh Bidhuri and other Govt. officials interacted with the public/NGOs/RWAs/Social Workers and break through initiatives were agreed to for resolving their concerns/grievances.

The 'Swadeshi Mela' also provided organized traditional and cultural dance/music programmes in evenings. The programmes of TV Rising Star Ms. Maithali Thakur, Qwali by Qutabi Brothers, patriotic songs by Sh. Gajender Solanki & Pratap Fojdar and motivational lecture by Param Pujya Avdeshanand Ji Maharaj were organized during the Mela.

The Mela provided opportunities ranging from a grass-root/footpath seller to a swadeshi corporate one viz it included luhar (blacksmith), kumhar (potter), handloom weaver, small dairy products & cultivators etc. to big swadeshi corporate 'Mother Dairy', Quick Heal anti-virus etc. besides the Government

## Swadeshi Activities



departments pavilions/stalls. The artisans have also displayed their traditional tools i.e. 'khadhi' being used in handloom weaving, tools being used by the potters for making earthen pots. One can see the traditional eatables and experience traditional Indian eating habits in the stall 'Bharat Darshan' where the traditional Indian eatables were served. The main attraction of the 'Bharat Darshan' was that all the meals/eatables were cooked in an Indian traditional way i.e. in earthen pots using wood & dung fire. The guests/public enjoyed the Indian traditional meals in the traditional sitting position instead of now-a-days prevalent standing position.

Traders from several states namely West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orisa, Hariyana, Delhi, Uttrakhand, Rajesthan etc. utilized the Swadeshi Mela Stall Facility (SMSF) to showcase their 'Hunar' and grow their business by selling their products in the mela. The main attractions at the stalls were the stalls having/displaying swadeshi goods, handicraft items, khadi garments, jute & bamboo items, katputli (puppet) shows, nisanebaji, traditional eatables/meals of different states i.e. litti chokha of Bihar, Rajashthani dalbati & kachori, Punjabi meal, Haryanvi items etc. Stalls having traditional garments and skin/health care products were also the main attraction of public coming in the Swadeshi Mela. Herbal products and the products made from cow's milk, urine (Gomutra) and dung (Gobar) attracted the mela comers. A nursery space was provided where the herbal, medicinal, spices and tulsi plants were displayed with their traditional use in Indian systems.

During the six day Swadeshi Mela several cultural programs were organized which includes traditional dance and songs of Orissa, Bharatnaty, Katputli/puppet shows, Punjabi Bhangra, Rajasthani lok sangheet and Kavi Samelan. Several competitive events were also organized in the Swadeshi Mela viz. Kaba-

di, Nimboo/Lemon Race, Rangoli competition, Drawing competition, Yoga competition, dress competition and Lucky Draw etc. Besides this there were arrangements for jhule, Uut ki swari (Camel ride) for children and mela comers.

The Swadeshi Mela also invited several VIPs who were duly honoured by presenting them mementos and Swadeshi Patta. Also around 3-4 lakh people from Dwarka and nearby vicinity visited the Swadeshi Mela. The Swadeshi Mela got a wide print and electronic media coverage. Doordarshan, All India Radio (AIR)/ Akashvani, Sudarshan News, Danik Jagran, ANI, Bol Bindass etc. were the media partner in the Swadeshi Mela program.



The Swadeshi Mela culminated with a pledge to Boycott the Foreign/Chinese Goods/Products and thereby ensure the National Swabhiman, Economic self-reliance, National re-construction and carrier of Swadeshi Message.

At the last but not the least the whole Organising Team of the Swadeshi Mela which includes Sh. Ravindra Solanki, Sh. Brij Bhushan Arya, Sh. Ramniwas Dahiya, Sh. Ravindra Aggarwal, Sh. Hemendra Gupta, Sh. Vikash Kaushik, Sh. Yogesh Saini, Sh. Surendra Manav, Dr. Manjit Singh, Dr. Rakesh Malik, Dr. Khagesh Kumar, Navin Garg, Ratan Bisht, Rahul Bharat, Rashmi Patwal, Sanjay Upadhyay, Pravin Sehrawat, Rajendra Negi, Capt. Pramod Singh, Renu Sharma, Vikram Rawat, Dinesh Singh, Mahindra Vikram Singh, Prashant, Devwrat, Amit, Urmila Sharma, Rahul Mishra, Abishek, Dr. Virbhadr Singh, Vikram Negi, Vikram Pratap Singh, Madhu Raj, Milendra Pathak, Gajraj, Brijesh Nautiyal, Mira Upreti, Kavita, Rajat Chauhan and Satish Jain were assembled on the stage and The Swadeshi Mela culminated with a pledge to Boycott the Foreign/Chinese Goods/Products and thereby ensure the National Swabhiman, Economic self-reliance, National re-construction and carrier of Swadeshi Message. □□

Swadeshi Activities

# Start-Up Programme

(New Delhi)

Pictorial Glimpses



Himachal Prant Sammelan



J&K Prant Sammelan



Punjab Prant Sammelan



Participants in Punjab Prant Sammelan

Swadeshi Activities  
**Swadeshi Mela**  
(24-29 October 2018, Delhi)

Pictorial Glimpses



(25 October - 1 November 2018, Jameshpur, Jharkhand)

Pictorial Glimpses

