

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

June 2025



NO GMO

Niti Aayog's recommendations on
GM Imports should be Dumped

Swadeshi Activities

Shankhnaad - Swadeshi Suraksha evam Swavlamban Abhiyan

12 June, 2025, NCUI Auditorium, New Delhi

Pictorial Glimpses



Pashchim Bang Prant Vichar Varga



Jharkhand Prant Vichar Varga





Vol-30, No. 6
Jyeshtha-Aashad 2082 June-2025

EDITOR
Ajey Bharti

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR
Dr. Phool Chand

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY:
Dr. Ashwani 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

LETTERS 3

NEWS 36-38



CONTENTS

COVER STORY 6

Niti Aayog's recommendations on GM Imports Should be Dumped

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



- 1 Cover Page
2. Cover Inside Page

08 SWADESHI DEFENCE TECHNOLOGIES

Swadeshi Defence Technologies of BHARAT: A Way Forward

..... Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal & Dr. LN Raghavendra

13 OPERATION SINDOOR

Story, success, takeaways

..... S. Gurumurthy

17 OPERATION SINDOOR

International Media on Operation Sindoor-I

..... Vinod Johri

19 ANALYSIS

Swadeshi for Self-Reliance, Economic Sovereignty, and National Security

..... Dr. S. Lingamurthy

22 ECONOMY

India may soon become the Third-Largest Economy in the World

..... Sanjaya Baru

24 DISCUSSION

ABC of the world - America, Bharat and China

..... Alok Singh

26 AGRICULTURE

Cotton GM Industry must be Made Accountable for Successive Crop Failures

..... Devinder Sharma

28 INITIATIVE

Let India Choose India: The Missing Filter in Online Shopping

..... Savitha Rao

30 ISSUE

What Washington-Beijing deal means for New Delhi

..... Ajay Srivastava

31 ENVIRONMENT

World Biodiversity Day: Harmony With Nature – The Theme And Beyond

..... Indra Shekhar Singh

33 VIEW POINT

One Earth and One Ecodharma

..... Dr R. Krishna Chaitanya

- 39 Back Inside Cover
- 40 Back Cover



Skylocked: How Global and Indian Duopolies Stall Aviation Innovation

The global commercial aircraft industry is dominated by just two giants: Airbus and Boeing. This duopoly controls nearly the entire market for large passenger jets, with other manufacturers unable to compete at scale. Over the last 15 years, despite rapid growth in air travel, meaningful innovation has slowed, and the industry has witnessed several high-profile crashes, raising concerns about safety and quality control. The lack of strong competition means airlines have few choices, and any systemic issue in one of these companies can have global consequences.

India, despite being the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, has not developed its own commercial aircraft manufacturing capability. Instead, Indian airlines like Air India and IndiGo rely entirely on Airbus and Boeing for fleet expansion, placing massive orders for hundreds of planes in recent years. This dependence highlights the absence of indigenous innovation and manufacturing in the sector. While India has a near-monopoly in defense aerospace through Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), it has not translated this expertise into the commercial sector.

Furthermore, the Indian airline market itself has become a duopoly, with over 90% controlled by IndiGo and the Tata-owned Air India group. This double monopoly—global in manufacturing and domestic in airline operations—limits consumer choice and stifles competition-driven innovation. Until new players emerge, both globally and in India, real breakthroughs in safety, technology, and passenger experience may remain elusive.

— Vijeet Kumar, Delhi

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



In the Aravalli range and beyond, in addition to the traditional planting methods, we will encourage new techniques especially in urban and semi-urban areas where there are space constraints.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



India has achieved a great deal in the development of early warning systems. Timely preparedness has been integrated with the calendar, a scientific approach has been evolved for active prevention and mitigation.

Amit Shah, Home Minister



In the Northeast, women have always led - from managing fish markets to running households. Now is the time to form self-help groups, generate livelihood, and build confidence.

Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for S&T and Earth Sciences

A Remarkable Journey: Beyond GDP Numbers

In the year 2014, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with GDP of 2.07 trillion USD. In 2025, we have become the fourth largest economy with GDP of 4.18 trillion USD, in merely 11 years. For international comparison, another figure which is universally accepted, is GDP in purchasing power parity terms. On the scale of purchasing power parity, India had already become the third largest economy of the world, much earlier (in the year 2011). This happened because the purchasing power of the Indian rupee in India is nearly four times the market value of the dollar. According to the World Bank, India's GDP (PPP) in 2014 was approximately 7.4 trillion USD, which has increased to 17.4 trillion USD in 2025. Today, when India's GDP has reached the fourth position in the world, apart from celebrating the same, it is also important to understand how this was made possible and how we can make our economy stronger by learning from the contemporary world and history.

Some people argue that GDP, Japan's per capita income is still 11.6 times more than that of India's per capita income, but if we compare per capita income of these two countries on PPP basis, we see Japan's per capita income is hardly 4.16 times, of India's GDP per capita. There is yet another view that we need not celebrate this achievement, because India still stands at 136th position in terms of Per Capita GDP in nominal terms, and even in purchase power parity we stand at 119th position in the list of 190 countries of the world. But these numbers reveal less than they hide. There are 18 big countries in terms of population, which have Per Capita GDP above India, with a total population of nearly 3.4 billion, and rest 100 countries have a total population of only 14 crore (0.14 billion). Thanks to the higher rate of growth of per capita income, both in nominal terms as well as in PPP terms, India is riding fast on the ladder, and its ranking is fast improving. In 2014, India ranked 147th out of 190 countries in Per Capita GDP, in nominal terms; but in 2025; its position has since improved to 136th in Per Capita GDP in nominal terms. And in per Capita GDP in PPP terms, India has moved up from 126th out of 190 countries in 2014, to 119th now.

According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2015 (based on 2005-06 and 2011-12 data), around 41.3 percent of India's population was multidimensionally poor in 2005-06. Major deprivations were manifested in nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, sanitation and cooking fuel. With rural poverty, significantly higher than urban poverty, India accounted for over 30 percent of the world's multidimensionally poor. UNDP reports that from 2005-2006 to 2019-2021, India's multidimensional poverty index (out of a total of 1.000) had plummeted from 0.283 down to just 0.069; which is perhaps fastest reduction among countries facing acute multidimensional poverty. Interestingly, UNDP has praised India for this achievement.

As per NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index Report (2023) and the UNDP Global MPI 2023, Headcount ratio was reduced to 11.28 percent (as of 2022-23), and over 24.82 crore people exited multidimensional poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23. Deprivations fell significantly in terms of access to electricity and clean cooking fuel, sanitation, housing, school attendance, maternal and child health etc. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan saw the highest reduction in Multidimensional Poverty. If we look at extreme poverty (people with daily income of 2.15 USD), according to the World Bank's latest report (2025) India has virtually eliminated extreme poverty by global standards. In 2011 estimated 27.12 percent of India's population lived in extreme poverty, that is approximately 344.5 million people. Extreme poverty has come down to around 5.3 percent, by 2022-23, that is, estimated 75.2 million people live in extreme poverty in the country. But, this is the scenario of extreme poverty in India, when in the meanwhile, World Bank has raised the threshold limit for extreme poverty from earlier, 2.15 USD to 3 USD per day now. That implies that if we keep the threshold poverty line at the same level of 2.15 USD, number would be hardly 2.3 percent of population and absolute number of people under extreme poverty would be hardly 33.6 million. This could be made possible due to direct benefit transfers (DBT), free food, access to basic services, namely sanitation, health, banking and electricity. Some people argue that GDP numbers indicating India becoming fourth largest economy] but government distributing free ration to more than 80 crore people are contradictory to each other. But here we have to understand that distribution of free food is not unique to India, even in most developed countries including US and UK, a significant proportion of their population enjoy free ration.

Though, it is no less a reason to celebrate that India has become the fourth largest economy of the world; and is destined to become the third largest economy in the coming 2-3 years; it gives us more reasons to be proud of India's achievements, whether it is in terms of international ranking in GDP per capita or in its achievements in reducing multidimensional poverty and extreme poverty, both; and that too much faster than its peers. Though there is a long road to go, but the journey so far has also been remarkable. This fact should also be borne in mind so that we may continue to tread the right path.

Niti Aayog's recommendations on GM Imports Should be Dumped

A few days ago, in a working paper NITI Aayog has recommended, to the Indian government that the import of genetically modified (GM) agricultural products should be allowed in the currently proposed India-US trade agreement. In this, NITI Aayog has also specifically mentioned crops like maize and soybean. It has also been suggested in the working paper that the government should also offer opening of the import of those agricultural products also, which are either not produced in India or their production is so low that their import will not have any significant impact on the farmers. In this regard, the working paper gives the examples of rice, black pepper, soybean oil, shrimp, tea, coffee, dairy products, poultry, apple, almond, pistachio etc., whose import has been recommended to be opened.

After the recommendations by NITI Aayog in this working paper, there have been strong reactions from the farmer organizations including the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) and in this regard, NITI Aayog has been vehemently criticized and it has been said that these suggestions are against the interests of the country in general and farmers in particular. For example, the BKS has said that these suggestions are against the interests of the country and the farmers. The BKS also says that NITI Aayog has kneeled before US, which is not a happy sign.

But on the other hand, there is also news that the trade talks between India and America have come to a halt, because the government is not ready to concede the US demand for opening markets for USA's GM and other agricultural products. In such a situation, this working paper of NITI Aayog is not able to acknowledge the position of the government. This may also be interpreted that Niti Ayog is trying to impact the anti-GM position of the government. Both these situations are not good for the country.



We should understand that, once import of GM is allowed in the country, it will pave the path for bringing GMO in agriculture. We need to be cautious of any such efforts.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

Previously Also NITI Aayog had Supported GM

This is not the first time that NITI Aayog has advocated GM crops. Earlier also, Aayog, under the vice-chairmanship of Prof Arvind Panagariya, also had released a report in favour of GM crops. At that time too, there was strong opposition to the same.

Why is NITI Aayog's advocacy of GM not right?

There has been opposition to GM crops in the country for a long time. Proponents of GM have constantly been making efforts in favour of GM. But due to strong opposition to GM and its solid arguments, GM supporters could not succeed. There are many reasons for their opposition:

The first reason is that most GM crops are herbicide tolerant. That is, when these crops are grown, all the surrounding herbs can be destroyed by using designated herbicides and GM crops are not affected. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to

humans". <https://www.iarc.who.int/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/> It is worth noting that when these herbicides are used during the production of GM crops, some of its residues definitely remain in those agricultural products and soil, which can cause cancer. Statistics show that in USA, there are 350 cancer patients per lakh of population, whereas in India this figure is 100 per lakh. <https://www.ncrf.org/preventing-cancer/cancer-statistics/global-cancer-data-by-country/> One reason for this is also the excessive use of herbicides used in GM crops in USA.

Although the use and import of GM food products is prohibited in India, but due to the shortage of edible oils, the import of edible oils from US and other countries is increasing for some time, out of which some amount of GM edible oils is also being imported unknowingly. The Government of India has also accepted this earlier. Due to this, the incidence of cancer in India is continuously increasing. Where there were only 8 lakh cancer patients in 2000, by the year 2024 their number has reached 15 lakh. Consumption of GM edible oils could also be one of the reason for the same.

The second reason for the opposition to the import of GM crops is that production and import of GM crops is not legally allowed in the country, as per the law of the land. In international trade, no dispute can be raised by other partner countries in this regard, while respecting our rules. Under the WTO rules, every country has the right to ban goods coming from other countries in view of its right to protect health of its citizens.

As per international rules, it is possible to stop GM products com-

ing from US from entering the country. Since Indian farmers are already suffering financial losses due lack of remunerative prices for their produce, if cheap GM products are allowed to be imported, our farmers will suffer, and in such a situation, if farmers stop practicing agriculture, the food security of the country itself may be in danger.

Thirdly, the sale of GM products is not possible under the food safety rules framed by the Food Security and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which mandates that food products cannot have more than a threshold limit of GM ingredients. In such a situation, after allowing import of GM products into the country, they will become part of the food chain in India, which will not only circumvent the rules of the country, but will also pose a threat to the health of the citizens.

Apart from the above reasons, a fourth reason, which goes against the import of GM products in the country, is that the GM products whose import has been recommended by the NITI Aayog are generally not actually consumed by humans in the US. In the US, corn and soya are mostly used either as animal feed or for making ethanol. It is worth noting that in the US, 40 to 50 percent of GM corn is used as animal feed, 30 to 40 percent is used in making ethanol and only 10 percent is used in food processing. Similarly, soya is also mostly used as animal feed. The inclusion of such GM products in the food chain of India is not only harmful for the health of the countrymen but it is also an insult to people of this country.

Although GM products are constantly advocated by the people sitting in NITI Aayog, but due

to the opposition by the farmers and enlightened scientists in the country and due to the lack of judicial permission in this regard, they are not able to succeed. In such a situation, when the trade agreement with America is under negotiations, and ban on GM food in India can be used as a shield to protect the interests of farmers and dairy, such recommendations by NITI Aayog are indicative of their indifference towards farmers, and the health of the people and the food security of the country.

Moreover, we need to realise that India exports nearly 50 billion USD worth of agricultural food products, and major attraction of Indian food is that they carry non-GM tag. Moment, GM enters into our food chain, we may lose a major chunk of our export markets, as Middle East countries and European and many other countries, do not allow import of GM food products. Perhaps, NITI Aayog fails to factor in this important risk associated with GM imports and production in India.

The Government of India should ignore these recommendations of NITI Aayog and should rather use ban on GM food as an argument in international trade agreements and as a shield in the trade war, while protecting the farmers, dairy, food security and public health of the country. It seems that despite the opposition of most of the farmer organizations of the country, GM supporters want to allow import of GM in the country at any cost. We should understand that, once import of GM is allowed in the country, it will pave the path for bringing GMO in agriculture. We need to be cautious of any such efforts. □□

Swadeshi Defence Technologies of BHARAT: A Way Forward

Introduction

The landscape of modern warfare is undergoing an intense transformation. Where once the strength of a nation's military was measured by the sheer number of soldiers or the size of its arsenal, today's battles are increasingly defined by technological superiority, precision weaponry, and rapid innovation. The emergence of high-tech systems ranging from stealth aircraft to precision-guided missiles has rendered traditional metrics of military might less relevant. In this new era, it is not the largest armies that prevail, but those equipped with the most advanced and agile technologies.

India has embraced this paradigm shift with remarkable resolve. Through the Swadeshi movement, championed by the Make in India and Atma-Nirbhar Bharat initiatives, the nation is not only reducing its reliance on foreign imports but is also nurturing a robust ecosystem of indigenous research, development, and manufacturing. The result is a new generation of world-class platforms such as the new generation Tejas fighter, BrahMos Supersonic cruise missile, and INS Vikrant aircraft carrier that reflect India's growing prowess in defence technology. It has been amply demonstrated in "Operation Sindoor" that many indigenous technologies including Akash missiles have been deployed to achieve intended goals.

This commitment to self-reliance is a testament to the ingenuity and vision of Indian scientists, engineers, and industry leaders. By investing in home grown innovation and fostering a culture of excellence, India is forging a path toward true strategic autonomy ensuring that the nation's security and sovereignty are best protected by the Bharat itself.

However, the global security environment has witnessed unprecedented changes, with defence expenditures reaching remarkable heights that reflect the intensifying nature of contemporary geopolitical challenges. According to the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), global defence spending reached \$2.46 trillion in 2024, marking a substantial increase from \$2.24 trillion in the previous year. This represents an average of 1.9 percent of the world's GDP, reflecting heightened security challenges across multiple regions.

The surge in military spending has been primarily driven by deteriorating security environments and sharpened threat perceptions in regions such as Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Asia. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, the ongoing Israel-Iran-Lebanon-Palestine conflict, tension in the South China Sea and various regional disputes have compelled nations to reassess their defence priorities and allocate increased resources to military capabilities, with the Top 10 countries accounting for 73 percent of worldwide military expenditure.

Indian Defence Capabilities: A Swadeshi Renaissance

India's trust with indigenous defence capability began soon after independence. Recognizing the strategic vulnerabilities of relying on imported critical de-



With ambitious new projects including the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft stealth fighter and hypersonic missiles nearing completion, India stands poised to emerge as a global leader in defence technology.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal & Dr. LN Raghavendra

fence systems, India gradually built its own institutions and industrial base. In the 1950s and 1960s, the country established the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and started indigenous production of basic arms and ammunition. In 1974, India's first nuclear test at Pokhran, code-named Smiling Buddha, was a testament to its scientific capability and determination for self-reliance. The 1980s and 1990s saw the emergence of indigenous programs such as the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, the Arjun Main Battle Tank, and the Prithvi missile program. In 1998, Operation Shakti—a series of nuclear tests—reaffirmed India's position as a self-reliant nuclear power. Over these decades, restrictive international regimes like the MTCR, NSG, and Wassenaar Arrangement forced India to innovate under constraints, laying a resilient foundation for its modern Swadeshi defence ecosystem.

India's journey toward self-reliance in defense began with the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) in 1984, led by Dr. Abdul Kalam. This program developed several key missile systems including Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Nag, and Trishul. Today, all except Trishul have been successfully inducted into the Armed Forces.

The Agni missile series, with ranges up to 5,000 kilometers, and Prithvi missiles, with ranges up to 500 kilometers, form India's ballistic missile arsenal. These precision-guided systems can accurately strike intended targets. The Akash surface-to-air missile and Nag anti-tank missile complete this diverse missile portfolio. Through the IGMDP, India developed crucial tech-

nologies in structures, propulsion, guidance systems, navigation, and warhead design. Building on this foundation, India has also produced newer systems like the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) and Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).

The success of India's missile program stems from early partnerships with development partners. Public sector companies like Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have played crucial roles. Equally important has been the integration of private sector companies such as L&T, Godrej and Boyce, and Tata Advanced System Limited into both development and manufacturing processes. India has also embraced international collaboration, as seen in joint projects like the BrahMos missile with Russia and MRSAM with Israel, showing how India has evolved from purely local development to strategic partnerships that integrate global knowledge and design expertise.

These collaborative efforts have produced remarkable results. India's defense production reached a record Rs. 1.27 lakh crore (approximately \$15.3 billion) in 2023-24, marking a significant milestone in the nation's journey toward self-reliance. What makes this achievement even more impressive is that over 70% of these contracts went to Indian companies, demonstrating the growing capability of domestic defense manufacturers.

The export success is equally noteworthy, with defense exports

SWADESHI DEFENCES TECHNOLOGIES OF BHARAT



INDIAN AIR FORCE

- Tejas Light Combat Aircraft**
4.5-generation multi-role fighter
- AURA / Ghatak UCAV**
Stealth unmanned combat-aerial vehicle
- AURA / Ghatak UCAV**
Stealth unmanned combat-aerial vehicle
- Astra BVR Missile**
Indigenous beyond-visual-range missile

INDIAN ARMY

- Arjun Mk-1A MBT**
Main battle tank with advanced features
- INS Vikrant (IAC-1)**
Indigenous aircraft carrier
- Pinaka MBRL**
Multi-barrel-rocket launcher system
- Kalvari-Class Submarines**
Conventional attack submarines
- Akash Surface-to-Air Missile**
Mobile missile system
- INS Arihant SSBN**
Nuclear ballistic missile submarine
- Nag ATGM**

reaching Rs. 21,083 crores (\$2.5 billion)—a nearly 20-fold increase over the past decade. This growth reflects global recognition of Indian defense platforms, with indigenous systems like Tejas, BrahMos, and Pinaka generating significant international interest and establishing India as a respected player in the global defense market.

Indian Air Force: Indigenous Wings of Power

The transformation of India's aerial warfare capabilities represents one of the most significant achievements of the Swadeshi movement. At the forefront of this revolution stands the Tejas, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), a 4.5-generation multi-role fighter that serves as a powerful symbol of Indian engineering excellence. This sophisticated aircraft incorporates cutting-edge technology including a glass cockpit, fly-by-wire controls, precision targeting systems, and beyond visual range missile capability, placing it in the same league as globally

renowned fighters like the F-16 and JAS 39 Gripen. The Indian Air Force has already inducted over 40 jets into service, with an additional 83 Mk-1A variants on order, while export interest continues to grow from countries including Malaysia, Argentina, and Egypt.

India's foray into unmanned combat aerial vehicles represents another leap forward in indigenous defence technology. The nation's stealth UCAV, designed for autonomous deep-strike missions, features an advanced flying wing design integrated with sophisticated stealth capabilities and artificial intelligence systems. This platform positions India among the select few nations capable of developing and deploying such advanced unmanned systems.

The indigenous missile systems powering India's airforce demonstrate remarkable technological sophistication. The Astra Mk-1 and Mk-2 beyond visual range missiles, with ranges extending up to 160 kilometers, are comparable to premier international systems such as the US AMRAAM and European Meteor missiles. These weapons provide Indian pilots with world-class air-to-air combat capabilities, ensuring air superiority in any potential conflict scenario.

Enhancing the operational effectiveness of these platforms is the Netra, the Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS), mounted on Embraer aircraft platforms. This sophisticated system provides comprehensive 360 Degree radar coverage, significantly enhancing command and control capabilities and providing Indian forces with superior situational awareness across the battlefield.

Indian Army: Swadeshi Strength on Land

The Indian Army's transformation through indigenous technology spans multiple domains, from advanced missile systems to cutting-edge combat vehicles. The Akash Surface-to-Air Missile system exemplifies this technological revolution, serving as a mobile, all-weather, medium-range surface-to-air missile system with an operational range of 25-40 kilometres. This system, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation with significant contributions from the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI), is comparable to established international systems like the Russian Buk and Israeli Spyder. The Indian armed forces have deployed over 12 regiments of this system, providing comprehensive air defense coverage across critical installations and formations.

Complementing the Akash system is the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile, an indigenous mobile quick-reaction surface-to-air missile system designed specifically to protect moving army formations from aerial threats. With a range of 25-40 kilometers, this system features dual AESA radars and possesses the capability to simultaneously engage multiple targets with exceptional accuracy. The Medium Range Surface to Air Missile system, jointly developed by DRDO and Israel, extends this protective umbrella even further, capable of neutralizing aerial threats up to 70 kilometers away using advanced radar and active seeker technology. This system has been deployed across all three branches of the Indian armed forces, developed by DRDO's Armament Research and

Development Establishment, which specializes in advanced armament systems.

Artillery capabilities have been revolutionized through the indigenous Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher system, which has evolved from its original design to incorporate precision-guided variants for enhanced accuracy with a range extending from 45 to 75 kilometers, this system provides Indian forces with devastating long-range firepower capabilities. The confidence in this system is reflected in substantial orders worth Rs. 2,580 crore placed in 2023, developed by ARDE Pune, renowned for its artillery and rocket systems expertise.

Combat vehicle capabilities have reached new heights with the Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tank, an advanced platform featuring composite armour, a powerful 120mm rifled gun, missile-firing capability, and state-of-the-art fire control systems. With over 120 Arjun tanks already inducted and 118 Mk-1A variants on order, this platform is considered comparable to top global tanks including the Leopard 2 and M1 Abrams. Developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), this tank represents the pinnacle of Indian armoured vehicle technology.

The integration of these platforms is enhanced by fully indigenous tactical communication and battlefield management systems that enable secure, real-time communication and data sharing across the entire battlefield. These systems significantly enhance situational awareness and command efficiency for Indian forces, providing a technological edge that translates directly into operational superiority.

Indian Navy: Indigenous Power at Sea

India’s naval capabilities have been transformed through ambitious indigenous shipbuilding and technology programs that position the nation among the world’s premier maritime powers. The crown jewel of this transformation is INS Vikrant, India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier with a displacement of 45,000 tons. This magnificent vessel, commissioned in 2022, operates MiG-29K fighters and naval helicopters, joining India to an elite group of nations possessing such advanced carrier capability. The successful development and deployment of this platform demonstrates India’s mastery of complex naval engineering and systems integration.

Submarine capabilities have been substantially enhanced through the Kalvari-Class submarines, built under the Make in India initiative by Mazagon Dock Limited. These submarines are equipped with advanced sonar systems and are ready for Air Independent Propulsion upgrades, significantly extending their underwater endurance. With six submarines planned and five inducted by 2024, this program represents a major milestone in India’s submarine manufacturing capabilities.

The strategic deterrence capabilities of the Indian Navy have been revolutionized through the INS Arihant-Class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, which are entirely indigenous in design and construction. These submarines are capable of launching K-15 missiles with a range of 750 kilometres and K-4 missiles with a range of 3,500 kilometers, providing India with a credible sea-based nuclear deterrent.

Advanced underwater war-

Top 10 Countries with Highest Military Spending in 2025			
Rank	Country	Military Spending (2024)	Share of Global Total
1	United States	\$997B	36.7%
2	China	\$314B	11.6%
3	Russia	\$149B	5.5%
4	Germany	\$88.5B	3.3%
5	India	\$86.1B	3.2%
6	United Kingdom	\$81.8B	3.0%
7	Saudi Arabia	\$80.3B	3.0%
8	Ukraine	\$64.7B	2.4%
9	France	\$64.7B	2.4%
10	Japan	\$55.3B	2.0%

fare capabilities have been developed through DRDO’s Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo system, designed for long-range anti-submarine warfare operations. The Naval Materials Research Laboratory under DRDO has developed indigenous hydrogen fuel cell-based Air Independent Propulsion technology for submarines, extending the underwater endurance of diesel-electric submarines like the Kalvari class. This breakthrough technology enables submarines to operate silently while submerged for extended periods, significantly enhancing stealth and operational effectiveness for the Indian Navy.

Sonar systems development has been spearheaded by the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory under DRDO, which has developed indigenous sonar systems for Indian Naval ships & submarines. These sophisticated systems provide comprehensive underwater threat detection, tracking, and anti-submarine warfare capabilities across multiple naval platforms.

International Collaborations – A requirement for the future development

The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, developed jointly by India and Russia, is a major ad-

vancement for India’s armed forces. Capable of being launched from land, sea, air, and submarines, it travels at speeds up to Mach 3 and currently has a range of 350-400 kilometers, with future versions aiming for 800 kilometers. Its two-stage design, “fire-and-forget” accuracy, and stealth features make it one of the world’s most effective cruise missiles. Alongside this, India’s air defence has been boosted by the AkashTeer system, an indigenous short-range missile integrated with the Russian S-400 system. Designed for quick response and high mobility, AkashTeer can intercept aircraft, drones, and missiles within a 25-40 kilometer range, providing strong protection for key installations. Ongoing international collaborations aim to further enhance these systems’ capabilities.

Global Defence Spending – A wakeup Call for Swadeshi Development

The world’s largest military spender in 2025, the United States, not only continues to dominate the rankings but also makes up 62.3% of the global top 5 military spenders. The United States maintains its position as the world’s largest military spender, allocating \$997 billion, which accounts for 37% of global military expenditure. China follows

as the second-largest spender with \$314 billion, representing approximately 12% of global military spending. Together, these two nations dominate global defence spending, reinforcing their status as the world's leading military powers.

India's position as the fifth-largest military spender globally, with expenditure of \$86.1 billion, demonstrates the nation's commitment to regional security and defence modernization. This spending represents 2.3% of India's GDP and 3.2% of global military expenditure, highlighting the country's growing strategic importance. Therefore, the necessity of increasing the indigenisation effort for the long term development while adopting collaborative effort in short and mid-term is absolutely essential.

Indigenous platforms now form the backbone of India's strategic deterrence and operational readiness, ensuring that the nation's security infrastructure is built upon reliable, domestically controlled technology. The success of these programs has positioned India among the world's top 25 defence exporters, transforming the nation from a major importer to a significant player in the global defence market.

In the context of global military spending trends, India's position as the fifth-largest military spender with \$86.1 billion in defence expenditure reflects the nation's commitment to maintaining robust defence capabilities while pursuing indigenous development. This investment strategy not only enhances national security but also contributes to technological advancement and economic growth through the development of domestic defence industries.

The transformation of India's

defence landscape through the Swadeshi movement has yielded remarkable results that extend far beyond military capabilities. India has successfully reduced its defence imports from 70% to below 50% over the past decade, demonstrating the effectiveness of indigenous development programs. This shift has created over 2 million jobs in the defence sector, contributing significantly to economic growth and skill development across the nation. However, it can be seen from a table below, the distribution of global military spending which reveals the dominance of major powers.

Government Initiatives and Industry Ambitions

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is aiming to create a multi-billion dollar defence business, marking a sharp rise from Rs. 6,185 crore (about \$726 million) of orders in the previous fiscal year, encouraged by the government's strong push to upgrade and modernise the military. The engineering conglomerate has established a broad presence in the defence sector, manufacturing warships, patrol vessels, armoured vehicles, artillery guns, and missile systems, among others. The Narendra Modi government has set an ambitious target of Rs. 30,000 crore worth of defence exports this fiscal year, with the goal of reaching Rs. 50,000 crore by FY29. The government is also aiming for domestic defence production of Rs. 1.6 lakh crore in FY26, and nearly doubling that to Rs. 3 lakh crore by FY29.

Conclusion

India's Swadeshi movement in defence represents far more than a policy initiative; it embodies a national renaissance that demonstrates the power of indigenous innova-

tion and strategic vision. By harnessing the exceptional talent of Indian scientists, engineers, and industries, India is constructing a secure, self-reliant future that serves as an inspiration to developing nations worldwide. The remarkable journey from import dependence to indigenous innovation tells a compelling story of vision, resilience, and unwavering patriotism. Within the global context of rising defence expenditures, where military spending has reached unprecedented levels of \$2.46 trillion in 2024, India's approach of combining strategic defence investment with indigenous capability development stands as a model for sustainable security enhancement. While the United States continues to dominate global military spending, accounting for 62.3% of the top five spenders, India's focused investment in indigenous technologies demonstrates that effective defence capabilities can be achieved through strategic innovation rather than merely increased spending.

With ambitious new projects including the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft stealth fighter and hypersonic missiles nearing completion, India stands poised to emerge as a global leader in defence technology. This transformation continues to inspire the world with the authentic spirit of Swadeshi, proving that a nation's commitment to self-reliance, combined with scientific excellence and industrial capability, can achieve extraordinary results that secure both present prosperity and future sovereignty. □□

Dr. Dhanpant Ram Agarwal, *National Co-convenor, SJM.*

Dr. LN Raghavendra, *Outstanding Scientist Director (Propulsion), Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification. DRDO, Ministry of Defence, GOI*

Story, success, takeaways

India's stunning military project, Operation Sindoor, to punish terrorist Pakistan, was planned and executed with admirable precision and confidence by the defence forces in just two weeks. But the capability to accomplish this grand operation in weeks was developed over years — painstakingly, against all odds and opposition from both internal and external forces.

The transformation of India's defence infrastructure to a non-contact war model, undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was the foundation for the spectacular Operation Sindoor. This new model marked a significant departure from earlier efforts like the Uri surgical strike and the Balakot aerial attack, which were based on traditional war models. Modi realized that the old model would no longer suffice for the future. Without deep strikes into Pakistan's territory, India could not destroy terror outfits at their source. This realization impelled Modi to shift to non-contact warfare, the result of which was Operation Sindoor and its breathtaking success.

Despite all the military infrastructure and preparations, Operation Sindoor could not have been undertaken with such relative ease without a cluster of supportive factors. These factors dramatically transformed the geopolitical, economic, and strategic ecosystem in India's favor under Modi's ten-year rule. It was also aided by the relative decline of Pakistan during the same period.



Despite all the military infrastructure and preparations, Operation Sindoor could not have been undertaken with such relative ease without a cluster of supportive factors.

S. Gurumurthy

Non-contact warfare

What is non-contact warfare and how Modi put India on its ladder?

This is what the Pakistan Defence website had to say [8.7.2020] about how India was climbing on to non-contact warfare. It described the induction of long range missiles, high precision smart weapons, unmanned systems, robots and satellites primarily driven by technology and aimed at achieving a quick, decisive victory by remote delivery of destructive kinetic energy as “non-Contact Warfare”.



The Pakistani site went on to say, “The concept has recently gained currency with the Indian strategic community.” It added, “The Balakot strikes and earlier fake surgical strike claims (by India) point to its strong desire for gaining psychological ascendancy without suffering casualties, simultaneously avoiding escalation of violence.

As recently as January 2015, the Indian army Chief reiterated that non-Contact Warfare is “important” and is a “major consideration” in the planned restructuring of the Indian army.” In its post in 2020, the Pakistan website cited the Indian army chief’s reference to non-contact warfare in 2015 as “recently”!

Operation Sindoor – non-contact war mode

The core strength of Operation Sindoor lay in five cutting-edge, non-contact warfare technologies that eliminated the need for ground troops or traditional air assaults.

First, the Rafale fighter jets, second, the SCALP cruise missiles, third, the HAMMER precision missiles, fourth, the Kamikaze loitering drones developed with Israeli collaboration, and fifth, the lethal BrahMos missiles.

All these systems are non-contact and autonomous—once launched, they independently track and engage their targets.

The Indian Air Force used Rafale jets to carry out Operation Sindoor. India equipped these jets with advanced weaponry, including SCALP and HAMMER missiles, enabling deep penetration and highly accurate strikes.

- The SCALP missile is capable of stealthily reaching and destroying distant fortified structures like bunkers and command posts up to 500 kilometers away.

The Indian Air Force used Rafale jets to carry out Operation Sindoor. India equipped these jets with advanced weaponry, including SCALP and HAMMER missiles, enabling deep penetration and highly accurate strikes.

- The HAMMER missile is designed for air-to-ground attacks, effective even against moving targets. During the operation, HAMMER missiles complemented SCALP’s assault.
- The Kamikaze drones are ‘one-way’ drones controlled remotely by humans for targeted destruction.
- Lastly, the BrahMos missile, equipped with an indigenous guidance system, was pivotal in demolishing terrorist hideouts during the mission.

A key asset in defending against Pakistani drone and missile counter-attacks from May 7 to 9—following the major Indian strike on the night of May 6-7—was the Russian S-400 missile defense system.

Non-contact infra – Modi plan

Modi acquired Rafale and HAMMER missiles from France, SCALP missiles from England, Heron Mk2 UAVs and technology for HaROP drones from Israel, S-400 missile interceptors from Russia, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, and AGM-114 Hellfire missiles

from the US.

The Modi government also secretly purchased various other technologies and equipment.

The two key acquisitions made against all odds and opposition were the Rafale fighter jets and the Russian S-400 missile defence system. Without the Rafale fighters, non-contact warfare under Operation Sindoor would have been unthinkable.

Without the Russian S-400s, India could not have thwarted the waves of Pakistani drones and missiles targeting Indian defence and air installations on May 7, 8, and 9.

Pakistani missiles were shot down like birds in the sky.

Modi defied the US, took on Rahul’s Congress

Modi faced heavy opposition for buying the two major defence assets – Rafale and S-400 – which ultimately made Operation Sindoor and its aftermath a spectacular success.

In what appeared to be a conspiracy against the nation, the Congress vigorously opposed the purchase of the Rafale jets and, alleging corruption, tried to stop it. Fortunately, the Supreme Court intervened, allowing the Rafale deal.

As the 2019 polls were approaching, Modi took the highest political risk to buy the Rafales, which today have saved India. Without Rafales, our defence forces would not have been able to fire autonomous drones and missiles to target and destroy terrorist camps 250 km away, without crossing the border — the very essence of non-contact warfare.

If Rahul Gandhi was bent upon stopping the Rafale, the US was hell-bent on stopping India from buying the S-400 from Russia. It had threatened to impose

technological sanctions on India if it went ahead with the S-400 deal.

But Modi did not buckle under the threat of his friend Trump and went ahead to buy the S-400s in 2018. It is the S-400s that stopped and destroyed hundreds of Pakistani missiles and drones fired into our territory after the tri-force attacked nine terror camps.

Had Modi buckled under Congress pressure before the elections and not gone ahead with buying Rafale fighter jets, and had he succumbed to Trump's threat and cancelled the order to buy S-400 anti-missile systems, India could never have thought of Operation Sindoor.

Modi's Atmanirbharta yielded Kamikaze drones

The story is not complete without complimenting Modi for his efforts to indigenise defence manufacturing under his ambitious Atmanirbhar Bharat agenda.

Modi did not stop at importing the best equipment. He also encouraged the development of technologies within the country.

Our country, which produced only 32% of our defence needs in 2014, now produces 88% of them.

A word about the Kamikaze drones: the Israeli technology was indigenised as Swadeshi Kamikaze drones and inducted into the defence forces in April last year, ahead of India's 78th Independence Day.

The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) manufactured the indigenous Kamikaze drone, marking a significant milestone in India's defence technology.

These "do-and-die" unmanned aerial vehicles, designed with home-built engines, can fly up to 1,000 km and loiter over target

areas for up to nine hours.

The Swadeshi Kamikaze drones made their debut in Operation Sindoor.

Geopolitical rise of Modi, India

Mere military preparation would not have enabled India to cross the borders and strike Pakistan. When Modi took over as Prime Minister, he faced a wave of negative perceptions spread venomously by his detractors in India, with active support from their liberal woke associates abroad. He vowed to confront this liberal world that virtually hated him.

Anyone facing such widespread adversity might have hired an expensive global PR agency to soften the blow. But Modi chose a different path — he decided to correct the false impressions about him through his own efforts, in the most unconventional way.

He undertook the most extensive travel by any leader anywhere in the world — visiting 73 countries in 10 years. He went to Israel, a country India had neglect-

ed for seven decades and which no previous Indian Prime Minister had visited. Today, Israel is one of India's closest allies.

He was the first PM to visit Australia after Indira Gandhi, and that country has now become a strong partner for India in dealing with the West.

As of May 2025, Modi has visited 41 countries once, 14 countries twice, eight countries thrice (including the UK and Saudi Arabia), Sri Lanka four times, three countries including China five times, Germany six times, Japan, Russia, and UAE seven times, France eight times, and the US ten times. These were not mere diplomatic picnics. Modi built powerful, personal relationships with leaders worldwide. His strenuous, personal outreach made him familiar with most nations, and endeared him to influential leaders and even distant countries.

Many world leaders became his admirers. For instance, former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Modi was the most popular person in Israel. US President Donald Trump called Modi "a fantastic person, magnificent and a total killer." Trump's predecessor Joe Biden said he "felt like taking Modi's autograph." Russian President Vladimir Putin called Modi "a wise man" and admired his toughness in defending India's national interests.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni described Modi as "the most loved leader in the world." Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called him "boss." The then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson wrote in his book Unleashed that Modi is a "change-maker," recalling a sense of "curious astral energy" during their first meeting.

Modi has been conferred the

Had Modi buckled under Congress pressure before the elections and not gone ahead with buying Rafale fighter jets, and had he succumbed to Trump's threat and cancelled the order to buy S-400 anti-missile systems, India could never have thought of Operation Sindoor.

highest civilian awards by 21 countries, including Muslim-majority nations like Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, and Kuwait, as well as the USA, France, Russia, and Greece. No other world leader has received such a broad range of honors.

Since 2019, Modi has been the most admired leader worldwide, quarter after quarter, according to the US Morning Consult survey, with an approval rating above 70%.

While Modi was straining every nerve to build India's global image through extensive foreign travels, the Congress party mocked him as a "non-resident Prime Minister." In contrast, Rahul Gandhi secretly traveled abroad 247 times in four years, often unknown even to his own party.

Modi's rise and India's rise were complementary. His visits and the global stature he earned brought technology, trade, investment, and military equipment that would have been difficult to secure without his unprecedented outreach.

His geopolitical ascent as a global leader enabled India to tower over Pakistan, which was dwarfed by Modi and India's growing influence. When the stealthy Balakot aerial strike was launched under Modi's watch, there was muted support and open opposition.

This time, with Operation Sindoor, Modi openly declared the mission and launched a brutal attack on Pakistan after crossing the border. Remarkably, no Muslim country except Turkey supported Pakistan. Even Qatar, which had previously aligned with Pakistan, backed India this time.

India could not have undertaken Operation Sindoor without this crucial global support.

India's rise from Fragile 5 to Super 4. Pak 10 steps bel

India's rise under Modi's leadership has dwarfed Pakistan and shifted the global ecosystem decisively in India's favor. When Modi assumed office, India was listed among the world's Fragile 5 economies. Today, it ranks among the top four fastest-growing economies, with a GDP of \$3.88 trillion in 2024. Pakistan, by contrast, lags far behind with a GDP of just \$0.37 trillion — nearly ten times smaller.

During Modi's tenure, India doubled its GDP, while Pakistan, mired in prolonged macroeconomic crisis, has struggled to keep pace. In 2024, India recorded an impressive 8.2% growth rate, three times Pakistan's 2.4%. Over the past decade, India's per capita GDP surged by 74%, whereas Pakistan's growth remained stagnant.

India's foreign exchange reserves stand at a robust \$676 billion, compared to Pakistan's mere \$9 billion. India is the world's fastest-growing major economy, while Pakistan has been at the IMF's doorstep over 20 times since 1980 seeking bailouts. The recent \$7 billion IMF rescue package for Pakistan is one of the largest in its history. Unfortunately, many such bailouts have been diverted to fund Pakistan's military, which remains closely linked to terrorist activities. These stark economic contrasts played a significant role in the global community's positive reception of India during Operation Sindoor.

Op Sindoor – the key takeaways

Operation Sindoor is a dramatic turn that transformed India into a rule-setter in the Indo-Pakistan interface. There are several key takeaways:

One, India avenged the Pahalgam carnage with massive missile strikes on nine terror camps, which Pakistan could neither block nor deny—unlike in the past when it was always in denial.

Two, Pakistan, which started the war after India's attack on terror, failed to penetrate the country's air defence system with its missiles.

Three, Indian forces destroyed Pakistan's air defence systems while attacking and damaging its air bases with impunity.

Four, when thoroughly beaten, Pakistan's nuclear threat was laughed away by India, forcing Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations to beg for a ceasefire.

Five, India openly declared that any future terror strike will be regarded as a declaration of war and will be met with pursuit of terror outfits inside Pakistan.

Six, Pakistan's military commanders attending funerals of globally wanted terrorists and paying homage has provided vital evidence of the link between its army and terror.

Seven, the Prime Minister told Pakistan and the world that 'terror and talk,' and 'trade and talk,' cannot go together.

Eight, he stated that any talk with Pakistan will be only about PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir).

Nine, he also declared that blood and water cannot flow together, clearly linking Indus water flow to Pakistan giving up terror.

Ten, Modi warned Pakistan that unless it gives up terror, it will be destroyed by terror.

And lastly, Modi said India will not tolerate nuclear blackmail, indicating that its no first use nuclear policy may be reviewed. □□

<https://gurumirchi.net/operation-sindoor-story-success-takeaways/>

International Media on Operation Sindoor-I



After demolishing the Pakistan's defence infrastructure and its major terrorist launch pads killing more than one hundred of the hard-core terrorists and about fifty army personnel, some buried into debris and not even retrieved, a sizeable international media is trying to salvage the credibility of China whose warfare failed in Pakistan and simultaneously demonising Bharat with several versions of its concoctions. The narratives are flattened on the labyrinth of sound, irrefutable facts and historical background.

The first part of this article mainly delves on the background.

Operation Sindoor stunned the world and it will continue to haunt Pakistan, China and the US for long time to come.

Beneath down, there are conspicuous symptoms of the US sweating, pursuing the mediation between Bharat and Pakistan, though in vain, preceded by the US President Trump's victorious claims of reproachment between the two countries agreeing on the ceasefire, even before it was flagged by Pak DGMO. Starkly, immediately after the ceasefire, the International Monetary Fund hastened to announce US \$ 1.4 billion aid to Pakistan followed by the loan of US \$ 40 billion by the World Bank to Pakistan ostensibly for public sector projects and private sector investments. The recent Operation Sindoor is known to harm the nuclear arms storage kept safely underground, though Pakistani and the international media is surreptitiously silent, the US worries emanate from their irretrievability.

The missiles of malicious media campaign against Bharat launched from Pakistan world over, though have been torn down by the seven all party delegations sent by Bharat to thirty-three countries with colossal diplomatic success whereas Pak delegations faced brow-beating in several countries over fastening of terrorism with Pakistan and its false narratives. The government had sent the multi-party delegations to portray a message of national unity in the fight against terrorism, with the likes of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi joining the ruling alliance members in championing the Indian cause abroad. The delegations apprised the Prime Minister of the overwhelming support extended by these friendly nations for India's resolute fight against terrorism and our unwavering commitment to global peace

As many as 123 countries supported Bharat on Operation Sindoor followed by massacre of twenty-six Hindu tourists after identifying their religion. In this backdrop, the agitations against illegal Muslims immigrants are being widely



Operation Sindoor stunned the world and it will continue to haunt Pakistan, China and the US for long time to come.

Vinod Johri

staged in several European countries and Japan for crimes perpetrated by these extremists on local populations.

The anti-Bharat international narratives place Pakistan as a victim and Bharat as an aggressor while the truth is just reverse as by virtue of Pahalgam carnage and forty years of terrorism perpetrated on Bharat killing thousands of our innocent citizens, Bharat is a victim and Pakistan is an aggressor.

For better understanding of the subject, we must recall the past, when Bharat was forced for partition by the Britain and dragged to the United Nations over plebiscite, the purpose was to balkanise our country. 'The history of Kashmir is a sad story', as one scholar, Vincent H. Smith, wrote, "Few regions in the world can have had worse luck than Kashmir in the matter of government (Danger in Kashmir, Pg.7, Josef Korbel)".

Intervention of the UN in Kashmir was inherently detrimental and harmful to the Indian interests. Since all the super powers and various other countries under the influence of Britain, the US were favouring Pakistan, the world press was also biased against India. The apparent reason was that they ignored the fundamental unity of India and merely favouring Pakistan on the basis of muslim majority in Kashmir)

Lord Mountbatten's pressure on Maharaja Hari Singh for accession to India was mischievously conspiratorial. If the Maharaja assented for admission to Pakistan, the ulterior motive of Mountbatten and Jinnah, would have been achieved. When the Maharaja agreed for accession to Bharat for sending army to Kashmir for pro-

tection from Pak army led and admittedly Britain's Major Brown's direct involvement in barbaric attacks in the façade of tribesmen, Mountbatten was ready for fastening conditions of plebiscite taking the Kashmir issue to the UNO. Both the options of accession to Pakistan or conditionally agreeing to accession to India with plebiscite, were detrimental to the interest of Kashmir as the British conspiracy to strangulate with division of Jammu and Kashmir through protracted proceedings in UNO, resulted in substantial part handed over to Pakistan on platter.

More disheartening were such opinions as those expressed by the then Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel who after the Commission had left the subcontinent, openly criticised the United Nations, declaring that the Kashmir conflict could be solved if India could be released from the embarrassment of the United Nations investigation, adding to his criticism that shocking comment that Security Council had become an insecurity council and a disturber of peace. (The Hindu Madras, January 2, 1952)

Once Bharat's the then Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru stated during the course of debates in the UN, 'Pakistan is a mediaeval state with an impossible theocratic concept. It should never have been created, and it would never have happened had the British not stood behind this foolish idea of Jinnah'. (Danger in Kashmir, Pg. 128 – Josef Korbel).

The United States and the United Kingdom had been particularly active in the discussion of this matter of Kashmir dispute, declared Jacob Malik (Representative

of USSR) in January 1952, and had stated: 'the United States and United Kingdom are continuing as before to interfere in the settlement of Kashmir question, putting forward one plan after another. All these plans are failing as they are of annexionist, imperial nature, because they are not based on an effort to achieve real settlement of the Kashmir question. The purpose of these plans is interference by the United States and United Kingdom in internal affairs of Kashmir, the prolongation of the dispute between India and Pakistan on the question of Kashmir and the conversion of Kashmir into a protectorate of the United States and the United Kingdom.

Finally, the purpose of these plans was to secure the introduction of Anglo-American troops into the territory of Kashmir and convert Kashmir into an Anglo-American colony and a military and strategic base. Jacob Malik accused the American and British governments of taking all steps to ensure that no opportunity should be given to the people of Kashmir themselves to decide their future without external pressure and without Anglo-American interference of depriving the people of Kashmir is of the right of self-determination. He branded the United Nation's representative Dr. Frank Graham, as an agent of Pentagon. Finally, he stated that the solution of the Kashmir problem can be achieved if that status of Kashmir is determined by a constituent assembly the critically elected by the Kashmiri people (S.C.O.R. Seventh Year, 570th meeting, January 17th, 1952, pp. 13-18).

[Continued on page no. 21]

Swadeshi for Self-Reliance, Economic Sovereignty, and National Security

‘Swadeshi’ is not merely a preference for indigenous products; it is a comprehensive and profound national philosophy that aims to achieve true self-reliance, cultural integrity, and economic sovereignty. As Dattopant Thengadi aptly described, “Swadeshi is the practical manifestation of patriotism.” It reflects a spirit of national determination to attain self-sufficiency, uphold sovereignty, and promote global cooperation based on equality and mutual respect.

Operation Sindoor exemplified Bharat’s strategic strength and technological prowess. By targeting terror camps and enemy infrastructure swiftly and precisely using indigenously developed drones and missile defence systems, the operation highlighted the nation’s ability to protect its sovereignty through Swadeshi technologies. This successful military initiative showcased not only the bravery of our armed forces but also the scientific excellence of our indigenous defence ecosystem. As stated by our Honourable Prime Minister, Operation Sindoor is not over—it continues, not just at the borders but now within our homes and markets through our economic decisions.



The call for Swadeshi is a call for strategic and economic awakening. Just as Operation Sindoor demonstrated the military might of Bharat, the economic battle must be won by its citizens. Swadeshi is no longer an ideological aspiration—it is a practical necessity.

**Dr. S.
Lingamurthy**

Swadeshi Beyond Borders: A Citizen’s Responsibility

The success of Operation Sindoor must now extend to the economic front. Just as soldiers protect the nation at the borders, citizens have the responsibility to protect the economy by adopting Swadeshi in their everyday lives. A truly self-reliant nation is one where its people manufacture, use, and invest in their own products, create employment for their own people, and reinvest capital within the country.

The use of foreign multinational (MNC) products drains national wealth and strengthens foreign economies. For instance, foreign FMCG giants such as Hindustan Unilever (UK/Netherlands), Nestlé India (Switzerland), Colgate Palmolive, PepsiCo, and Johnson & Johnson (USA) collectively earn over Rs. 1 lakh crore annually from the Bharatiya market. These profits are largely repatriated to their home countries, many of which, directly or indirectly, maintain strategic partner-



Table-1: Economic Size of Foreign MNCs in FMCG Sector in Bharat

Company Name	Country of Origin	Revenue in Bharat (INR Cr)
Hindustan Uniliver (HUL)	UK/Netherlands	60680
Nestle India	Switzerland	20100
Colgate Palmolive	USA	5757
PepsiCo India	USA	9096
Varun Beverages	USA	5000
Johnson & Johnson	USA	500

Source: Compiled by the author

Table-2: Bharatiya Market with Foreign Companies in Electronic Products in FY 2024-25

Sl No.	Company	Country of Origin	Turnover (INR)	Net Profit (INR)	Profit Margin (%)
1	Foxconn	Taiwan	1.7 Lakh Cr	10,000 Cr.	5.88
2	Samsung	South Korea	102,628 Cr	8,188 Cr.	7.98
3	Apple	United States	67,121 Cr	2,746 Cr.	4.09
5	Dell	United States	30,674 Cr	1,740 Cr.	5.67
6	Xiaomi	China	26,697 Cr	238 Cr.	0.89
8	LG	South Korea	21,557 Cr.	1,511 Cr.	7.01
9	Bosch	Germany	18,087 Cr	554 Cr.	3.06
12	Haier	China	11,500 Cr	6,350 Cr.	55.2
13	Panasoni	Japan	10,000 Cr	11 Cr.	3.06
16	Sony	Japan	7,663 Cr	167 Cr.	2.18
18	Abb Group	Sweden	3,160 Cr	474 Cr.	15
20	One Plus	China	150 Cr	2 Cr.	1.33

Source: Compiled by the author

Table-3: Bharatiya Market with Bharatiya Companies in Electronic Products in FY2024-25

Sl No.	Company	Turnover in INR	Net Profit in INR	Profit Margin (%)
1	Godrej	30,697 Cr.	183 Cr.	0.6
2	Havells	22,081 Cr.	517 Cr.	2.34
3	Micromax	15,000 Cr.	104 Cr.	0.69
4	Voltas	12,400 Cr.	834 Cr.	6.72
5	Bajaj Electricals	4,828 Cr.	133 Cr.	2.75
6	Blue Star	9,685 Cr.	194 Cr.	2.0
7	Tata Elxsi	3,729 Cr.	784 Cr.	21.0
8	Orient Electric	3,094 Cr.	75 Cr.	2.42

Source: Compiled by the author

ships with Pakistan—Bharat’s hostile neighbour.

Economic Dependence Equals Strategic Vulnerability

Foreign control over critical sectors like electronics and FMCG is not merely an economic concern; it is a strategic vulnerability. Data from FY 2024–25 shows that selected foreign electronics companies earned over Rs. 3.29 lakh crore

in revenue from Bharat, with profits exceeding Rs. 31,000 crore. In contrast, selected Bharatiya electronics firms collectively earned only Rs. 1.01 lakh crore in revenue and Rs. 2,824 crore in profits. Companies like Haier (China) reported profit margins as high as 55.2%, while Bharatiya brands like Godrej and Micromax operated on razor-thin margins below 1%.

Data from a representative sample of 11 major foreign electronics firms show a combined turnover of Rs. 3.29 lakh crore and a net profit of Rs. 31,029 crore. In contrast, eight Bharatiya companies together account for only Rs. 1.01 lakh crore in turnover and Rs. 2,824 crore in profits. This means foreign firms enjoy approximately 76.5% of the market revenue and a staggering 91.7% of the sector’s total profits.

The electronics sector is not just an economic domain—it is a foundation for national security, data sovereignty, and technological autonomy. Foreign control over hardware infrastructure opens Bharat to risks such as digital surveillance, backdoor access, and compromised supply chains.

Moreover, the dependency on imported semiconductors, routers, and communication hardware has a direct impact on Bharat’s strategic preparedness in an era of cyber warfare and AI dominance. This situation reflects a new kind of colonisation—technological and economic rather than military. As the data shows, Bharat is not just buying foreign products—it is funding foreign profits, importing dependency, and surrendering strategic control. Reclaiming our electronics market is not a question of protectionism, but of national survival and sovereignty. The path ahead must be guided by Swadeshi principles—not as isolationism, but as intelligent and culturally rooted self-reliance. The time has come to transform Bharat from a passive consumer of global tech to a proactive creator of indigenous innovation to the globe.

This dominance in foreign companies’ profit share means Bharatiya consumers are directly

funding foreign technological advancement and strategic capacity. The United States and China—both of whom have provided military and economic aid to Pakistan—benefit enormously from the Bharatiya market. Their companies' profits are used to develop defence technologies, support their own strategic agendas, and, in cases, indirectly empower Pakistan's military apparatus.

The Unseen Cost: Funding Our Own Enemy

By purchasing foreign products, Bharatiya consumers inadvertently contribute to a disturbing cycle in a way that the earned profits from Bharat go to U.S.A. and Chinese companies and these companies pay taxes and dividends to their home countries. A portion of these funds and profits from Bharatiya soil is used by the U.S. and China to support Pakistan strategically or militarily, in turn, Pakistan uses that support to target Bharat and Bharatiya civilians and soldiers. In essence, we are indirectly funding threats to our own national security by patronising foreign MNCs. This makes the use of Swadeshi products not just an economic choice, but a patriotic responsibility.

Swadeshi as a Strategic Doctrine

True economic independence can only be achieved when citizens consciously adopt Swadeshi practices. Choosing Bharatiya brands in electronics, clothing, food, and daily-use items. Supporting Bharatiya entrepreneurs and industries in building capacity and innovation. Shifting public procurement policies to favour domestic companies with high local content. This is not about isolationism. It is about restoring balance, rebuilding internal strength,

and ensuring that our consumption habits do not compromise our national interests. By using swadeshi, we can strengthen our domestic industry, exports, create employment opportunities to our young folks, we can empower our farmers and our mothers economically.

Conclusion

The call for Swadeshi is a call for strategic and economic awakening. Just as Operation Sindoor demonstrated the military might of Bharat, the economic battle must

be won by its citizens. Swadeshi is no longer an ideological aspiration—it is a practical necessity. In this mission, every Bharatiya consumer is a soldier. Every rupee spent on Bharatiya products is a bullet in favour of Bharat's sovereignty, security, and future.

Let us pledge to strengthen our nation not just with arms, but with economic wisdom. Let Swadeshi guide our wallets, our choices, and our vision for a strong and self-reliant Bharat. □□

[Continued from page no. 18]

International Media on Operation Sindoor...

When, the UNO failed in Bharat – Pakistan dispute, the US set up army bases in Pakistan to protect Pakistan against Bharat. For the US and China, Pakistan is their battlefield.

What we discuss on the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 in the present circumstances, was already known to Pakistan way back at the time of partition.

The waters of six rivers, the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej – with their elaborate systems of irrigation canals had been indispensable to the agriculture of the subcontinent. The partition brought the river Bias under the complete control of India. The Ravi and the Sutlej flow through both India and Pakistan, but their headwaters are in India. The Indus begins in Tibet and flows through Kashmir; the Jhelum and Chenab Headwaters are in Kashmir. A land of 35 million acres had been irrigated by 16 canals before the partition. Now the boundary lines cut

through both rivers and canals, but their waters would still irrigate 19 million acres of land in Pakistan. The occupation of these rivers and their dams, by Indian Army and the eventual diversion of their water through canals would have mint Pakistan's quick economic death (Danger in Kashmir, Pg. 137 – Josef Korbel). The problem of the canal waters, which flowed from India and Pakistan and irrigated vast fields in Pakistan, was a nightmare to Karachi Government. It raised vigorous complaints against government of India that it had several times deliberately shut off these waters and exposed the Pakistanis to danger of starvation (Danger in Kashmir, Pg. 163 – Josef Korbel).

In the second part of this article, we will discuss the deeper aspects of Operation Sindoor, which is the biggest ever win of Bharat, not just against Pakistan but the entire narrative of military power and political strength and indomitable will of Bharat has changed globally. □□

India may soon become the Third-Largest Economy in the World

In a bout of professional enthusiasm, the chief executive officer of NITI Aayog, the Union government's policy body for transforming India, announced that the Indian economy had overtaken Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, following the USA, China and Germany. He jumped the gun because, as NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani pointed out, this is likely to happen a few months down the road. With a nominal GDP of \$4.187 trillion, India is set to move ahead of Japan's GDP of \$4.186 trillion by the end of 2025.

However, as many have pointed out, the vast gap between Japan's per capita GDP of \$33,900 and India's per capita GDP of \$2,880 sets the two apart. India remains a low-middle-income economy, a developing economy with a modest per capita income but demographics that will sustain the growth process. Japan is a developed, if an ageing, industrial and trading power.

The sustained growth of the Indian economy over the past three decades, with its ups and downs, has, without doubt, slowly but surely increased the size of the economy. Way back in July 1991, the then finance minister of India, Manmohan Singh, told Parliament, prefacing his forecast with Victor Hugo's famous words that "no power on Earth can stop an idea whose time has come", that the emergence of India as a major economic power in the world happens to be one such idea.

It became an idea that gained international recognition a few years later when the British historian Angus Maddison published his masterly survey of the world economy pointing to the resurgence of China and India. Maddison's classic study of *The World Economy* (OECD, 20023) made the point that in 1700, China and India accounted for almost half the world income and that two centuries of colonialism, combined with the fact that the Industrial Revolution had occurred mainly in Europe, contributed to the decline of these ancient and large Asian economies.



For India, it's more important to focus on inclusive growth that makes its economy competitive.

Sanjaya Baru



The Maddison study kindled hope in Asia that China and India were on the way to recover their lost space in the global economy and that the 21st century would once again be an Asian century. Since China was by then rising at a faster pace, it overtook Japan in 2010. This event happened soon after the transatlantic financial crisis (usually referred to as the global financial crisis), of 2008-09. The crisis had helped China overtake Japan and Europe and reduce the gap with the USA. It created a global flutter and marked the turning point in China's global rise. It is instructive to recall that in 2010, China overtook Japan when Japan's GDP was still \$5.474 trillion.

China's emergence as the world's second-largest economy sent Japan into a funk. Japan had already lived through a decade of low growth and low expectations, and China overtaking it became a wake-up call. It would not be incorrect to speculate that the return of Shinzo Abe as prime minister of Japan in 2012 (his first term of 2006-07 was truncated by poor health) was partly on account of Japan's yearning for a strong and charismatic leader focused on economic revival.

Abe began his second tenure launching the "three arrows" programme that came to be known as "Abenomics" — of aggressive monetary easing, liberal fiscal policy and structural reforms aimed at enhancing productivity and growth. This gave Japan hope that, despite being pushed to third place by China, it could still remain a globally important economy.

The exit of Abe, followed by a string of lacklustre leadership and the challenges posed by the return

China's emergence as the world's second-largest economy sent Japan into a funk. Japan had already lived through a decade of low growth and low expectations, and China overtaking it became a wake-up call.

of President Donald Trump, have depressed Japan once again. To add to its woes, Germany recently overtook Japan, becoming the third-largest economy, pushing Japan to fourth place. Germany, too, has been slowing down, and so Japan and Germany could see themselves swapping places from time to time, depending on their relative performance. Also, recall that China overtook a still-growing Japan, India is overtaking a slowing Japan and a slowing Germany.

It is against this background that news has come from the International Monetary Fund that India is now poised to overtake Japan. It is interesting to note that while there was much hand-wringing and widespread concern in Japan when China overtook it, the news about India has not made any impact in Japan. There was, according to my friends in Japan, little news coverage and no expression of any concern. This could be on account of the fact that while China is viewed as a challenge in Japan, India is viewed as an opportunity.

Good diplomatic and economic relations have, in part, con-

tributed to a benign response in Japan to the news of India's rise. Equally, the fact that India in no way poses any challenge to Japan, either as an economic competitor or as a geopolitical rival, would also explain the subdued reporting of the IMF news. When China overtook Japan, the former was viewed as a significant competitor in the global market as well as a geopolitical rival. Export-dependent Japan viewed with concern the rise of China as a global trading power. India, on the other hand, is still not viewed as a competitor in the trading world, much less a geopolitical rival.

It is still possible that exchange rate changes, new challenges in global trade and seasonal performance of the three economies — India, Japan and Germany — may keep the rank race alive for some time. After all, the gap between the three is not much. If the Indian economy forges ahead over the next few years and crosses the \$5 trillion mark, it would place some distance between itself and Japan and Germany. If not, these rankings could keep changing.

What is, however, certain is that once India clearly establishes itself as the third-largest economy, it will remain in that place for a long time to come, given the distance it has to travel to catch up with China, whose nominal GDP is currently around \$18 trillion. With the US and China in a race for economic space and geopolitical influence, India's best bet would be to focus on its own economic performance and ensure that it is able to sustain an inclusive growth process that makes the economy more competitive and improves peoples' lives. □□

The writer is founder-trustee, Centre for Air Power Studies and distinguished fellow, United Service Institution of India
<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-third-largest-economy-world-more-to-it-10039219/>

ABC of the world - America, Bharat and China

The drivers of geopolitics are catching and chasing their respective objectives. The United States of America is positioned around the MAGA slogan, i.e., Make America Great Again; Bharat aspires to achieve a vision of policies that will bring it to the status of a “Vikshit Bharat” by 2047; China is busy bridging the gap to be recognized as the ultimate superpower. The tools employed by America are trade tariffs, Bharat is marching for self-reliance, and China is looking for ways to save its turf.

The Americans aspire to dollar dominance; Bharat looks ahead to becoming a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, and China projects itself as a \$ 42 trillion economy by 2050. In recent years, China has surpassed the Japanese economy, achieving this milestone in 2010. There is a difference of opinion that when China overtook Japan in 2010, then Japan was also rising, and when Bharat overtook Japan in 2025, Japan was on the decline. It implies that our opponents satisfy themselves with the understanding that it's Japan that is on the decline, and so there is nothing extraordinary for Bharat to celebrate. Such analyses are biased against us.

Comparing 2010 with 2025 is not justified. In 2010, both Japan and China were increasing economies, and in 2025, it is only India that is an increasing economy. Japan was aging rapidly in 2010, while China was relatively young at the time; today, China and Japan, along with the developed economies of the world, are struggling with the aging problem.

The demographic dividend that we have today and the dividend that we will have for the next few decades is an unmatched resource that we own. This resource is more valuable than the rare earth metals China currently owns, and China is leveraging it to negotiate trade deals, including with the United States.



China is a closed wall, and hence, everything, whether that be good or bad, is opaque. The people of the United States and Bharat have a considerable responsibility to navigate the uncertain world.

Alok Singh



The world is obsessed with compulsion and weaponization. This attitude of the leadership has a shelf life. It is reflected in the American's behavior on trade tariffs, i.e., on-off, extension, and exception, and let's see what next. It is the compulsion of the aging world to invest heavily in artificial intelligence, robotics, and automation that can replace the jobs typically expected of young people. We don't have any such compulsions. We have many hands to be engaged and many products to offer, thanks to human intelligence, both to ourselves and to the world. The mindset of our youngsters needs to be choreographed and that's our challenge.

We have a challenge to make our youth understand that we don't need a ten-minute delivery app, whether it's for food, groceries, or books. It's a trap that needs to be arrested. These delivery apps need a high-density population to survive and, hence, are mostly non-existent in developed countries. These apps are an attack on our soft power, i.e., the way we eat, dress, and use products, whether that be personal care or home care. These apps conspire to control our thoughts, our minds, our traditional culture, and our purchase behaviour, whether that be goods or services.

We must distinguish between a Swadeshi and a Videshi app, not only in terms of ownership but also in terms of the products they offer. The due diligence of the impact of such products, whether goods or services, on our thought process, cultural practices, and the local economy needs to be taken into consideration. Ourselves had never been an individual-driven nation; we are a humanity-driven nation. The philosophy of Pandit

We have a challenge to make our youth understand that we don't need a ten-minute delivery app, whether it's for food, groceries, or books. It's a trap that needs to be arrested.

Deendayal Upadhyaya Ji, integral humanism, should be the basis of our all-transactional behaviour, whether it involves buying or selling goods or services or utilizing hard power or soft power.

Our leadership believes in integral humanism, and hence, we have never weaponized our strengths in any negotiations. We offered free Covid 19 vaccines, we shared our unified payment interface (UPI) system with those willing to accept it, and the latest that we demonstrated to the world is in the infrastructure sector by constructing the world's highest arch bridge in the most challenging terrain, i.e., Chenab bridge and the Operation Sindoor changed the attitude of the whole world towards our defence self-reliance.

Today, we have achieved food security and defence security; energy security is a work in progress. The alarming propaganda surrounding artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics in the household, manufacturing, or on the battlefield is not for us.

It is not scary for us, as when-

ever the next bout of war is fought, if ever, it will be by human intelligence and human strengths, not by artificial intelligence, drones, or satellites.

We need to conduct due diligence on the world in terms of technology, economy, taxation, data, food, energy, education, and all other aspects. But we need to carve our path. We don't and shouldn't copycat anything, whether that be products, goods, services, or both hard and soft power. We have to nurture what we are.

Our ideal trade policy is zero tariffs if it's concerned with humanity. The COVID-19 vaccine proves this policy. Those who label us as a tariff king of international trade are innocent, ignorant, and transactional in their every conduct.

US President Trump's time to be a third term president, he aspires to be the wealthiest person on earth through the disruptive technology of crypto business, competes to be nominated for the Noble Peace Prize, and consistently violates integrity to capture all the resources of the world whether that be currency dominance or rare earth metals or energy. An individual's aspirations can't be camouflaged with MAGA.

The world eagerly awaits the midterm for the US president. America and India are the largest practicing democracies in the world. The current union government is functioning on a reduced majority in Bharat. China is a closed wall, and hence, everything, whether that be good or bad, is opaque. The people of the United States and Bharat have a considerable responsibility to navigate the uncertain world. □□

(Alok Singh has a doctorate in management from the Indian Institute of Management Indore and promoter of Transition Research Consultancy for Policy and Management.)

Cotton GM Industry must be Made Accountable for Successive Crop Failures

There are hardly any lessons learnt from the cotton debacle in the north-western regions, comprising Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. In Punjab alone, from a little over eight lakh hectares under cotton cultivation in the 1980s, the area under cotton had dropped to its lowest ever – 98,490 hectares sown in 2024. In the region as such, cotton area had collapsed by six lakh hectares the same year. Sliding below one lakh hectares of the overall six lakh was also Punjab's first.

This year, cotton area may show a slight increase – rising by 15 per cent in Punjab, for instance, but all together it shows that the farmers' confidence in 'white gold' as it was referred to in 1980s and 1990s, and even later, is now subsumed. Farmers disinterest is being blamed on recurring pest threats and market uncertainties. We will talk about market uncertainties in a future column, but let's try the un-derstand how pests' recurrence against the claims being made by the private seed industry has ended up doing the damage.

Only a few days back, Punjab's Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian was confronted near Mukarsar by a group of farmers owing alliance to Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union and Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan). Among the issues raised was a very pertinent question regarding the failure of cotton crop in 2021-22, be-cause of pest attack, and how long would it take for the state government to pay compensation, that is still pending.

This wasn't an isolated event where Punjab's Ministers have been asked to respond to queries about cotton crop failure. But it saddens me to add that instead of drawing any lesson from what led to the repeated failure of the crop, the state gov-ernment has already announced a subsidy support for the next generation of GM seeds – some call it Bt-3seeds.

Why the faith on GM seeds still continues to hold is because at no stage after the cotton crop was devastated by whitefly outbreak in 2015, the Punjab government found it appropriate to hold a public audit on how to handle recurring pest



The 'polluters pay' principle was deliberately pushed under the carpet.

Devinder Sharma



failures arising from the failure of GM seeds, and the possible mechanism to move towards a more reliable sustainable farming approach.

Punjab government goes by what scientists at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) advice but exceptional breakdown of genetic resistance in a crop species requires equally exceptional approaches to fix the reasons that led to the repeated pest devastations. Not realising that crisis management cannot limit itself to the analysis of the exceptional circumstances, and one must look beyond to address the crisis in a manner that it does not happen again; the scientific establishment has a lot to answer.

The collapse happened not in a year but over the period. Punjab was confronted by a severe outbreak of whitefly in 2015. It led to massive failure of the standing crop in 3.25-lakh hectares. If I remember correctly, policy makers unfortunately suggested more potent chemicals to control the outbreak. That's the best they could do. The SAD-BJP government at that time wasn't moved to a crisis situation where they could have looked for viable alternatives. On its part, they announced a compensation of Rs 8,000 per acre. Failure to fix accountability at the research and development stage meant that the companies, which pushed the GM seeds that led to the fiasco didn't have to bear the cost that the farmers had suffered.

The 'polluters pay' principle therefore was deliberately pushed under the carpet. The loss farmers incurred was borne instead by tax payers. Because no accountability was fixed, another pest attack a few years later struck a still severe blow to cotton farmers. This time it was the fail-

The tall scientific claims of the GM industry have failed time and again. This can-not be allowed to go unaccounted. Pesticides usage, for instance, has multiplied over the years against the claims that GM crops will eclipse the use and abuse of chemical pesticides.

ure of pink bollworm resistance that Bt cotton seeds came packed with. Despite the claim, and considering that the state government had sworn by it, there was no reason to let the private seed companies and also the agricultural scientific and the extension machinery which promoted these seeds, to get away without owning the responsibility.

In 2021, when pink bollworm struck, the Punjab government ended up promising another Rs 17,000 per acre relief package. And that is the question its Agriculture Minister was confronted with by agitated farmers the other day.

The strong GM lobby, however, continues to persist. Only a few days back, a media report expressed dismay at the dramatic collapse in cotton exports.

From a peak of \$4.3 billion and a continuing hike of \$3.7 billion in 2012-13, India has turned into a net exporter in 2023-24. This sharp decline in exports can be easily attributed to the failure in productivity that is clearly the outcome of the failure of GM seeds – Bt-1 and Bollgard-II, in this case.

Not even acknowledging it, the dominant media finds it equally persuasive by endorsing more of GM cotton seeds. With no significant technological improvements on the horizon, after that too after the GM cotton seeds had done the damage, the effort is still to call for more of the same, which means more GM crops, like Bt-3 in cotton.

I wish that these media seniors had read through an excellent research the paper co-authored by Dr Kranthi, a former director of the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) and an anthropologist from the Washington University, Glenn Stone, published in the scientific journal Nature, some years back. Just because advertisements help sustain the newspaper revenues does not mean that the realities can that easily be buried.

I am keenly looking forward to a renewed focus on cotton. But this time learn from the traditional farmers who have not only saved the traditional seeds but also the accompanying appropriate technology. Let our universities be engaged in perfecting the time tested technologies rather than falling prey to the next generation of GM crop varieties.

The tall scientific claims of the GM industry have failed time and again. This can-not be allowed to go unaccounted. Pesticides usage, for instance, has multiplied over the years against the claims that GM crops will eclipse the use and abuse of chemical pesticides.

Tens of thousands of farmers have paid the price, and many of them are still waiting for compensation for the crop losses suffered. □□

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture & hunger) <https://www.buzznews/opinion/cotton-gm-industry-must-be-made-accountable-for-successive-crop-failures-1363578>

Let India Choose India: The Missing Filter in Online Shopping

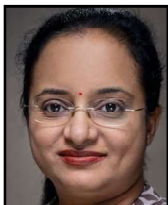


One citizen. One letter. One regulation that changed how India shops.

In early April 2020, I wrote to the Government of India with a request that was simple yet purposeful - make it mandatory for e-commerce platforms to display the *Country of Origin* for every product listed online. By August that same year, the regulation was in place. It was a proud moment - not just personally, but for the idea that a concerned citizen's voice could shape policy for the greater good. That one change empowered crores of Indians to make more conscious choices while shopping online. In doing

so, it affirmed a truth at the heart of democracy - that informed citizens, when given the tools, will always lean toward nation-building.

Today, I write again - with deep belief and renewed urgency - to propose the next logical step- introduce *Country of Origin* as a **filter** on all e-commerce platforms. Exceptions can be sites whose products are 100% Made in India.



It is time we make this small but powerful shift - not just for convenience, but for the future of Indian manufacturing. Let us act decisively - and let India choose India.
Savitha Rao

Why This Matters

A “Country of Origin” label tucked away in product details isn’t enough. Consumers should not have to click through individual listings to find out where a product is made. In a digital marketplace filled with choices and filters - from price and rating to delivery time and discounts - it is ironic that the one filter with the potential to support Indian jobs, factories, and MSMEs is missing.

Adding this filter is not just a matter of convenience. It is a matter of principle. India deserves the right to choose consciously - and easily.

What Sparked My Advocacy in 2020

During the early days of the pandemic, the importance of self-reliance and local manufacturing became starkly clear. Our dependence on foreign goods - especially when global supply chains faltered - was a wake-up call. I believed, and still do, that economic resilience begins at home. That every purchase is a silent vote for a country’s economy.

And so, as a citizen, I took the step of reaching out to the Government. The response was swift, thoughtful, and decisive.

In less than five months, a nation of over a billion people was empowered to see where their products came from. But even today, the task of *finding* that information remains far from easy when one is reviewing multiple options to select from.

A Daily Frustration for Millions

Let me share a simple example. A friend recently spent over 20 minutes on a leading online platform, filtering T-shirts based on size, color, price, and reviews. After narrowing it down to a few choices, she scrolled through the fine print—only to find that none of them were made in India. The process had to start all over again.

This isn't an isolated case. It is an everyday experience for millions of Indians trying to shop mindfully.

We already offer filters for express delivery, sleeve length, fabric, star ratings, and even EMI availability. Shouldn't Indian consumers have the *option* to filter by Country of Origin?

Why This Filter Matters

Adding a *Country of Origin* filter isn't just a product tweak. It's a strategic nudge for three important outcomes:

1. Empowered Consumers: It saves time, reduces frustration, and respects the intelligence and intent of Indian shoppers who want to make mindful choices.

2. Boost to Local Industry: When brands see rising demand for Indian-made products, they are more likely to manufacture and source from within India. It becomes an organic incentive - driven by market behavior, not enforcement.

3. Strengthened National Confidence: Choosing Made in India products is not about exclusion - it is about pride. Every time a citizen selects a locally manufactured item, it reinforces the belief that Indian products can compete in quality, price, and innovation.

Addressing Practical Concerns

Some may argue that imple-

menting a filter like this will require platform-level changes. That's true—and necessary. If platforms can create filters for “cash on delivery” or “fulfilled by seller,” they can certainly implement a Country of Origin filter with equal technical ease.

Platforms that exclusively sell 100% Indian-made products can be exempt from this regulation. But for major players that sell products made across the world, this filter is essential to ensuring consumer trust and transparency.

A National Trend We Can Lead

India is not alone in recognizing the importance of origin transparency. Across the world, countries have implemented labelling and trade awareness regulations to protect domestic economies and inform buyers. In fact, India has already taken a lead by mandating the display of country of origin - something many developed nations have yet to do in the digital retail space.

Now, we have the opportunity to lead again - by turning *awareness* into *accessibility*. This isn't about boycotts. This isn't about trade barriers. This is about informed choice.

A Call to Government & Industry

As someone who has seen the power of citizen-driven policy firsthand, I humbly urge the Ministry of Consumer Affairs to consider this suggestion seriously.

Mandating a *Country of Origin* filter on e-commerce platforms will be a small but transformative change. It requires no subsidies, no budgetary allocation, and no trade war. It only requires *intent* - to place the citizen's right to informed choice at the centre of our digital

economy.

To e-commerce companies - you have the platform, the data, the technology. Let this be your way of honoring the Indian consumer's intelligence. Support this move. Lead the change.

To policymakers - this is an opportunity to deepen the impact of the 2020 regulation. Let's evolve our policy in keeping with changing consumer behavior.

The Bigger Picture

At *India Positive Citizen*, we believe that a nation's progress is not defined by the grand gestures of a few, but the consistent small actions of many. Every tree planted, every child mentored, every Made in India product purchased contributes to a stronger, more resilient India.

Let us create an ecosystem where citizens can act with clarity and purpose. A Country of Origin filter is not just a tool - it is a statement. That India cares. That India chooses. That India leads.

The spirit of *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* is not built in boardrooms - it is built in homes, one purchase at a time. A Country of Origin filter gives every Indian shopper the opportunity to support local livelihoods, celebrate Indian enterprise, and strengthen our economic resilience.

As our policies evolve to reflect changing consumer behavior, this is a low-cost, high-impact step that places trust in the wisdom of the Indian consumer.

It is time we make this small but powerful shift - not just for convenience, but for the future of Indian manufacturing.

Let us act decisively - and let India choose India. □□

Savitha Rao: *Founder, India Positive Citizen*

What Washington-Beijing deal means for New Delhi

With the largest global buyer and seller having agreed to a 90-day import tariff cut on most products, starting yesterday, May 14, US reduces tariffs on Chinese goods from 145% to 30%, while China cuts tariffs on US goods from 125% to 10%. The tariff cuts will cover most items. Both sides have also agreed to keep talking, with US officials emphasising the aim is fair trade – not economic decoupling.

The deal triggered an expected market rally. Oil prices climbed, Treasury yields rose, the dollar strengthened while the yuan gained 0.5% against it. This begs a question. Once the market excitement fades, how will history record May 12, the day of the US-China trade deal? As the moment that US-China trade war began to ease, or as the moment the world quietly shifted from free trade to a new norm of 10% baseline tariff. The current average global tariff is just 2.6%.

For this, we must understand the role tariffs play in the expansion of trade.

World trade has grown much faster than the global economy – jumping from \$60bn in 1947 to \$25tn in 2023, a 400-fold increase, while global GDP rose only 26 times. This growth was primarily driven by countries lowering tariffs and opening markets, making cross-border trade easier and cheaper. Most of these tariff cuts were coordinated through global trade rule-making bodies like GATT, which operated from 1947 to 1994, and later by WTO, established in 1995.

Today, 75% of global trade is tariff-free. As we celebrate US cutting tariffs on Chinese goods from 145% to 30%, we forget that mere years ago, most US tariffs were under 3%.

Now that US has slashed tariffs on China, question is: what tariffs will US impose on its other trading partners? To grasp the full picture, let's rewind and relive the drama of the past four months – a whirlwind of tariff hikes, global protests, market panic, and back-room deals that brought us to this pivotal moment.

At the start of his second term in Jan 2025, Trump called the \$1.2tn global trade deficit – \$295bn with China – a national security threat and began raising tariffs. He started with a 20% tariff on Chinese goods, added a 34% “reciprocal” duty in April, and pushed most tariffs to over 145%, with some items like syringes taxed at 245%. China hit back with tariffs up to 125% on US products. While US spared some goods like pharmaceuticals and semiconductors, the trade war froze \$660bn in US-China trade and disrupted flow of goods across global supply chains.

China wasn't the only target of Trump's tariffs. On April 2, Trump announced additional tariffs on 57 countries – 26% on India, 20% on EU, and 46% on Vietnam – on top of existing US duties. But as markets fell after China and Japan sold US bonds, and local protests erupted on the streets, it forced Trump to delay the new tariffs for 90 days on April 9.



Trump's doing damage control after launching a trade war. He will push for the India deal to be more like the UK one. More one-sided. Lesson for New Delhi is to negotiate from strength, not desperation.

Ajay Srivastava

[Continued on page no. 32]

World Biodiversity Day Harmony With Nature – The Theme And Beyond

“Harmony with nature and sustainable development” is the theme for the World Biodiversity Day on May 22nd. This is an attempt to bring the world’s attention on the bridges between the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Goals and Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) as two universal agendas that must be pursued in tandem in the spirit of the recently adopted Pact for the future.

But apart from the UN Agenda, we must get deeper in the theme and ask the question: what does it mean to live in harmony with Nature? Being Indian, our mind naturally gravitates towards the age-old wisdom of our ancestors embodied in the “Vasudeva Kutumbhakam” which seeks to create harmony between all beings as they are part of our universal family and we view the Earth as our shared home. The planet is our Prithvi and great mother. So there is a big difference between the East and the West.

From wisdom and knowledge traditions from Africa, from the Amazons, Asia, etc all point to the similar reality, and respond to Nature with reverence. But the West and modern mechanistic industrial outlook sees Nature as separate from the individual and from humanity. In crueler times, the Industrial impulses started in England saw Nature as a mere substance for conquest or exploitation for private profits. This trend is still the undercurrent leading our dominant industrial culture. But with time the crisis of ecology cannot be brushed under the rug and the West is coming around to understand the deeper value of Nature. Nevertheless the root problem is left unaddressed.

We, at the critical juncture of changing climate, shrinking water and degrading soils, need to come to the global consensus soon that more needs to be done with Nature and not against her. One recalls the Jain perspective here, that all life feeds off other life through violence. The Jain believes that all beings, even the smallest pudgal (atom) to the mighty mountains, all are alive. And we all sustain ourselves because of violence on other beings. Hence, their world view is in deep harmony with a living Nature and all her beings. Their tenets of non-violence are pillared on this world view. To paraphrase, Jain’s doctrine advocates for individuals to have maximum non-violence and minimum violence towards this living Earth and all the creatures living in it.

From the West, Albert Camus in his book *The Rebel* also clearly says that we commit violence directly or indirectly against the beings simply to live everyday.

So let us start from acceptance, we as humanity in our current mechanistic industrial dominant culture has degraded nature to an exploitable lifeless entity. This is the worst human offence against Nature. We globally agree through our language and thoughts that nature and “growth” are two opposite ideas.

Far from being in acceptance and recognition that Humanity is a part of



*Once harmony
with Nature is
achieved, we don't
have to worry
about sustainable
growth, because it
will come
naturally.*

**Indra Shekhar
Singh**

Nature, we as a species are in a deep delusion. The dream to become masters of Nature is an unreal one. But the separation today humanity feels from Nature is a real one. Our sages no longer go to the forest to discover truths, in fact the forests have reduced to such a degree and animals are now forced to come into human settlements. So to begin, we must start to accept our indigenous roots all over the world and steer clear of the mechanistic mind of the industrial revolution.

Nature is the source of our lives and it is through the abundance she provides we all can live healthy lives. Hence the focus of the new development models should be learning and working with Nature. This will require a deep shift from the money economy to the real economy which doesn't only get money but also builds the home soils, conserves water, promotes agro-ecological agriculture, and builds human beings.

Our humanity is linked with our treatment of Nature. All the abuses that humans have committed against her, are being returned to us in the forms of disease, pandemics, changing climate and social evils. The destruction of our habitats for private profits, threatens the future of our grandchildren. Hence, we must as human beings of this planet, demand harmony with nature at the local government and national government, and within our dominant scientific-industrial thinking must be adopted.

We need to realign our trajectory towards nature and learn from her. What this means is not to grow rice in the desert or mine precious underground water for growing water guzzling crops in semi-arid areas. It means not to dump toxic

wastes and sewage in our rivers. It is also in the positive hence to be local, be seasonal, belong to your community and home culture.

Eat seasonally, purchase local and hand made, wear non-corporate or sustainable clothing, etc. One has to listen to the Nature around them and gauge what is the right thing to do. Because Nature is dynamic and also moving, we must learn how to adapt and be resilient. These are just small examples which

can take a long way. Once harmony with Nature is achieved, we don't have to worry about sustainable growth, because it will come naturally. All we have to focus is on ourselves and like Mahatma Gandhi said, "be the change you want to see in the world", and on this world biodiversity day, we must change some things to be more in harmony with Nature. □□

<https://www.ctrbharat.com/en/opinion/world-biodiversity-day-harmony-with-nature-the-theme-and-beyond-em-25052105017>

[Continued from page no. 30]

What Washington-Beijing deal means for New Delhi

Until July 8, a flat 10% tariff was now to apply on most imports from all countries – except China, which still faced tariffs of 145% or more. This way, US gave countries until July 8 to strike quick trade deals, promising to avoid steep, country-specific tariffs if they agreed to buy more American goods and lower their tariffs. Those that don't make a deal will face higher tariffs again.

UK, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and India are among nations that began talks to avoid these penalties. The first US deal came on May 8 with UK – a narrow, one-sided agreement focused mostly on tariff cuts and big purchases by UK, avoiding the need for US congressional approval. The US-China deal followed.

For India, the stakes are high. The Trump strategy – first raise tariffs then push for quick deals – is now aimed at India. Based on UK-US deal, India could face pressure to sign a 'mini deal', focused on tariff cuts and big-ticket purchases, not a complete

trade agreement. US will likely demand lower duties on farm goods, meat, and cars, along with significant oil, gas, and aircraft purchases.

India may be drawn to closer ties with US, but it must not settle for a one-sided deal. Just days ago, during the India-Pak conflict, Trump treated both countries as equals – without mentioning terrorism – even rewarding Pakistan with diplomatic backing and financial aid. For India, the message is clear: stay focused on national interest, not political optics. In any deal, India must protect its core sectors, insist on fairness, and negotiate from a position of strength, not desperation.

Coming back to the US-China deal, Trump launched a trade war – and now he's patching up the damage he caused. This isn't 'grand strategy'. It is damage control. The deal offers no real plan to cut America's trade deficit or revive its manufacturing base.

The writer is an expert on trade & tech issues.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/tai-dit-page/what-washington-beijing-deal-means-for-new-delhi>

One Earth and One Ecodharma



History repeatedly demonstrates that when nature strikes back, human ingenuity is not suffice to cope with the aftermath. There exists a profound moral responsibility, rooted in our dharma and karma, to safeguard the environment for the generations ahead.

**Dr R. Krishna
Chaitanya**

Mahatma Gandhi famously remarked, that “A nation’s greatness and its moral development can be assessed by how it treats its animals.” Jagadish Chandra Bose pointed out that “Everything in man has been foreshadowed in the plant.” These ideas highlight the deep relationship between humans and the natural world.

Throughout history, our cultural practices, traditions, and belief systems have been intertwined with nature, teaching us how to live in harmony with it. The animals (vahanas) associated to different deities in our faith, such as the bull (Shiva), lion (Durga), swan (Saraswati), mouse (Ganesha), and vulture (Shani), symbolize the equilibrium between the divine and the natural realm, encouraging respect for all living beings and advocating for animal welfare. Forests are viewed as the homes of deities and sages, while sacred groves (known as “saran” or “areas of spiritual significance”) are regarded as places of spiritual value. It is estimated that around one lakh sacred groves exist in India. It is rare to find a village lacking Peepal, Banyan, or Neem trees, which reflects a profound respect for the environment. Vrikshayurveda, the science of plant life, and Pashu Ayurveda, the text on veterinary medicine, which were written during ancient India around the 10th century AD, provide valuable knowledge on sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, and the management of natural resources.

Numerous inspiring stories illustrate communities’ efforts to protect both flora and fauna. The women of the Bishnoi community in Rajasthan are renowned for their custom of breastfeeding orphaned or injured fawns, treating them as sacred beings akin to their own children. The Chenchu & Baiga tribes regard tigers as companions and help boost their populations. The Soligas of the Biligiri Hills in Karnataka live alongside wildlife such as tigers and elephants within a wildlife sanctuary. The Idu Mishmis of Arunachal Pradesh collectively discourage wildlife hunting, considering it taboo and established various customary prohibitions around the practice.

In a remarkable act of environmental protection, over three hundred members of the Bishnoi community, led by Amrita Devi, sacrificed their lives to prevent the cutting down of sacred Khejri trees when soldiers sent by Maharaja Abhai Singh of Marwar targeted them for wood to build a new palace. The Chipko movement, which originated in the Himalayan region during the 1970s, was inspired by the Bishnoi community’s commitment to environmental protection. Villagers, particularly women, embraced trees to deter timber contractors from felling them. Gaura Devi, a woman from the village, became a symbol of resistance by rallying local women in Reni to confront loggers and physically cling to trees to save them from being cut. For centuries, sacred groves have played an essential role in the cultural identity and heritage of the Bhils, passed down through generations via stories, songs, and rituals. This tribe, located in the western and central Deccan

region, typically avoids cutting trees or exploiting resources within these sacred groves, honoring the plants and animals that reside there. Healers, such as Bheem Singh, have carefully documented the medicinal plants found in the groves, showcasing their potential in herbal medicine. Some tribal groups, including the Mikirs (now known as Karbis) and Garos, associate tree marriages with their beliefs in reincarnation and the karmic cycle. This practice symbolizes a union that reflects the belief in the rebirth of souls into various forms, including trees. Several indigenous tribes, such as the Dongria Kondhs of Orissa, are recognized for safeguarding and preserving native seed varieties, acting as custodians of many heirloom seeds, including diverse types of millets, rice, and other crops.

The Parsi community residing in India follows the practice of exposing the bodies of the deceased to vultures atop a structure known as the “Tower of Silence” (Dakhma). This tradition originates from their belief in keeping the natural elements (sky, earth, water, fire) pure and unpolluted. A body is placed on the tower to be eaten by vultures and other predatory birds, with the leftover bones later collected and buried. The Jain community engages in *jīvadayā*, which is the expression of compassion towards living beings (*jīva*), providing animals with food, water, shelter, and medical assistance when they might otherwise suffer deprivation. This community is highly dedicated to the conservation of animals, a fundamental principle driven by their belief in the sanctity of all life and the significance of non-violence (*Ahimsa*). They adhere to a vegetarian lifestyle and strive not to harm



animals, even the tiniest, by employing practices like using brooms to clear their path and wearing masks to prevent inhaling insects. In Jainism, a *panjrapole* refers to a facility where elderly, sick, or needy animals are cared for and permitted to live out their lives naturally. The oldest documented evidence of animal sanctuaries in India dates back to the reign of Ashoka (circa 269-232 BC). Gujarat alone has approximately 284 *panjrapoles*.

Numerous individuals in India are making commendable efforts to safeguard biodiversity through various initiatives, such as private conservation projects and awareness campaigns. People like Pamela and Anil Malhotra in Kerala have converted degraded land into a flourishing 300-acre wildlife sanctuary, demonstrating the effect of private funding on biodiversity conservation. “The Elephant Whisperers,” an award-winning short documentary, tells a mostly true and touching story about Bomman and Bellie, a couple dedicated to caring for orphaned baby elephants Raghu and Ammu. The film highlights the bond between humans and elephants as well as the challenges en-

countered in elephant conservation. Vivek Menon, a co-founder of the Wildlife Trust of India, has been a tireless advocate working to secure crucial elephant corridors across the nation. By connecting habitats across 11 states, Menon’s efforts enable safe passage for elephants, thereby reducing human-wildlife conflicts. Shatrunjay Pratap Singh transitioned from a career in wine-making to one focused on the conservation of Jawai’s leopards. Singh has worked to safeguard their habitat from harmful mining activities and has developed sustainable tourism to support conservation endeavors. For almost twenty years, Manoj Gogoi has served as a vital resource for Kaziranga’s wildlife, particularly during the yearly devastating floods. He has rescued more than 6,000 animals, including pregnant deer, wild boars, and leopards. Raimati Ghiuria, a farmer from the tribal community in Koraput district of Odisha, is commonly known as the “Queen of Millets” and is a pioneer in the preservation of indigenous seeds. She has maintained 30 different types of millets and 72 traditional varieties of paddy. Additionally, she has taught nu-

merous women how to cultivate these unique millets. Aaluramada Thimmakka, a well-known as both an environmentalist and social worker, gained recognition for planting and nurturing over 8,000 trees, including 384 banyan trees along a 4-kilometer stretch of road. Her commitment to afforestation and her efforts to encourage a greener environment have earned her the title “Mother of Trees.” Tulsī Gowda was an Indian environmentalist and the recipient of the Padma Shri award in 2021. She was known as the “Encyclopedia of the Forest” and the “Tree Goddess” for her deep knowledge and dedication to environmental conservation, particularly through afforestation efforts. She is credited with planting over 30,000 saplings over six decades.

The Government of India has made remarkable progress in conserving species, reinforcing the country’s position as a global leader in wildlife preservation. The flagship Project Tiger program was launched in 1973 with the aim of protecting the endangered tiger, resulting in extraordinary success. Currently, India hosts more than 70 percent of the world’s wild tiger population, totaling 3,167 tigers. In 1992, the Indian government initiated Project Elephant with the objectives of safeguarding elephants, their habitats and migration paths, mitigating human-animal conflicts, and ensuring the welfare of elephants in captivity. Today, India is home to over 60 percent of the wild Asian elephant population, with a census in 2017 recording their numbers at 29,964. According to WWF, the resurgence of the greater one-horned rhino is recognized as one of the most significant con-

servation achievements in Asia. Kaziranga National Park has been instrumental in this recovery. In 2019, the Special Rhino Protection Force was established to combat poaching in Kaziranga National Park. The 2022 census indicated an increase to 2,613 rhinos in the park, and Assam reported zero poaching incidents that year. The Asiatic lion in Gujarat, once on the brink of extinction, is now thriving. A recent census reveals that there are 891 lions in western India, marking a 32% increase from the 674 counted in 2020—an achievement that conservationists consider one of the most successful recoveries of a big cat worldwide. Project Cheetah, aimed at reintroducing African cheetahs into the wild in India, is yielding positive initial results, with a 60% survival rate among the cheetahs relocated from South Africa and Namibia, meeting a key short-term success benchmark. In Bihar, the Ganges River dolphin is showing signs of recovery, with over 70 dolphins sighted this year, reflecting improved water quality and successful conservation efforts. This revival is a hopeful indicator of the Gangetic River Dolphin’s resilience and the effectiveness of projects like Project Dolphin. The Balipara Foundation’s conservation initiative in Assam’s Elephant Country has garnered widespread recognition for its success, showcasing how nature-focused solutions can enhance both biodiversity and support local communities. It has restored 5,500 hectares of forest, planted more than 6.45 million trees, and empowered over 36,000 individuals.

The Western understanding of environmentalism emphasizes protectionist conservationism, which depends on activism, technological

solutions, and top-down methods to address environmental challenges. This perspective views the environment from an anthropocentric standpoint, treating it as a resource to be managed primarily for human interests. The impact on the environment is evaluated through an evidence-based approach that often leads to policy changes. There is unnecessary micromanagement and a reductionist approach to identify the root causes when the harmful effects are clearly observable at the macro level. Conversely, Indian environmentalism stresses utilitarian conservationism, linking it closely to livelihoods and survival needs. This approach also merges individual actions with collective efforts to create systemic change, favoring a bottom-up and holistic approach. The environmental movement in India is diverse, promoting sustainable and equitable solutions that draw heavily on personal experiences and generational traditions, led by grassroots initiatives and marginalized groups.

Over the last few centuries, colonialism, foreign cultural imposition, western education, hunting & poaching practices, and habitat destruction coupled with an economic development model focused on growth have triggered severe environmental repercussions. The drive for control over nature leads to its overuse and degradation. History repeatedly demonstrates that when nature strikes back, human ingenuity is not suffice to cope with the aftermath. There exists a profound moral responsibility, rooted in our dharma and karma, to safeguard the environment for the generations ahead. □□

Dr R. Krishna Chaitanya: Associate Professor, Department of Life Science, Central University of Karnataka.

SJM condemns Turkey's military support to Pakistan, calls for economic sanctions and travel boycott



The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) strongly condemned Turkey's growing military alliance with Pakistan and called for immediate economic sanctions, suspension of flights and a nationwide boycott of tourism and Turkish goods, according to an official release by SJM.

The Manch said that despite being a NATO member and a purportedly secular republic, Turkey has aligned itself with radical Islamist regimes and military establishments hostile to India's sovereignty. Over recent years, Turkey's strategic defence partnership with Pakistan has intensified alarmingly. It now supplies Pakistan's armed forces with significant military hardware, technical platforms, and training, the release further mentioned.

Turkey has emerged as the second-largest arms supplier to Pakistan after China. It has played a pivotal role in modernising Pakistan's navy and enhancing its aerial warfare capabilities. Among the most troubling developments is the USD 1.5 billion deal under which Turkey provided Pakistan with MILGEM-class warships, boosting Pakistan's naval strike capacity, the release further mentioned.

Turkish firm Baykar has also delivered Bayraktar TB2 and Akinci armed drones. Turkey's STM is upgrading Pakistan's Agosta 90B submarines under a USD 350 million contract, and defence electronics giant HAVELSAN has helped establish an electronic warfare test range in Pakistan. Furthermore, a USD 1.5 billion deal was signed for 30 T129 ATAK helicopters, though delivery has been delayed due to third-party approvals.

The SJM denounced this alliance, stating it di-

rectly endangers India's national security. This defence cooperation is not merely transactional—it is ideological and destabilises South Asia, emboldening Pakistan's military adventurism.

According to the manch, "Turkey seems to have forgotten India's timely humanitarian aid during its times of crisis. In February 2023, following a devastating earthquake, India was among the first to launch "Operation Dost," sending over 100 tons of relief materials, NDRF teams, military medical units, field hospitals, and essential supplies. India stood by Turkey not just as a trade partner but as a responsible global power upholding the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. At multilateral forums like the G20 and UN, India consistently supported inclusive engagement with Turkey, including discussions on energy security and counter-terrorism."

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch urged the Indian government to take the following actions:

Impose Economic Sanctions: Restrict non-essential imports from Turkey and impose high tariffs on key Turkish products like marble, chemicals, and machinery.

Suspend Civil Aviation Links: Temporarily halt direct flights to Turkey and revoke aviation code-share privileges until Turkey halts military supplies to Pakistan.

Discourage Outbound Tourism: Issue an advisory against travel to Turkey; withdraw cooperation in tourism promotion.

Reassess Diplomatic Ties: Reduce diplomatic and cultural engagements with Turkey and review all bilateral agreements.

Promote Domestic Alternatives: Encourage Indian businesses and consumers to opt for Indian alternatives to Turkish goods and promote domestic destinations in place of Istanbul, Antalya, and Cappadocia.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch reiterated that the people of India should boycott nations aiding Pakistan in enhancing its offensive capabilities. Our trade, investment, and diplomacy must be guided by the principle of "Nation First."

SJM appealed to patriotic Indian citizens to boycott Turkish products, travel, and cultural exports as a symbol of solidarity with our soldiers and national interest. Let us choose self-reliance over strategic dependency on countries that empower our adversaries.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/swadeshi-jagran-manch-condemns-turkeys-military-support-to-pakistan-calls-for-economic-sanctions-and-travel-boycott20250514114909/>

SJM will launch campaign to boycott foreign goods



The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) will soon launch a nationwide campaign to encourage people to use indigenous products and boycott foreign goods.

The decision has been taken to revive the 'Swadeshi, Suraksha aur Swavalamban Abhiyan' and make it a "mass movement" again in the country following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent clarification call, SJM said.

"Addressing a public meeting recently in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), the prime minister said, 'we will have to make traders take a pledge in every village that they will not sell foreign goods no matter how much profit they make'," SJM said.

The SJM welcomes the prime minister's clarification call for Swadeshi and appeals to all the institutions, organisations and individuals in the country to support the prime minister's call, SJM said.

"The SJM will soon recall the 'Swadeshi, Suraksha aur Swavalamban Abhiyan', the aim of which is to encourage all countrymen including businessmen, industrialists and technocrats with special emphasis on youth and women, to boycott foreign goods and adopt indigenous products for self-reliance and protect the country from foreign invasion," SJM said.

The SJM was already planning to take a "big initiative" in this regard and make it a mass movement to encourage people to use indigenous products instead of foreign goods, SJM added.

SJM said it is true that despite the "patriotic people" boycotting Chinese and other foreign goods, imports from China have increased over the last few years.

"This is because Chinese goods are also sold in India in a disguised manner, sometimes by removing the Chinese label in the markets and putting the Made in India label, sometimes by e-commerce companies and foreign brands in violation of the rules of origin and sometimes by importing from China as intermediate goods," he said.

Amid the prevailing situation, the prime minister's call for Swadeshi is a "meaningful and practical step", SJM said, expressing confidence that "patriotic traders" will play a crucial role in stopping the "flood of foreign goods" in India.

"For some critical materials being imported from China at the moment for being a part of a global supply chain, the Make in India scheme, especially with the involvement of MSMEs (micro, small, medium enterprises), will put an end to those imports in the near future," SJM added.

<https://theprint.in/india/swadeshi-jagran-manch-will-launch-campaign-to-boycott-foreign-goods/2642229/>

SJM Jamshedpur holds 18th District Conference, emphasizes swadeshi, security & self-reliance



The 18th district conference of Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), Jamshedpur Mahanagar, was held at Chamber Bhawan, Bistupur, drawing over 300 delegates from across the city. The event focused on reinforcing the principles of Swadeshi, promoting economic self-reliance, and addressing pressing social and environmental issues.

The chief guest for the conference was Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal, a renowned economist, All India Co-Convener of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, and Director of the Swadeshi Research Institute. Also present were Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy, All India Sangharsh Vahini Pramukh Annada Shankar Panigrahi, and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Jamshedpur division Convener Inder Agarwal. The event was inaugurated by District Coordinator Rajpati Devi, with the welcome address by Mukesh Thakur, subject introduction by Amit Mishra, and vote of thanks by Program Convener Vikas Jaiswal.

The one-day event was divided into four sessions covering India's current economic challenges, the

role of Swadeshi in nation-building, sustainable development, environmental concerns, and the path to self-reliance.

Dr. Agarwal, in his keynote address, emphasized that Swadeshi was the foundation of a strong and prosperous India. Citing government data, he pointed out that despite being the fifth-largest economy globally, India ranked 142nd in per capita income and earned only 3.5% of the global income despite housing 18.5% of the world's population. He proposed two key actions to bridge this gap - promoting Indian alternatives to imported goods and integrating research and innovation within education and industry. He highlighted the U.S. earning \$7.7 trillion from intellectual property, attributing it to a robust focus on research, skill development, and education - areas India should now invest in strategically.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Annada Shankar Panigrahi said that Swadeshi was not just about self-reliance, but also about national security. He urged participants to boycott foreign products, especially from countries like China, Turkey, and the U.S., and prioritize Indian-made goods in households, businesses, and social practices to foster quality employment through entrepreneurship.

MLA Saryu Rai underscored the continued relevance of the Swadeshi movement, stating that the global economic environment still posed challenges to developing nations. He praised the Swadeshi Jagran Manch for upholding Gandhian economic ideals and advocated for a renewed national spirit to make India a leading global economy.

RSS' Jamshedpur division chief Inder Agarwal connected the Swadeshi mission with the centenary vision of the RSS, promoting five key vows with a focus on Swadeshi practices. He urged the audience to embed the use of local products in daily life and instill the same values in the next generation.

In the second session, Manoj Kumar Singh, Eastern India Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, spoke on sustainable development, while Jatashankar Pandey addressed the need for economic self-reliance. Dr. Anil Rai raised pressing urban concerns including drug addiction, chain-snatching, garbage mismanagement, and medical waste disposal. He proposed policies such as a mandatory 33% green area and rainwater harvesting in every residential society, which received wide support.

The third session was focused on organizational development. All India Co-Environment Chief Bande Shankar Singh elaborated on upcoming national campaigns and organizational duties. The event concluded with an oath-taking ceremony where all attendees pledged their commitment to Swadeshi, security, and self-reliance.

Several key organizational appointments were announced and they included District Co-Convener: Vikas Jaiswal, District Ideology Department Head: Ashok Kumar, District Co-Ideology Department Head: Manoj Sakuja, District Contact Head: Jaiprakash Singh, District Publicity Head: SangeetaSrivastava and District Office Head: HaridasNayak.

The conference concluded with renewed resolve to strengthen the Swadeshi movement across Jamshedpur and contribute to India's journey toward becoming a global economic powerhouse.

<https://arenenmail.in/swadeshi-jagran-manch-jamshedpur-bolds-18th-district-conference-emphasizes-swadeshi-security-and-self-reliance/>

Protest against Pro-Pak nation's product in Sikkim



Swadeshi Jagaran Manch Uttar Bengal Prant staged a protest against Turkish, Azerbaijani, Chinese, and Bangladeshi products at the Namchi Smart City Office in Sikkim.

It's worth mentioning that China, Turkey, and Bangladesh earn in dollars from the Indian market at the same time that China and Turkey tried to harm India by supplying their substandard weapons to Pakistan.

SJM Prant Sanyojak, along with Vibhag Mahila Pramukh Tila Rai, said Bangladesh was given life by India, and their products were given priority by India, but the current Bangladeshi regime has been trying to harm India's interests by cosying up with China.

All Indian brothers and sisters should be vigilant against such enemies and should boycott all their products and services, the release mentions. □□

Swadeshi Activities

Vichar Vargas of States

Pictorial Glimpses



Malva



Jamu



Saurashtra



Jaipur



Mahakaushal



Swadeshi Activities **Protest Against Foreign Products & Services**

Pictorial Glimpses

