

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

May 2025



India Emerging as a strong force
in **Defence exports** after

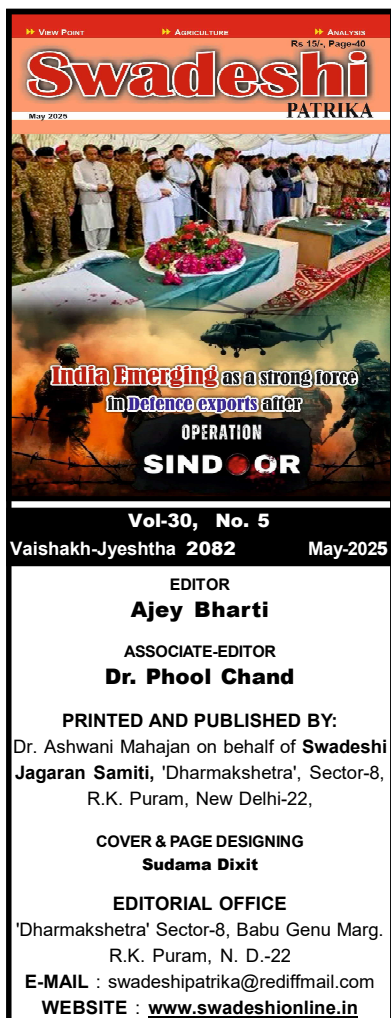
OPERATION

SINDOR

Swadeshi Activities **International Seminar**
Vision 2047: Prosperous and Great Bharat
24-26 April, 2025, Pusa, New Delhi

Pictorial Glimpses





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Separating Fact from Fiction in India-Pakistan Tensions

Recent weeks have seen a sharp escalation in tensions between India and Pakistan. Following a deadly attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, India launched "Operation Sindoor" against alleged militant camps in Pakistan. Pakistan denied any involvement and accused India of targeting civilians, a claim India strongly refuted. As military action intensified, so did a parallel conflict: the spread of negative and false narratives.

Social media and some news outlets have become battlegrounds for misinformation. Both sides have circulated exaggerated or fabricated claims—such as the destruction of India's S-400 air defense system or the downing of multiple jets. Old and unrelated videos are often repurposed to mislead the public and stoke emotions.

To combat this, Indian government agencies and fact-checkers have issued advisories urging citizens to trust only official sources and avoid sharing unverified information. Analysts warn that unchecked fake news can inflame public sentiment, disrupt diplomatic efforts, and risk further escalation.

The media and the public share responsibility in this information war. Journalists are urged to verify claims rigorously, while citizens should think critically before sharing sensational content.

In times of crisis, the battle for truth is as important as any military engagement. By prioritizing accurate, verified information and resisting propaganda, both nations can help prevent misunderstandings and work towards a more stable and peaceful relationship.

— Vijet Kumar, *Delhi*

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Quote-Unquote



Every moment of Operation Sindoor is a testimony to the capability of the Indian Armed Forces. During this time, the co-ordination of our armed forces was really great. Be it the Army, Navy or the Air Force - their co-ordination was amazing.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



In the coming times, there is a need for ensuring food security, increasing nutritious production, and providing food for both India and the world, while making India the food basket of the world.

Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan, Agriculture Minister



India is now collaborating as an equal partner with some of the leading space-faring nations. This is a testimony of our scientific capability, visionary leadership, and commitment to peaceful space cooperation.

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

Tax on Remittances From the US: A Retrograde Step

Recently, the newly elected US President Donald Trump announced a 5 per cent levy on remittances sent by foreign nationals, including green card holders. Though it was later revised to 3.5 per cent, the plan has generated widespread concern, especially among Indian immigrants living in the US, who form a significant part of the foreign national workforce. According to data published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India received \$32 billion in remittances from the US in the financial year 2023-24 out of a total of \$129 billion. Even if the remittance level remains the same in the coming years, the proposed tax will effectively result in a reduction of over a billion dollars in remittances to Indian households and the Indian economy.

The Trump administration's stated aim is to collect more revenue for the US government and prevent money from flowing out to foreign countries. However, this approach is short-sighted and potentially harmful to US itself. First of all, remittances by migrants are not business profit transfers; they are personal transfers. When these funds are already taxed in the United States through federal and state governments, imposing a second layer of taxation on these transfers is both unjust and economically regressive. Moreover, such a tax is unprecedented. Globally, there are virtually no examples of governments taxing money sent abroad by legitimate foreign workers. Canada, the UK, Australia and the Gulf countries impose no such taxes. It is true that the move could discourage remittances from the United States to India, which would not only hurt millions of Indian families who depend on these funds, but could also negatively impact India's foreign exchange reserves. But on the other hand, a tax on remittances would also send a negative message to skilled immigrants - particularly those from India - who play a vital role in the United States economy.

Indians form one of the most successful and productive immigrant communities in the US. According to a joint report by Indiaspora and Boston Consulting Group (BCG), people of Indian origin, despite accounting for only 1.5% of the US population, contribute 5 to 6 per cent of total income taxes - an estimated \$250-300 billion annually. This reflects not only the high incomes of Indians, but also a strong work ethic, educational excellence and entrepreneurial spirit. One can easily understand that the aid given by the US government to poor American families is partly financed by the additional revenue earned from people of Indian origin.

The US has historically benefited from welcoming immigrants, particularly skilled professionals from countries like India. The tech boom in Silicon Valley was driven by immigrants' innovations. Companies like Google, Microsoft and Adobe have been led by Indian-origin CEOs-Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella and Shantanu Narayen, respectively. Their leadership has not only transformed their companies, but has also contributed significantly to the US economy. Furthermore, foreign nationals often bring specialized skills and knowledge that complement the domestic workforce. Indian professionals, especially in sectors like technology, healthcare and finance, fill critical skills gaps and help maintain the US' competitive edge in global markets. While the number of US citizens working in India is relatively small compared to Indians working in the US, the principle could be applied to other financial flows. For example, India could choose to tax outward remittances by US companies. US companies operating in India often send large sums of money back to the US in the form of royalties, licence fees or payments for technical services. These could be taxed more stringently, which could also deal with the methods often adopted by these companies to avoid taxes.

The government could also tax foreign institutional investors (FIIs). A large number of FIIs based in the US, invest in the Indian stock markets. While they do contribute to liquidity in the market, their speculative activities also lead to significant volatility. India could levy a small tax on their repatriated profits - effectively a version of the Tobin tax, named after economist James Tobin. Tobin had suggested a tax on currency conversion to discourage short-term capital inflows. The Tobin tax could serve two purposes: raising revenue and discouraging speculative dollar outflows. A small transaction tax could be imposed each time rupees are converted into dollars for remittance to the US. President Trump should understand that in a globalised world, cooperation and mutual respect, yield better results than protectionism and fiscal overreach. President Trump's administration should reconsider this proposal, given the long-term implications beyond the immediate benefits.

India to Emerge as a Formidable Force in Defence Exports Post Operation Sindoor



Not only was the Indian Army able to successfully strike targets with its homegrown weaponry, but India's defence systems also neutralized all Pakistani attempts to inflict damage—demonstrating, beyond doubt, the superiority of Indian-made defence equipment.
Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

After just four days of war, which India waged against Pakistan's terrorist activities, a ceasefire may have spared the terrorist nation from further losses, but Pakistan has already suffered significant damage in this short period. Over the course of these four days of conflict, India has clearly demonstrated its defence capabilities—particularly its indigenously developed defence equipment—which is comparable to, and in some cases even superior to, the best in their respective categories globally.

India's defence exports surged from Rs 686 crore in 2013–14 to Rs 21,083 crore in 2023–24, and further to Rs 23,622 crore in 2024–25. The country this year, aims to export defence equipment worth ₹35,000 crore to the rest of the world. India currently exports to over 85 countries, including Italy, the Maldives, Russia, Sri Lanka, the UAE, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Egypt, Israel, Spain, and Chile.

Key defence equipment exported by India includes the Akash Surface-to-Air Missile System, which has been exported to countries like Armenia and showcased in Sudan; BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missiles, currently being exported to the Philippines, with other Southeast Asian nations also expressing interest (deals are in progress); Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launchers, exported to Armenia; 155mm Artillery Guns, also exported to Armenia, underscoring India's strength in advanced artillery systems; and the Dornier-228 aircraft, exported to various countries for transport and surveillance roles.

Although these defence items were already in demand from various countries, the scenario has shifted further in India's favour after Operation Sindoor. India is now better positioned to export even more defence equipment. The operation not only enhanced India's military credibility but also served as a live demonstration of the reliability and effectiveness of its indigenously developed defence systems.

How was the performance?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the authenticity of India's Made in India weapons has been proven during Operation Sindoor. He said, "Today, the world is witnessing that the time has come for Made in India defence equipment to play a key role in 21st-century warfare." India has brilliantly demonstrated its capabilities and proven its superiority in modern warfare. This operation provided India with a rare opportunity to showcase its indigenous weapons and defence systems in action. In fact, one could say that India's current engagement on the battlefield has also served as a strategic promotion—demonstrating the performance of Indian-made weapons not just in controlled test conditions, but in a real war-like scenario against a country supported by major military powers such as China and Turkey.

Akash Missile System

The Economic Times reports that amid rising India-Pakistan tensions, the Akash missile system has passed its 'Agni Pariksha' (trial by fire). Notably, the Akash missile defence system is an indigenously developed platform that demonstrated its effectiveness during the recent India-Pakistan conflict. Developed over 15 years with significant investment, the Akash system successfully intercepted incoming drones and missiles, proving its battlefield strength and enhancing India's defence capabilities.

Armenia became the first country to place an order for 15 Akash missile systems worth ₹6,000 crore, with the first batch delivered last year. However, it was during the recent conflict that the Akash system captured significant national and international attention.

This missile system was developed under the visionary leadership of Former President of India, Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, popularly known as India's "Missile Man." Remarkably, India was able to develop this highly effective defence system with a modest investment of just ₹500 crore.

Experts state that Akash can track and engage multiple targets in real time from any direction. It can detect a missile from 70 kilometres away and destroy it at a range of up to 30 kilometres. During the conflict, India's layered air defence system—featuring both the Akash and the S-400 Triumph—stood like an impenetrable wall. Now that the performance of the Akash missile system has been proven beyond doubt, India can expect substantial orders from around the world. Even an order for just 200 missiles could potentially generate revenues of up to ₹30,000 crore.

BrahMos

India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile took center stage during the India-Pakistan conflict when it was launched on May 10, 2025. It is reported that the Indian Air Force targeted several strategic locations inside Pakistan in retaliation for Pakistan's attempt to violate Indian airspace. Although the Government of India and the Indian Army have not officially confirmed these strikes, the timing coincided with the conflict.

During the same period, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the BrahMos Integration and

Testing Centre in Lucknow—highlighting the strategic importance of this missile system.

Following its successful trial on June 12, 2001, the BrahMos was reportedly used in combat for the first time during Operation Sindoor. Jointly developed by India and Russia, the BrahMos is a two-stage missile: the first stage accelerates to supersonic speeds, and in the second stage, the missile separates and hits the target at speeds exceeding three times the speed of sound. Reports suggest that BrahMos missiles struck their intended targets with high precision, drawing significant international attention.

Although BrahMos is a joint venture with Russia, which could present challenges in marketing it to Western nations, its proven performance in actual combat could go a long way in boosting its global demand and opening new markets.

According to the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Government of India, "Operation Sindoor also produced concrete evidence of hostile technologies neutralised by Indian systems — with the recovery of pieces of Chinese PL-15 air-to-air missiles, Turkish-origin UAVs, long-range rockets, quadcopters, and commercial drones." PIB further stated, "These were recovered and identified, showing that despite Pakistan's attempts to exploit advanced foreign-supplied weaponry, India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks remained superior."

Between 2020 and 2024, global exports of defence goods averaged US\$138 billion annually, as per data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The top five arms-exporting countries were the USA, France, Russia, China, and Germany, holding market shares of 43%, 9.6%, 7.8%, 5.9%, and 5.6%, respectively. Collectively, these five

nations accounted for approximately 72% of global arms exports during the specified period.

As is evident from the data, the defence export market has been primarily dominated by the USA and other Western countries. However, during these four days of the India-Pakistan conflict, India demonstrated the performance and reliability of its indigenously developed defence equipment in a way that caused concern among these established exporters. Realizing that a prolonged conflict could result in India capturing a significant portion of the global defence market, many of these same countries—who had long encouraged the Russia-Ukraine war—suddenly began voicing concerns over escalating tensions in South Asia and clamored for peace. Their concern, however, was not rooted in a genuine desire for peace, but rather in protecting their defence export interests.

We now see that already, global defence exports are no longer monopolized by a handful of nations. While the U.S., Russia, and France continue to lead, emerging players like India, South Korea, Turkey, and Israel are quickly gaining ground. With the success of Operation Sindoor and the proven battlefield performance of its indigenously developed systems, India is poised to become a major defence exporter—transitioning from a net importer to a significant contributor in the global military supply chain.

In this context, China and Turkey are likely to be particularly concerned. Not only was the Indian Army able to successfully strike targets with its homegrown weaponry, but India's defence systems also neutralized all Pakistani attempts to inflict damage—demonstrating, beyond doubt, the superiority of Indian-made defence equipment. □□

Debt, Deficit and Declining US Hegemony

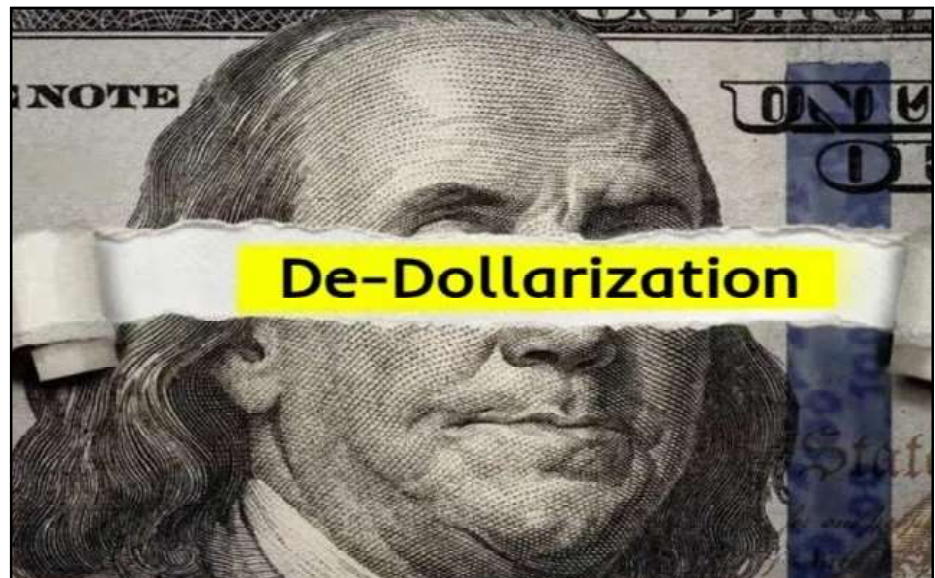


The process of de-dollarisation has begun but since the interdependence of the nations will continue because of the comparative advantage theory, trade and investment will continue to flourish and the concept of de globalisation will remain only a pipe dream.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal

The D-day in US political economy started on 2nd April when Trump declared it as the “Liberation Day” and thereby indirectly demonstrated that US is under severe debt crisis with rising national debt and the burgeoning trade deficit. The annual interest burden has increased to US\$ 1 trillion which has exceeded the defence budget and the mounting national debt. Moody’s have downgraded the U.S. sovereign credit rating on Friday 16/05/2025 due to concerns about the nation’s growing, \$36 trillion debt pile, in a move that could complicate President Donald Trump’s efforts to cut taxes and send ripples through global markets. Fitch had already downgraded in August 2023. The major reasons were outlined as increasing debt, increasing deficits on current account, fiscal deficit, rising interest burden and poor governance. Annual fiscal deficits are expected to widen from 6.4% of GDP in 2024 to nearly 9% by 2035. Interest payments on the debt are predicted to consume 30% of government revenue by 2035.

Trump has an absurd and confusing dream of Making America Great Again (MAGA) with his Absurdonomics and Confusonomics. He feels that by increasing the tariff he can earn revenue and reduce his fiscal deficit and increase manufacturing in USA. However, with his unpredictable and transactional policies the credibility of US has gone down substantially as is evident from downgrading of its rating for the first time since 1919. Today US has created more enemies in Europe, Asia and in North America itself with the unilateral announcement of prohibitive import duties through an Executive Order on 2nd April 2025 imposing a baseline 10% tariff on all imported goods, with higher rates targeting specific countries. The proposed tariff are as below:



China: 34% (raised upto 145% and now paused for 90 days on May 12); *Taiwan: 32%*; *Vietnam: 46%*; *European Union: 20%*; *South Korea: 25%*; *Japan: 24%*; *India: 26%*; *Switzerland: 31%*; *United Kingdom: 10%*.

However on April 9, a pause of 90 days have been given and only 10% baseline import duty will be applicable until the bilateral negotiations are agreed upon on mutual basis for each country. So far such negotiations are in process and Indian Ministerial level discussions will start from 19th May and negotiations have been completed only with UK and Fiji. It's a lengthy process and 90 days moratorium is likely to be extended. The immediate negative impact of Trump 2.0 has been seen in decline of GDP growth by 0.3% in the first quarter ending 31/03/2025 and that is the main reason that despite China's strong retaliation, Trump had to kneel down for negotiations with China and to roll back his stance on imposition of 145% tariff and allow moratorium for 90 days until August 10.

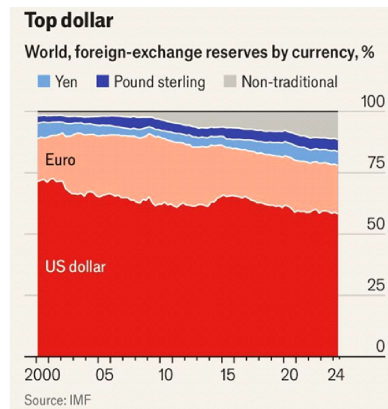
It is a matter of fact that US is running a huge trade deficit of US\$ 1.2 trillion and the mounting debt burden of US\$ 35.47 trillion as on 30 September, 2024 and which is projected to be US\$ 46.70 Trillion in 2029 as per the forecast of government Net Debt (Source: ceicdata.com).

The U.S. current account deficit narrowed in 2023 to \$773.4 billion, down from \$951.2 billion in 2022, primarily due to a decrease in imports and an increase in services exports. The US like India has a trade surplus on services. Its exports of services is a little more than US\$ 1 trillion and imports US\$ 715 billion in 2023 and thus a

surplus of about US\$300 billion approximately which compensates the huge trade deficit to a large extent.

President Trump and his team wants to reduce the trade deficit by creating a tariff wall and thereby to make local manufacturing more competitive. However the companies like Apple still wants to manufacture their products outside US as the cost of manufacturing an apple phone in China and India is US\$ 1000 as compared to US\$ 3000 in USA. This is what Trump has told Media on the Apple's investment and his reaction on Tim Cook, the CEO, "We have Apple, as you know, it's coming in. And I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday. I said to him, Tim, you're my friend. I treated you very well. You're coming in with USD 500 billion. But now I hear you're building all over India. I don't want you building in India. You can build in India if you want to take care of India," Trump said.

Thus US is in dilemma, if it imposes higher tariff, it will lead to inflation in the country and its exports will also be affected on retaliation by the importing countries which will adversely affect its domestic industries or its farmers. China had given this threat to impose 125% duties on US imports and US succumbed to the pressures created by China. The trade war has been temporarily kept in abeyance but is likely to resurrect after the expiry of 90 days moratorium. We may remember the kind of upheaval the World had faced on April 5 when the stock exchanges of all the countries had plummeted and it caused loss in market value of shares and securities by more than US\$ 6 trillion in



one single day. There was also a threat that China and Japan will sell their holdings in US Treasury Bills which triggered a fear for lower yields on bonds. Had it continued, it could result in higher interest rates for US Bonds and enhanced interest burden on US Exchequer. This danger is still hanging lest Trump should understand the economic implications of his absurdonomics or his confusonomics.

US has one big advantage of the Dollar which is the international currency of reserve. The trade surplus of the exporting countries is automatically invested in US treasury. Although in the recent past the share of US Dollar is decreasing in the aggregate of the foreign exchange reserves as will be evident from the following chart but still it remains the most preferred currency.

The current chair of the Council of Economic Advisers for the US President Mr. Stephen Miran has advised Trump that US Dollar as a reserve currency is the main cause for the increased level of its current account deficit and the increased level of national debt as there is an inbuilt mechanism of investment of trade surplus of Japan or Europe or China in the US treasury bills as almost 88% of the international trade takes place in US

Top 5 Economies by Share of Global Trade (2024)

Based on data from the World Bank and WTO, the top five economies in terms of total trade (exports + imports) in 2024 were:

Data	United States	China	Germany	Japan	South Korea
Total Trade	\$3.13 trillion	\$5.58 trillion	\$2.98 trillion	\$1.61 trillion	\$1.43 trillion
Share of Global Trade	13.5%	14.6%	6.3%	3.5%	3.2%
Exports	\$2.03 trillion	\$3.56 trillion	\$1.52 trillion	\$848 billion	\$787 billion
Imports	\$3.13 trillion	\$2.02 trillion	\$1.46 trillion	\$766 billion	\$645 billion

Dollar. Trump doesn't want to loose this hegemony of Dollar and has issued threats to the BRICS countries that if they opt for BRICS currency, he will impose 100% tariffs on their imports in US.

It is China plus 1 story. According to a news item published in Economic Times and as per the

been aggressively expanding operations in the North Eastern part of the country. Cupertino, California-based firm is also planning to diversify its business in India. Indonesia, Phillipines and Vietnam are the other countries which are the alternative destinations of China.

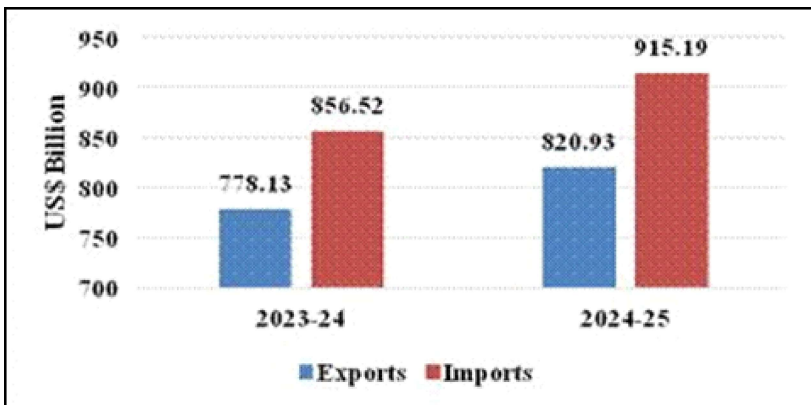
inance in check.

However at present India's foreign trade is very limited if compared with the top five. As of 2024, global trade in goods and services reached a record \$33 trillion, marking a 3.7% increase from the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by a 7% rise in services trade, while goods trade grew by 2%, remaining below its 2022 peak.

If we compare India's international trade in the immediately preceding two years, we find that our volume of trade is below US\$ one trillion, more fully described through a chart prepared by PIB, Government of India.

In view of above analysis and further to the facts that since US is gradually sinking into a debt trap, a new economic order has to emerge. It may take some time but it is in the interest of the whole world that the hegemony of the dollar should end. The process of de dollarisation has begun but since the interdependence of the nations will continue because of the comparative advantage theory, trade and investment will continue to flourish and the concept of de globalisation will remain only a pipe dream. However the international trade should be on fair terms and free trade with unfair means will always lead to conflicts and trade war. □□

(The author are National Co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch)



statement of a Government official, "Companies go to places where they can reduce costs and be more competitive. Business is guided by cost, revenue and profitability principles... India has shown its value to Make in India. We are an attractive destination. Irrespective of protectionism, India will continue to attract such companies to make in India,"

Apart from Apple, many other companies in Semi conductor sector such as Foxconn, one of its largest suppliers, has been doubling down on its India operations to satiate Apple's plans to diversify production beyond China. Similarly Tata Electronics too have

Trade and investments are the two key drivers of globalisation. Both are related. Make in India drive is primarily to increase investments in India and thereby to reduce imports and increase its exports and in the long run to increase manufacturing in India and also to develop indigenous technology as was done previously by Japan and in the recent past by China. Although a disproportionate increase of FDI and the foreign technology has some immediate challenges but there is an element of calculation risk but the desired path is Make in India by Indian and not by foreign companies in order to keep MNCs dom-

Pahalgam Lesson – Other than Muslims all are Hindus If divided in the name of caste or state you will Perish

On 22nd April 2025, something shook our country, the biggest democracy in the world which has the largest population in the world of more than 140 crores. Nation as a whole were shaken not by any major natural disaster or by a formal war by enemy, but by the inhuman act of a handful of radical, barbaric, Muslim terrorists of murdering innocent Hindu civilians, in a most heinous, cowardly manner.

This inhuman action uncovered the real naked face of Islamic terrorism, which many so called “Liberals & Seculars” were trying to cover up since decades. Following propagandas’ were last their relevance.

1. “Terror has no religion” is a false statement. Terror has a Religion as it is motivated purely by the extreme interpretation of that religion
2. Terrorists clearly told that in their eyes, all Hindus (also other than Muslims) are kaffirs, irrespective of caste, creed, language, region and religion. Terrorists have taught a lesson (of course in a most abominable way) that all Hindus (if divided) would meet the same fate.
3. In a most perverse manner, it was the terrorists with their bullets, who have taught Hindus, who are constantly fighting among themselves on the basis of language, caste, region, etc., at the cost of essential unity among Hindus.

Ghastly dance of death in the houses of those who travelled to Kashmir for enjoyment. Let us share the grief.

It is impossible to offers words of solace to a mother who has lost her son, to a wife who has lost her husband etc., Even 100s of crores of rupees of compensation would not be able to offer succor. One should place oneself in the position of such persons (i.e., a mother who has lost her son etc.) to appreciate the pain being experienced by them for absolutely no fault of theirs. This point has to be particularly applicable for those who talk nonsense in social media, just to satisfy their immoral urge to gain importance by mocking at other’s pain.

It is regrettable that even in a critical time like this when entire nation has to speak in one voice to strengthen the Government, certain Congress leaders are talking in a discordant voice, just to gain cheap popularity. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, talks about intelligence failure; BK Hariprasad, MLC (a former member of Rajyasabha) said that Pakistan is an enemy country only for BJP. Those who have won elections only on account of their father’s name and fame have shown their pathetic ignorance by claiming that Central government’s failure is responsible for this heinous act.

Robert Vadra, a person of great eminence, being the husband of Lokasabha MP, Priyanka Vadra and son in law of another Rajya Sabha MP Sonia Gandhi, (an effective owner of a private property called Indian National Congress) says that Central Government speaking about Hindutva is the reason for this massacre. Indian Muslims should also recall that officials of Pakistan High commission, celebrated the massacre with cake.



Colonel Quershi is Muslim by religion but when it comes to interest of nation, she adopted the theory of Nation First, a Patriotic in true sense.
Mahadevayya Karadalli

Here is a challenge to all those peaceniks, pseudo seculars who talk so lightly about this massacre. Just (mentally) imagine, if all the major leaders of INDI Alliance (say for example, Rahul Gandhi, Kharge, Kejriwal, Akhilesh, Stalin, Mamata etc.) go to Pahalgam, Kashmir along with Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah, Jameer Ahmed etc., and get into the same situation, in which Islamist terrorists attack them in a similar manner. Then only and only Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah, Jameer Ahmed would have come back alive as they are all Muslims.

Just imagining this situation, brings out the stark fact, Islamic terrorists have a particular religion and they do care only for that religion.

Massacre of Innocent Hindu lives in Pahalgam: Recall the forgotten history of Islamic invasion.

When we look at Pahalgam massacre from a long historical perspective, it becomes clear that this heinous act is nothing but a repetition of similar crimes, committed on Hindus from time to time for 1000 years by Muslim rules like Mughals, Nizams etc., To kill Hindus, for the simple reason that they are Hindus (without absolutely any other reason or motive) is merely a repetition of similar acts in the past. We have seen similar acts throughout the world even in 21st century in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and unfortunately in our own state of Jammu and Kashmir. This ghastly barbaric behavior is extended to even Christians also, as it is evident from the act of killing of a Christian from Kerala.

An organization by name TRF, which is an off – shoot of Lashkar E Taiba, has confessed having committed this crime, and as is well known; LET is a Pakistan spon-

sored terror organization. The barbarity committed by them, springs out of their deep rooted Muslim Fundamentalism. This is very evident from the fact of their pulling down the pants of victims, to check whether they are Muslims or not. Reader may recall that the Pahalgam terrorists told the victims, to “go and tell Modi”. This shows that even those terrorists do have indirectly a fear of Mr. Modi. Hence it is very clear that Muslims fundamentalism is behind this barbaric act and is well supported by Pakistan.

An excellent Display of Active crisis management by Govt of India.

Wars do take place between the trained soldiers of two enemy countries, that too very rarely. However, internal fights between two groups, riots, insurgency against the Indian state and terrorism have been taking place continuously without any interruption. India, since its independence itself, and Indian State and Society have been courageously facing the situation and building Bharat.

It is not an India, it is Balista Bharat is the message.

On hearing the news of Pahalgam Prime Minister cut short his official visit to Saudi Arabia and rushed back to Delhi on hearing the news of dastardly killing of innocent tourists and swung into action with his team. After a detailed meeting with concerned Minister and secretaries of Ministry of Defense, External Affairs, Home Affairs etc., Govt of India, has taken a series of strong measures which has shaken Pakistan. GOI has adopted the age old Chankya Neeti i.e. Delay, drain and Dominate. He has shown a strong intent to punish Pakistan. Narendra Modi is using ancient Hin-

du statecraft to break enemies without firing a shot i.e. “Before you crush the snake, ensure it has exhausted its venom.” This is to make Pakistan to collapse on its own. Most notable one is tightening the tap - on Indus Waters Treaty, which will have a long term permanent crippling consequence on Pakistan, which will damage the food security of Pakistan in a big way. Forget war. They’ll beg water for their tea. Bharat banned water, air and land transport and import of goods. For Pakistan No money. No fuel. No forex. No IMF loan etc., Modi lets enemies burn fuel, funds and fear, then finishes them on India’s terms.

Punish those who support Terrorists.

Along with Government, the general public have also risen to protest this terrorist act and spoken in one voice. They have also extended their condolences to affected families, and provided all possible helping hand. Police are aggressively searching for local supporters, who gave food and shelter to terrorists. Police and security forces also swung into action immediately. The facial sketches of master mind of this dastardly act Thokar and two of his associates have been released and an award of Rs. 20 Lakhs has been announced on them. In an encounter in Bandipora district, security forces have fired on two terrorists, Two pony service providers by name, Nabi Jangle and son Ayaz Jangle have been identified as terrorists supporters and a module of Lakshar-E-Taiba has been destroyed.

The behavior of some of local Kashmiris gives rise to a strong suspicion that they give indirect support to terrorism. Their distress on the incident seems to be more due

to potential loss of income from tourists than due to genuine human concern for loss of Hindu lives. There are cases where mullahs in Srinagar tried to mislead/prevent media from reporting true facts.

Bharat Strikes Pakistan to teach an unforgettable lesson.

On one side Mock Drill were announced at 200+ major cities and on other side Operation Sindoor (a perfect revenge of 26 women who lost their Sindoor) was planned. On May 6th mid night Bharat Armed forces jointly conducted with precision and courage. Have struck successfully their target situated at 100km Bahawalpur. Muridke 30 km. Gulpur 35 km, Sawai 30 km, Bilal, Kotli 15 km, Barnala 10 km, Sarjal 8km, Mehmoona 15 km from LOC, total 9 HM, Lashkar and Jaish terrorist base camps in POK-JK as well as in Pakistan without losing single soldier.

Colonel Sophia Qureshi a Patriotic Muslim from Bharatiya Army, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh from Bharatiya Air Force took the lead. Ajit Dhawal a perfect statesman handled geo political situation with US, Russia, Japan, Israel, Arab Countries and even with China to convince them about arresting cross border terrorism and Bharat's action of Operation Sindoor.

Patriotic Bharatiyas should support strong actions taken by Government of Bharat. Let us strengthen its hands, by denouncing terrorists, their overt and covert supporters and more importantly their ideological supporters, who spread this venomous ideology directly/indirectly in mass media covering it up in the garb of secularism, human rights, freedom of speech etc., Bharatians shall not believe or circulate unverified content and fabricated doc-

umentaries as part of Pakistan Propaganda to seek international sympathy. Stay updated only through GOI official channels and avoid adding noise to the ecosystem created information. Bharatiyas has to extend support and stand Firm with Bharatiya Military, the Government and Security Agencies. Also avoid international blame game and divisive discussions. Always observant about suspicious activities within radius of your neighborhood, work place or even in social circles. Pakistan may attempt to create civilian unrest, chaos, incite riots, stoke communal tensions. Do not be panic, Stay calm, maintain patience and be a alert watch dog to save the country. Do not withdraw heavy amount from ATM/Bank let them function normally. There may be retaliation from Pakistan. Stay always alert. There may be psychological warfare. Do not fall for fear mongering or fake news. Take all possible Cyber Security Precautions and be wary of phishing links, fake websites, suspicious emails/sms generated by enemy cyber cells. Be quick in reporting suspicious activity. Your timely action can save civilian lives/property.

No word like Secularism is ever exists in terrorist dictionary.

So called secular liberal Hindus should also understand that if tragically, the ideology and the group which they are supporting were to win, they would be the first to be destroyed. Secular Hindus are the first victims of Islamic terrorism.

A great opportunity for Indian Muslims

If the Indian Muslims, who are living in India for generations, were to do a self-introspection, they would realize that culturally they are also Hindus and only their mode of worship

is different. They should give up the temptation to identify themselves with outsiders (i.e., Pakistanis or Bangladeshis) only because they are also Muslims. Muslims should NOT indulge in such acts that happened in Gulbarga, where a Muslim women protested against the desecration of Pakistan Flag, they should be in forefront to protest and stop illegal stay of foreigners by informing police appropriately.

Follow Sophia Qureshi model - a Patriotic Muslim model.

Colonel Qureshi is Muslim by religion but when it comes to interest of nation, she adopted the theory of Nation First, a Patriotic in true sense. This request is especially applicable for our Muslim brothers and sisters, please take clue from above model. They should understand that Nation always comes first above all other considerations and that only if Nation survives and thrives all religions/casts etc., can survive and thrive.

Operation Sindoor is Exclusive! Explosive. Not a radar could recognize. A perfect example of retaliation. The world, specially Pak believed that we are doing mock drills, they slept. No sirens, no sounds, no warning, just thunder, heat, sharpnels flying through their hearts and bodies, bright lights and burning sensations in their bodies. The army gave a thumbs up, the navy intercepted Karachi, the airforce flew like a wind of blades. First time after 1971 all three in unison. Thus Sindoor stands for Strategic Initiative for Neutralising Destructive Opponents with Overwhelming Retaliation. The most important lesson of Pahalgam is together we can! And "Divide we Fall Hence Let us unite. Vividata me Ekata Bharat ki Visheshata. ☐☐

Globalisation's unravelling and fall of the 'Davos Man'

It is perhaps symbolic of the times we live in that in the midst of the growing criticism of economic globalisation in the developed West, and all that it has come to imply, an axe has fallen on a key apostle of the faith. Last week the board of trustees of the World Economic Forum (WEF) asked its founder chairman, Klaus Schwab, to step down amidst charges of corruption and financial and ethical "misconduct". Schwab and wife Hilde have long been accused by former WEF staff of wrongdoing but a whistleblower put out enough for the board to finally ask him to go.

The WEF is known around the world for its hosting of the annual Davos Forum in Switzerland and several country specific forums around the world. In India the WEF has collaborated with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to host the India Economic Summit. Founded by Schwab in 1971, and originally called the European Management Forum, WEF came into prominence after the end of the Cold War when economic liberalisation and globalisation became the new mantras. The re-integration of China and India into the global economy and the rise of the so-called "emerging markets" made Davos the forum at which investment-seeking countries met with leaders of multinational corporations and heads of government of investment opportunity-seeking economies and businesses.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was the first Indian head of government to address the WEF at Davos in 1992. He used the opportunity to seek foreign direct investment and inform the captains of global business of the "new turn" in India's economic policies. WEF's success was defined by Schwab's ability to bring together not just global business leaders and heads of government but also intellectuals, Nobel Prize winners, writers and glamorous celebrities.

The annual gathering at Davos was a clever con game. Schwab and his team managed to use the off-season for tourists, in end-January, to literally lock up a



Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was the first Indian head of government to address the WEF at Davos in 1992.
Sanjaya Baru



thousand guests and delegates in a remote Swiss town and make them feel exclusive and special given the mix of people around.

How high profile WEF became is testified to by the fact that the board of trustees is a global who's who — with names on it like Al Gore, former US vice-president, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Singapore, Ngozi-Ikonji Iweala, former finance minister of Nigeria and currently director-general of the World Trade Organisation, Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, the former chairman of Nestle, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani and Ajay Banga, president of the World Bank.

With time the Davos jambo-ree became a subject of sociological analysis. In a 2004 essay a Harvard historian, the distinguished Samuel Huntington, wrote about the "Davos Man" — a people who "have little need for national loyalty, view national boundaries as obstacles that thankfully are vanishing, and see national governments as residues from the past whose only useful function is to facilitate the elite's global operations".

Ironically, in his earlier avatar as a businessman, Donald Trump was one such Davos Man, with global business interests and friends who have global business interests, but in his new avatar as a politician, Mr Trump speaks the language of the "anti-Davos" men. The growing anger against globalisation was bound to catch up with Davos and in the fall of Klaus Schwab the anti-globalists have downed a high-profile symbol of all that they are against.

Schwab's misdemeanours, as widely reported in the Western media, include using WEF money for

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personal use, including in-room massages in hotel rooms, funding a campaign for his nomination to a Nobel Prize, and leading the high-profile life that he and wife Hilde led — living in luxury homes and travelling first class around the world.

Worse, Schwab has been accused of manipulating the WEF global competitiveness rankings to curry favour with select governments. It may be recalled that IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva (a WEF trustee) was accused, when she was at the World Bank, of manipulating the Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" index to favour China and India. While the couple have denied all allegations, the fact is that the WEF's high-profile board of trustees did ask Schwab to step down.

In 2017, even as Western leaders, especially President Trump, were critiquing globalisation in their speeches at Davos, China's President Xi Jinping became the first Chinese head of state to turn up at Davos and deliver a robust defence of global economic integration and the need for keeping national doors open to international trade. In the current global environment, it remains to be seen how much interest

the West and the Rest would continue to have in meeting at Davos.

In 2002, China had launched its own Boao Forum for Asia that has grown from strength to strength in terms of participation and level and quality of organisation. Over 2,000 delegates from over 60 countries now attend the Boao Forum, held on Hainan island. Its focus has been largely limited to Asia and so it remains to be seen if Boao Forum would try to go global, edging out Davos. After all, it is China that speaks the language of the Davos Man, of open borders and global business, while the West, especially the United States, is shutting its doors.

Over the past quarter century many high-profile Indians had become Davos regulars. They must be dismayed and disappointed to learn of the charges against Schwab. It was the CII, under the leadership of Tarun Das that built the initial bridge to WEF. Between Schwab and Das the WEF-CII teams managed to get a large number of Indian business leaders, bureaucrats, politicians and business journalists on to the Davos bandwagon.

Indian companies and governments blew up thousands of dollars to indulge the fancy of their CEOs and ministers who wanted to be seen, but not often heard, at Davos. The civil servant N.K. Singh, a WEF regular, became a Davos celebrity hosting a dinner for a mix of Indian and global guests. Even if one did not manage to get into the WEF meeting venues, just sitting at "Nandu Singh's table" was good enough for many a "Davos Man" to trudge up the dirty snow tracks around Davos. □□

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<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/opinion/columnists/sanjayacharya-globalisations-nravelling-and-fall-of-the-davos-man-sanjaya-bhri-1875496>

A promise of mutual benefit

After more than three years of intensive negotiations, India and the UK finally wrapped up their bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), which leaders of both countries described as “a historic milestone in the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that would foster trade, investment, innovation, and job creation in both the economies”. The two expect this FTA “to significantly enhance bilateral trade, generate new avenues for employment, raise living standards, and improve the overall well-being of citizens in both countries”.

These expectations of mutual benefit from a trade deal rings refreshingly different from the trade agreements that US President Donald Trump is trying to negotiate with several partner countries, including India. While the Trump administration’s objective is to negotiate FTAs to secure benefits solely for the American stakeholders, the India-UK FTA focuses on benefit accruing to both partners from the opening of markets.

India’s FTA with the UK is significant, especially because it is the first among several FTAs that India would formalise with a number of key partners, including the US and the European Union. If these two FTAs are finalised, as they are likely to in the ensuing months, almost one-half of India’s total trade would be conducted with FTA partners. This is a remarkable turnaround for a country which was an FTA-sceptic just over two decades ago.

Though the entire details of the India-UK FTA are not yet available, estimates available from the UK’s Department for Business and Trade (DBT) shows that by 2040, the FTA would increase two-way trade between the two nations by \$32 billion. Thus, within the next decade and a half, India-UK trade should expand 2.5 times, reversing the declining importance of the UK as India’s trade partner since the turn of the millennium. In 2000-01, the UK’s share in India’s total trade



The newly concluded India-UK FTA, described as a “historic milestone,” aims to boost bilateral trade by \$32 billion by 2040 through significant tariff reductions and enhanced market access for goods and services in both countries.
Biswajit Dhar



was 5.8%, making it the second largest partner. But when the decision to negotiate the FTA was taken in 2021, this figure had bottomed out at 1.7%. The FTA negotiations provided some momentum to the trade dynamics between the two countries, and as a result the UK's share had increased to almost 2% in the first 10 months of the previous fiscal year.

It is clear from the available information on the outcome of the FTA negotiations that the agreement provides comprehensive market access for goods to both countries through deep cuts in tariffs across all sectors. India is looking to gain from tariff elimination on about 99% of the tariff lines covering almost all of its trade with the UK. It is expected that such tariff reductions would impart positive momentum to manufacturing industries across labour- and technology-intensive spectrums. This would open up export opportunities for major industries, including textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods and toys, gems and jewellery, besides engineering goods, auto parts and engines, and organic chemicals.

India's more substantive gains are expected through its services trade with the UK, which has offered a slew of concessions in sectors such as information technology (IT)/IT-enabled services, financial services, professional services, other business services and educational services — areas where India has consistently sought concessions from its FTA partners. A major gain is the exemption granted to Indian workers temporarily employed in the UK and their employers from paying social security contributions there for a period of

A major gain for the UK would come from the participation of its businesses in India's government procurement market, estimated at \$51 billion a year. India has opened this sector to enable the UK's businesses to compete for a range of goods, services, and construction procurements, for a majority of central govt entities, as well as for several central public sector undertakings.

three years under the "Double Contribution Convention". This exemption should result in significant financial gains for Indian service providers, enhancing their competitiveness in the UK market.

On the other hand, India's tariffs will see steep reductions, locking in reductions on 90% of tariff lines. Further, 85% of India's tariffs lines would be tariff-free within a decade. Tariffs on whisky and gin would be halved from the existing 150% to 75%, and by the 10th year of the FTA's implementation, tariff would be reduced to 40%. India has offered the most significant concession in the industrial sector through reduction of tariffs on automobiles, from the current 100% to 10%, although by when this reduction will happen is not known.

In past FTA negotiations, the Indian government was steadfastly opposed to opening this sector to import liberalisation. It had accepted the automobile industry's argument that given its relatively smaller scale of operations in India, it would not be able to compete with the global players. However, the government has provided some comfort to the domestic players by ensuring that there would be an import quota while tariff reduction occurs, thus preventing a surge of British cars in the Indian market, at

least in the near future.

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While the India-UK FTA promises benefits to both partners, a preliminary assessment of the relative gains by the UK's DBT indicates that of the \$32 billion increase in trade flows expected by 2040, the UK's share would be nearly \$20 billion, and India's share would be \$12 billion. The DBT's assessment aside, Indian enterprises can turn the agreement in their favour if they take full advantage of the immense opportunities that the India-UK FTA offers. □

Biswajit Dhar, Distinguished professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi
<https://www.financialpress.com/opinion/a-promise-of-mutual-benefit/3836509/>

Bharat as Fourth Largest Economy in 2025

In the vast landscape of global economies, Bharat stands out with its meteoric rise and unwavering determination to reach new heights. With its rich cultural heritage and a population of over 1.4 billion people, Bharat has emerged as an economic powerhouse, consistently showcasing its prowess on the global stage. The year 2023 has proven to be a turning point as Bharat's GDP surges, solidifying its position as a frontrunner in the global economic race.

Bharat is ranked 5th in world's GDP rankings in 2024. Our economy boasts of diversity and swift growth, fuelled by key sectors such as information technology, services, agriculture, and manufacturing. The nation capitalises on its broad domestic market, a youthful and technologically adept labour force, and an expanding middle class. It is further expected to be the world's third largest economy in the next three years. Bharat's progress towards third largest economy has already been discussed in detail in the series of the three articles in past three months of Swadeshi Patrika.



Bharat is also perceived as super power in military strength, a space power and green energy. The political stability of a decade with the leadership of undeterred political will in all aspects of national growth, is a major factor in Bharat's march towards global leadership.
Vinod Johri

Bharat is on track to become world's fourth largest economy in 2025, overtaking Japan, accordingly to the latest World Economic Outlook released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report estimates Bharat's nominal GDP will reach US \$ 4187.02 Billion next year, marginally ahead of Japan's US\$ 4186.43 Billion. Bharat is marching towards third largest economy on its own strength and has never followed a policy of confrontation or hegemonic competition detrimental to the economic interests of the other countries. Obviously the fourth ladder comes before the fifth ladder and this progress has to be meticulously analysed and keenly watched for further progress.

The IMF forecasts that Bharat, will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy, maintaining a growth rate above 6 per cent over the next two years. In contrast, Japan is expected to see muted growth of just 0.6 per cent in both 2025 and 2026, as the global trade slowdown weighs on its export-driven economy.

Two seemingly paradoxical headlines about the Japanese economy are significant. First, in 2023 Japan's GDP was surpassed by that of Germany. Japan thus dropped to the world's fourth-largest economy, 13 years after its long hold on the number two position was overtaken by China in 2010. The Japanese economy

2025 Estimates			
S. No	Country Name	GDP (USD)	GDP Per Capita (Current Prices) (USD)
1	United States	\$30.51 trillion	\$89.11 thousand
2	China	\$19.23 trillion	\$13.69 thousand
3	Germany	\$4.74 trillion	\$55.91 thousand
4	Bharat	\$4.187 trillion	\$2.88 thousand
5	Japan	\$4.186 trillion	\$33.96 thousand



faces several significant challenges, including a declining and aging population, high government debt, and difficulties in transitioning to a decarbonized economy. These issues contribute to low potential growth, increased social security burdens, and a growing risk of fiscal crisis. Some of these factors may be briefly discussed below -

1. Demographic Shifts:

Declining and Aging Population: Japan's population is shrinking and aging rapidly, leading to a shrinking workforce and increased social security costs. This poses a risk of lower potential growth rates and generational inequities, as older generations receive social benefits while younger generations may face increased burdens.

Labor Shortages: The aging population and low birthrate contribute to labour shortages, impacting various industries and hindering economic growth.

2. High Government Debt:

Unprecedented Debt Levels: Japan's government debt is among the highest in the developed world, reaching a debt-to-GDP ratio of 263% in 2023.

Fiscal Crisis Risks: This high

The Japanese economy faces several significant challenges, including a declining and aging population, high government debt, and difficulties in transitioning to a decarbonized economy.

debt level increases the risk of a fiscal crisis or hyperinflation, potentially impacting the stability of the economy.

Burden on Younger Generations: The burden of servicing the debt falls disproportionately on younger generations.

3. Challenges in Decarbonization:

Lagging in Renewable Energy: Japan faces difficulties in transitioning to renewable energy sources and electric vehicles, potentially hindering its ability to meet its climate goals.

Reliance on Fossil Fuels:

Japan remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, making it vulnerable to global energy price fluctuations and hindering its decarbonization efforts.

4. Diversifying Investments Away from China

For years, China was a focus of manufacturing investment for Japan. China's cheap labour force provided a solution to Japan's labour shortage, helping its manufacturers stay competitive in the global economy. Meanwhile, China became a significant market for Japanese products.

5. Other Challenges

Inflation and Wage Growth: Inflation in Japan is rising, particularly for non-discretionary items like food and energy, making it difficult for households to increase spending. While wage increases have been seen, they have not kept pace with the rising cost of living.

Japan has struggled to implement structural reforms to address underlying economic problems, such as a deflationary gap and low productivity in certain sectors.

Political Instability: Rising political instability and the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party's loss of majority could further hinder economic progress.

Geopolitical Tensions: Tensions with China and Russia over disputed islands add another layer of complexity to Japan's economic landscape.

Bharat's strong economic momentum is likely to propel it further up the global rankings. By 2028, the country's GDP is projected to rise to 5,584.48 billion dollars, placing it ahead of Germany and making it the third-largest economy globally.



Germany's economy faces several challenges, including a shrinking economy, sluggish productivity growth, an aging population, and high energy costs. The country's reliance on exports and a heavy industrial sector makes it vulnerable to global economic shifts and competition.

Germany, currently the fourth-largest, is expected to be among the worst affected European economies due to ongoing trade tensions. The IMF projects zero growth for Germany in 2025, followed by a modest recovery of 0.9 per cent in 2026. Its GDP is estimated to reach 5,251.93 billion dollars by 2028. Germany's economy faces several challenges, including a shrinking economy, sluggish productivity growth, an aging population, and high energy costs. The country's reliance on exports and a heavy industrial sector makes it vulnerable to global economic shifts and competition.

Some of the factors of negatively affecting German economy may be briefly discussed as under -

1. Shrinking Economy:

Germany's economy contracted in 2023, and it's projected to be the slowest-growing G7 economy in 2024, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

2. Sluggish Productivity Growth:

Productivity growth has been slow, contributing to overall economic weakness.

3. Aging Population:

Germany's population is aging, with a low fertility rate and a

declining working-age population.

4. High Energy Costs:

Germany's energy-intensive industries have been particularly affected by rising energy prices.

5. Dependence on Exports:

Germany's economy is heavily reliant on exports, making it vulnerable to global economic slowdowns and competition.

6. Trade Imbalances:

While Germany has trade surpluses, the reliance on exports means domestic demand is insufficient.

7. Labor Shortages:

Germany faces labour shortages, further hindering productivity and growth.

8. Competition from China:

The rise of Chinese automakers in the global EV market is a threat to Germany's automotive industry.

9. Underinvestment:

Budgeted investment money is often underspent due to staff shortages in municipalities, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A fractious coalition government can hinder effective policy responses to economic challenges, according to The Economist.

The United States will retain its position as the world's largest economy, with a projected GDP of 30,507.22 billion dollars in 2025. China, the second-largest, is expected to record a GDP of 19,231.71 billion dollars.

The IMF notes that the US economy, having initiated a wave of global tariffs, is showing signs of a slowdown. Growth is forecast to dip to 1.8 per cent this year and 1.7 per cent in 2026.

The Euro Area is also likely to witness sluggish growth, with an expected expansion of just 0.8 per cent in 2025, picking up slightly to 1.2 per cent in 2026. France is projected to grow at 0.6 per cent and 1 per cent in the next two years, respectively.

Spain is expected to outperform its peers with a 2.5 per cent growth rate in 2025, although this is likely to ease to 1.8 per cent in 2026. The United Kingdom is forecast to grow at 1.1 per cent and 1.4 per cent during the same period.

Bharat is also perceived as super power in military strength, a space power and green energy. The political stability of a decade with the leadership of undeterred political will in all aspects of national growth, is a major factor in Bharat's march towards global leadership. □□

Source - DD News, Newspaper reports
Vinod Johri, Former Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi

Trump, Tariffs and Global Economy

When the Trump administration first announced tariffs on steel and aluminium, it rattled global markets and set off a wave of concern. The delay announced on April 1st for countries like Europe, Canada, and Mexico brought relief, but that didn't last long. The fact that such a dramatic move was needed says a lot about the confusion stirred by the President's trade policies.

Uncertainty and Economic Risks

The level of uncertainty triggered by Trump's actions was something the global economy hadn't seen in years. A stable trade system, built over decades, was replaced almost overnight with unpredictable decisions. Announcements came through social media, surprising even his advisors. With tensions rising between the U.S. and China, the unease spread fast.

Markets didn't take it lightly. The S&P 500 dropped by around 15% after the initial tariff news. Bond markets also slipped, and hedge funds scrambled to cut their risks, which just made things worse.

Even the U.S. dollar, a currency investors usually turn to in uncertain times, lost ground. That showed how unsteady faith in the economy had become. There was a short bounce-back after the delay, but the rollercoaster left a mark. Nvidia, for instance, saw its value swing by over \$430 billion in just one day following a trade-related update.

Despite the temporary tariff pause, underlying market anxieties persist. Treasury yields stayed high, and global markets didn't climb back to their earlier peaks. And that made sense—tariff hikes were already happening. By January, the average U.S. tariff rate had risen above 2.5%, with more on the way, including those targeting pharmaceuticals.

What raised eyebrows was the administration's tone. Officials claimed that foreign sellers would take the hit and that stock market drops only bothered rich



The tariffs have escalated trade tensions between the U.S. and India, impacting bilateral trade relations. These tensions create uncertainty for businesses engaged in international trade.

**Dr. Abhishek
Pratap Singh**



investors. But in reality, a falling dollar usually means everyday goods cost more. That hurts regular families, shrinks what they can afford, and weakens overall spending. With markets jumping all over the place, consumer confidence was already fragile.

The bigger issue went beyond short-term jitters. Businesses need stability when deciding where to put their money. Organisations like the WTO had helped create that environment. Take China joining the WTO in 2001—just that one step boosted investor confidence and global trade. Some economists even said avoiding a trade war was like getting a 13% tariff cut.

Tariffs and Indian Economy

The imposition of tariffs by the Trump administration has introduced significant complexities into the global trade landscape, with notable implications for the Indian economy. Here's a breakdown of the key aspects:

The tariffs have escalated trade tensions between the U.S. and India, impacting bilateral trade relations. These tensions create uncertainty for businesses engaged in international trade. Certain Indian sectors, such as textiles, footwear, and agriculture, are particularly vulnerable to the tariffs.

There are concerns that the tariffs could negatively affect India's economic growth. Financial institutions and economists have provided varying projections on the extent of the potential impact. The RBI has also stated that the tariffs have increased economic uncertainty.

The markets have shown sensitivity to the news of the tariffs, with notable fluctuations. The value of the Indian rupee has also been

The imposition of tariffs by the Trump administration has introduced significant complexities into the global trade landscape, with notable implications for the Indian economy.

affected. India is having to consider how to navigate the shift in trade dynamics, including the need to diversify its export markets.

There is also pressure on India to reduce its own tariffs on goods imported from the U.S. The Indian government is pursuing diplomatic solutions and engaging in negotiations with the U.S. to mitigate the impact of the tariffs. The global trade environment is becoming increasingly complex, with protectionist measures affecting various economies. The situation is dynamic, and the long-term effects of the tariffs are still unfolding.

South Asia faces a tariff storm, but those who adapt—streamlining trade, diversifying markets, or leveraging competitive edges—might emerge stronger.

Despite global disruptions from new US tariffs, India could achieve its projected growth of 6.3%-6.8% for fiscal year 2025-26, provided oil prices remain under \$70 per barrel, according to government officials quoted by Reuters.

Disputes with China

Trump's approach turned that on its head. Ignoring trade deals, including some his own administration signed, made it harder for busi-

nesses to trust the system. Even if tariffs are removed later, the memory of this unstable period won't disappear. It might shape how companies plan their supply chains or where they invest going forward.

In 2018, President Trump launched a trade war against China, imposing tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods. This move escalated tensions between the two nations, with China retaliating by imposing tariffs on US goods. The U.S. put 15% tariffs on goods from China, and China didn't hold back—it responded with even steeper ones, going up to 84%. This kind of tit-for-tat made things riskier for both countries, especially since their economies are pretty closely connected. Trump's tariffs contributed to downgraded GDP growth projections and rising expectations of a recession.

Trump said that "China wants to make a deal," but that didn't clear things up. The administration's goals weren't exactly clear, and that added to the uncertainty. For a long time, Western countries have raised concerns about how China runs its economy, things like government backing and subsidies. While that may not directly hurt the U.S., it's fueled frustration, especially among workers who've lost jobs due to trade-related changes.

Instead of handling everything alone, the U.S. could've taken a smarter route by working with its allies. Countries like India might've even been strong partners in this. But that chance was missed.

In less than two weeks, global trade stability took a major hit. And while things may have calmed for now, rebuilding lost trust will take much longer. □□

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Hunkar at Madhu-Vani

The Hunkar and Madhu-Vani are a rare combination; these two terms are, in fact, contrary. The prime minister of Bharat was forced to do so on the pretext of, beyond doubt, religion-based genocide in a brutal manner at Pahalgam in Kashmir. The brutality on 23 April 2025 at Pahalgam was in no way different from that of 7 October 2023 in Israel; the only difference was of magnitude. The mindset and the polluted ideology were the same. The reasons were common. The target was identical, and the convention was similar. The Israeli victims were celebrating the Nova music festival on the occasion of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. The victims of Pahalgam were from across the Bharat who were on a holiday trip to the paradise on the earth. Authentic Islamic leadership is defensive today.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has its own story to tell. Its political leadership is helpless. The religious leadership and the military leadership of Pakistan participate in the geopolitics of religion and military might by actively creating, supporting, and supplying all the components of resources, whether it be logistics, goods, training, financing, or anything that strengthens the sick and rotten mind.

The Israeli has to blame and name Hams, Hezbollah, and Houthis. The Bharat has to blame Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Taliban, and many new and old with similar names. It's like a corporation having many subsidiary companies, overlapping board members, conflicting interests, and different stakes in equities but common vocabulary.

The arrival of the internet and computers led to a rise in new vocabulary for human civilization, such as driver, port, bus, charger, etc. The worldwide terror in the name of Islam has created similar situations and forced the people to understand, pronounce, read, and write new terms like Jihad, Mujahideen, Al-Takiya, Fidayeen, and so on. It is well acknowledged that all the followers of Islam are not terrorists. Still, it is equally acknowledged that all the terrorists are followers of



Our prime minister did Hunkar from Madhubani in English. English is the most widely spoken, read, and understood language worldwide, and it is also the most widely used language for translation.
Alok Singh



Islam, i.e., All Muslims are not terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims.

The time has arrived when we, the people of Bharat, can only stop this ideological crime or criminal ideology. The Americans killed Osama Bin Laden for attacks of 11 September 2001. Many people worldwide witnessed the live telecast of the attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre, but the 7 October 2023 happened. The Israelis plained the plateaus of Palestine and its neighbouring countries for 7 October 2023, but 23 April 2025 happened, and the list has many more to tell other than these three Islamic terror attacks.

The struggle for new world order in terms of economy and technology led to a tariff war by America. However, the competition for a new world order has changed its priorities midway. It's no more about collaborations for the economy, it's no more about cooperation for technology, it's no more about negotiations for tariffs. It's about a civilized world first.

The Prime Minister of our country, who keeps touring the world, is the best person on the earth today to understand what needs to be done, what the people of the country are expecting, and what the citizens of the world expect from us. The international institutions have failed. No one cares for the World Health Organization post-COVID 2019, no one cares about the World Trade Organization post-tariff wars, and no one cares about Human Rights post-7 October 2023. Our prime minister knows this, and he knows it well. He knows that people are willing to bear the collateral damage, whether health, job, money, inflation, growth, or anything else that exists as a benchmark

The PM of our country, who keeps touring the world, is the best person on the earth today to understand what needs to be done, what the people of the country are expecting, and what the citizens of the world expect from us.

and parameter for the sustainable world.

We own something that the world doesn't own. The Europeans, the Americans, the Japanese, the Russians, and even the Chinese know well the demographic disadvantage that they have and it is also the motivating factor for the Islamic terrorists to take them head-on, whether it be on the streets of London or in the American university campuses. This demographic disadvantage has forced the policy-makers of many countries to make military service and/or training compulsory for all, or for all the male citizens, and many other policy combinations. The Israeli lead in it.

China is also struggling with a demographic disadvantage, and it can feel the heat of Islamic terror any day. It seems the language barrier is also one of the factors that shield the Chinese from Islamic terror.

Whatever the reason, Bharat's fighting for world peace is best reflected today, and the world stands with us, as the traditional priorities of the new world are no longer pecked at the top. The top position

is booked to fight Islamic terror worldwide. We have been chosen not only to bi-furcate, tri-furcate, or quad-furcate the Islamic Republic of Pakistan but also to bring peace and prosperity worldwide, including Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The leadership of Bharat believes in the well-being of all. Hence, the defence-offense strategy is expected to be planned so that collateral damages to the economy, health, education, growth, sports, and even entertainment are minimal. We have to think this way not only for ourselves but for the whole world. The world trusts us, and we need to speak the language that the audience understands.

The Madhubani district in Bihar is named so because the people there speak very sweetly. The place has exact weather, rainfall, forests, cultivable lands, agricultural practices, and all the necessities of a cool and calm place. This place is so beautiful that it fosters creativity and is reflected in the worldwide well-known Madhubani painting. People of this area are not habitual to rough language or raised voices.

Our prime minister did Hunkar from Madhubani in English. English is the most widely spoken, read, and understood language worldwide, and it is also the most widely used language for translation. The audience at Madhubani might not understand English. But the approval from soft and sweet-speaking people to do the Hunkar is like blowing Panchajanya. It was blown thousands and thousands of years ago on Dharma-kshetra-Kurukshetra, not for grabbing anything but for universal peace. □□

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

Protecting India's trade interests with the US amid global uncertainty

On February 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States President Donald Trump agreed to launch negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement (BTA). A BTA is essentially a free trade agreement (FTA) under a different name, similar to India's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan and its Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) with Australia. For simplicity, we will refer to it as an FTA from here on.

US Vice-President J D Vance and Prime Minister Modi announced the finalisation of the terms of reference (ToRs) for the FTA on April 21. The ToRs set the ambition levels for the agreement. For instance, in the India-European Union FTA, the ToRs state that tariffs on goods covering 90 per cent of trade value may be eliminated.

While the official ToRs for the US FTA are not public, we can make an educated guess. Since the US does not have a Fast Track Authority, it cannot easily cut tariffs. This means that even after the FTA is signed, Indian exports to the US may still face current import duties and a base 10 per cent tariff on most products. In contrast, the US could push India to remove tariffs on agricultural products and automobiles, and may also seek to limit Chinese inputs in Indian exports. The US may demand more concessions from India in tariff and domestic policy space without offering much in return.

US dominates the perception battle

The US has succeeded in painting India's tariffs and rules as the reason for its trade deficit, hence demanding that India buy more American goods, oil, and weapons, and dilute regulations restricting India business of Google, Meta, Amazon, Walmart, Tesla, and other US firms.



In the uncertain global environment, India committing to a comprehensive FTA would be risky.

Ajay Srivastava



The reality is that India pays more dollars to the US than it gets back, and the overall economic balance favours America. The picture changes completely when you include US arms sales to India, profits and royalties earned by American banks and companies, and the free access US tech giants enjoy in India.

For every iPhone sold at around \$1,000 in the US, Apple earns over \$450, while India's share is less than \$25. Yet, in trade data, the full value is counted as an export from India, adding to the US trade deficit. Instead of challenging the US narrative, Indian officials urge companies to cut imports from China and buy more from the US.

Since January, India has cut import duties on bourbon whiskey, fish feed, motorcycles, satellite parts, and mobile phone components. It also removed a 6 per cent digital tax on revenue from Indian users, helping Google, Meta, and Amazon. India is working to change its nuclear liability law to let US companies supply nuclear equipment without legal risk. It may also soon approve Elon Musk's Starlink to offer satellite internet through local partners like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

India's unilateral concessions and silence have allowed Washington to dominate the perception battle. This helps them seek more concessions from India in the FTA negotiations.

What the US wants

The US wants India to go beyond just cutting tariffs. In agriculture, it is pushing for reforms to India's minimum support price (MSP) system for rice and wheat, a dilution of the public stockholding

programme, permission for imports of genetically modified (GM) foods, and lower tariffs on farm products.

In pharmaceuticals, it wants India to permit "evergreening," or endless patent extensions for drugs, without needing to prove any added benefit. It demands that Amazon and Walmart be allowed to sell directly to Indian consumers through their platforms. The US seeks relaxation of rules on used capital goods and remanufactured products and wants the ban on ethanol imports for fuel use lifted. It further objects to India's "Make in India" procurement rules, which reserve public contracts under 1 250 crore for domestic companies and require up to 50 per cent local content. Thus, the US seeks significant changes to India's domestic policies. The US National Trade Estimates Report 2025 outlines hundreds of demands directed at India. The US will press India on these during the FTA negotiations.

India's negotiating best bet

India should limit the scope of the FTA to merchandise trade. Unlike other countries that mainly face pressure to cut tariffs, India would be pushed to change its domestic policies significantly under a full FTA. The deal could threaten India's food security, public health, small businesses, and digital independence. With Mr Trump under pressure at home and abroad, India committing to a comprehensive FTA now would be risky.

Instead, India could propose a limited "zero-for-zero" goods-only FTA with the US — offering to eliminate tariffs on 90 per cent of industrial goods on a reciprocal basis while keeping sensitive sectors

like agriculture and automobiles out. This would allow 90 per cent of US exports to enter India duty-free, addressing Mr Trump's complaints about high Indian tariffs. A "zero-for-zero" approach would be safer for India, as it already provides similar zero-duty access to Asean, Japan, and South Korea under existing FTAs, so Indian industry is used to such competition. Even the EU has suggested a similar industrial goods pact with the US. Such a deal would protect India from pressure to change domestic policies, keeping the agreement focused strictly on tariffs and trade.

How real is the \$500 billion trade number?

After meeting President Trump on February 13, Prime Minister Modi stated that India and the US aim to double their trade to \$500 billion by 2030. When the two sides finalised the ToRs for the FTA on April 21, Indian newspapers declared it a significant step towards this \$500 billion target.

But the truth is that this \$500 billion number has been floating around for over a decade. The Indian side mentioned it during Mr Modi's first visit to the US as Prime Minister in 2014. The Economic Survey of 2015–16 also spoke of India achieving over \$500 billion in exports by joining the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership FTA. In reality, \$500 billion is just a nice, round number with no apparent meaning.

India must tread carefully. Committing to a sweeping FTA under the current uncertain global conditions could undermine key national interests. A limited, industrial goods-only pact would be a far safer and smarter move. □□

The writer is founder, Global Trade Research Initiative
https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/columnists/protecting-india-s-trade-interests-with-the-us-amid-global-uncertainty-125042801469_1.html

One Nation, One Symbol for Made in India



Walk into any physical store in India. What drives a buying decision? - Price, Design, Color, Warranty. That's the current checklist. What's missing? Country of origin. Not because people don't care. But because the information is often not available or visible, or not readable.

Many products don't carry the country of origin clearly. Some don't have it at all. And when they do, it's printed in English — or another language the buyer may not read.

In a country where millions aren't fluent in English or even literate, expecting a text-based label to influence buying behaviour is unrealistic.

This is exactly why we need One Nation

One Symbol for Made in India - a distinctive visual mark.

A visual mark is instant. It cuts across literacy and language. It doesn't ask the buyer to read - it invites them to recognize.

When that symbol appears on a bar of soap, a sari, a phone charger, or a toy - the choice becomes clear: this supports India.

One Nation. One Symbol. For Made in India.

In a world where identity drives influence and symbols hold powerful recall, I believe it's time for India to unite under one bold and unmistakable idea — One Nation, One Symbol for all products made in India.

As the founder of India Positive Citizen, a movement committed to inspiring everyday acts of nation-building, I've spent years working on the ground — engaging with citizens, entrepreneurs, artisans, and institutions. And through this journey, one truth has become clear: when millions of small actions move in one direction, they reshape the destiny of a nation.

Today, India stands at a pivotal moment. From khadi to chips, Ayurveda to AI — we make everything. And much of it is world-class. But what we lack is a unifying identity. A visual emblem that says with pride and confidence: This is Made in India.

Learning from the World

Think about it — “Made in Japan” evokes precision. “Made in Germany” signals engineering excellence. “Made in Italy” speaks of style and luxury. These aren't just labels. They're powerful identities built over decades — supported by strong symbols, standards, and stories.

Nations like Japan and South Korea use national logos on every product — building buyer trust, pride, and recall. That consistency fuels their global reputation.



Let us come together — citizens, creators, businesses, and policymakers — to give India what it truly deserves: A single symbol. A shared pride. One Nation. One Symbol. For Made in India.
Savitha Rao

India: A Giant Ready to Rise

Our entrepreneurs, artisans, and engineers are second to none. But right now, a handwoven saree, an electric scooter, a herbal oil, and a software innovation go to market with no common thread tying them to the Indian story.

That's a missed opportunity — and one I believe we must fix.

The Seed of the Idea

In 2020, during the Covid lockdown, I catalyzed a regulation that made it mandatory for online shopping platforms to display the country of origin for every product. It empowered crores of Indian consumers to make conscious, patriotic buying choices while buying online.

That experience sparked a deeper insight: how do we bring the same clarity to offline retail? How do we make the Country of Origin visible, even when there's no text to read?

That's when the idea of One Nation, One Symbol took root in my heart — a single, strong mark that transcends language, literacy, and geography. A symbol that says: 'This is proudly Indian. You can trust this.'

Why We Need a Visual Symbol

India is not just multilingual — it is profoundly diverse in literacy levels and visual exposure. We have over 120 major languages. Millions who can't read. Senior citizens, rural buyers, and even visually challenged citizens who deserve clarity and agency.

A written label saying "Made in India" won't work for everyone. But a well-designed visual symbol will.

A symbol is democratic. It speaks without words. It empowers the marginalized. It becomes a

shortcut to trust — whether you're in a tribal village in Odisha, a kirana store in Bihar, or an upscale store in Mumbai.

It Strengthens Rural and Semi-Urban India

India's next growth story lies in the heartland. A Made in India symbol will thrive on hoardings, haats, WhatsApp ads, and local packaging. It'll find its way into the visual memory of the masses, making it easier for Bharat to prefer and support Indian-made products.

Fast, Familiar, Trusted

In real-world buying moments — at a railway station or a corner shop — people make quick choices. A familiar symbol on a pack of soap or a box of sweets lets them decide in a flash: This supports Indian jobs. I choose this.

One Symbol. Many Wins.

- **Global Recognition:** A striking, consistent symbol will help international buyers identify Indian products at a glance — just like the Apple logo or the Swiss cross.
- **Local Confidence:** When Indians see the symbol, they'll know their purchase supports innovation, jobs, and sustainability at home.
- **Boost for MSMEs and Artisans:** Small businesses often lack big budgets. This symbol becomes their silent ambassador — adding credibility without cost.
- **Push for Quality:** Using the symbol can be linked to quality standards — nudging manufacturers to raise their game.
- **Build a Shared Identity:** From students to homemakers, every Indian seeing and using products with the same mark will feel

part of a bigger national journey.

The Way Forward

For this idea to succeed, we need a thoughtfully crafted symbol — rooted in Indian heritage, but modern and global in its appeal. We must back it with:

- Design excellence
- Clear eligibility and standards
- Public-private collaboration
- A powerful national communication campaign

And we must embed it across:

- Schoolbooks and classrooms
- Retail packaging and export materials
- Government portals and embassy showcases
- Ecommerce platforms and haats
- Cinema, influencers, pop culture, and ads

Let this symbol become India's signature — not just a stamp.

A Simple Idea. A Giant Leap.

One Nation, One Symbol is more than branding. It is about identity, trust, and national unity. It's about telling the world — and ourselves — that we are a country of makers, creators, and contributors.

In a nation of many languages, a visual symbol becomes our shared voice.

I believe this is the next big leap India must take. And I'm committed to making it happen.

Let us come together — citizens, creators, businesses, and policymakers — to give India what it truly deserves:

A single symbol. A shared pride. One Nation. One Symbol. For Made in India. □□

*Savitha Rao: Founder - India Positive Citizen
www.indiapositivecitizen.com*

Digital Invasion: How Western Platforms Shape Bharat's Narrative

The Need for a Swadeshi Social Media Movement

Disinformation propagated via foreign social media platforms has become a severe national security threat. The recent riots in Manipur, along with similar incidents in other states in Bharat, have been linked to social media interventions orchestrated by anti-Bharat actors based in countries such as the United States, Pakistan, Turkey, and Canada. In a diverse country like Bharat, disinformation poses unique and significant dangers.

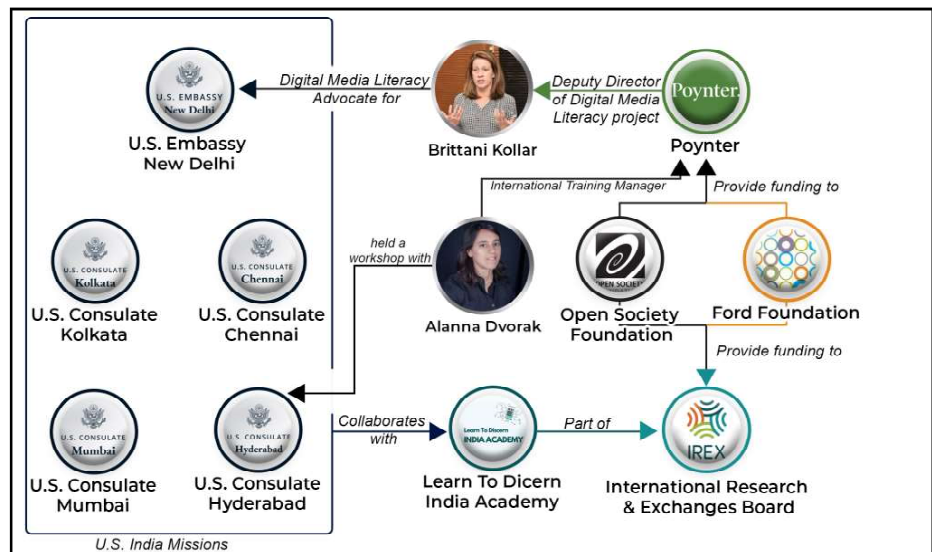
U.S. Interference in Bharat's Digital Space: A Covert War on Nationalist Narratives

Since 2018, the U.S. Embassy in Delhi and its consulates in Kolkata, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Mumbai have conducted numerous workshops and seminars to train individuals on countering fake news. While these initiatives appear well-intentioned, subsequent developments revealed a more concerning underlying motive. Many of these programs were spearheaded by individuals affiliated with the extreme left, who were known to be ideologically opposed to nationalist perspectives in Bharat, which they labelled as right-wing. In essence, the true aim of these programs seemed to be the suppression of nationalist ideology. For example, the 2019 workshop held in Lucknow was led by a leftist activist named Tina Lee, who is known for labelling her opponents as fascists and for disseminating misinformation online. Similarly, Brittany Koller was invited by the U.S. offices in Delhi and Kolkata to conduct similar training sessions. The U.S. Embassy in Delhi was later compelled to delete tweets praising Koller after controversy erupted over her visa violations through various U.S. projects.

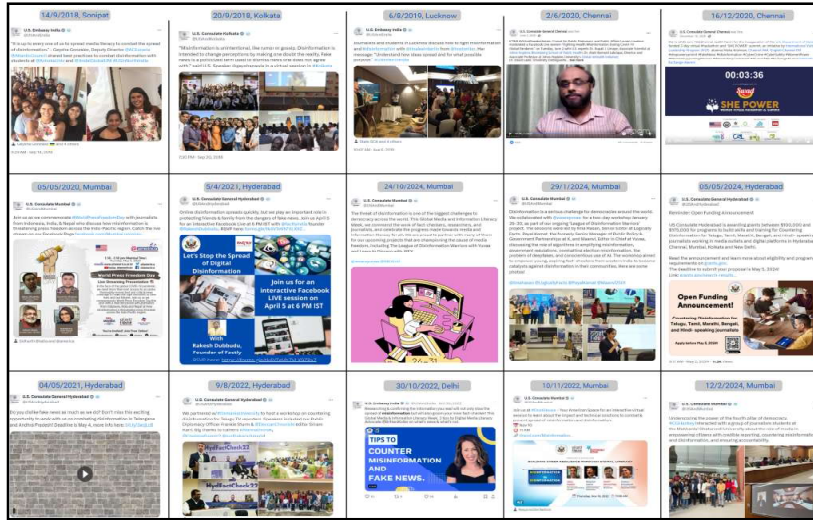


Foreign entities increasingly collaborate with domestic elements to advance destabilizing agendas via social media. The protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the Delhi riots, and the farmers' protests have all been linked to such interference.

Vishnu Aravind



Institutional linkages between individuals and organisations such as Brittany Koller, the Open Society Foundations, and the Ford Foundation with U.S. Embassies and Consulates in India.



Workshops organised by the U.S. Embassy and Consulates across various cities in India.

Koller is the Deputy Director of 'Media Wise,' a subsidiary of the Poynter Project, a media organization that receives funding from entities such as the Omidyar Network and George Soros's Open Society Foundation. These organizations contributed 1.3 million U.S. dollars to the Poynter Project after 2019. Under Koller's leadership, fact-checking organizations have been established in multiple countries. There are allegations that many of these initiatives are indirectly influenced or controlled by the CIA. Following the public outcry, Koller locked her Twitter account and deleted it entirely. In 2022, the U.S. The Consulate in Hyderabad conducted a similar program in collaboration with Osmania University. This event was led by Alanna Dvorak, the International Training Manager of the 'International Fact-Checking Network,' an organization also funded by the Poynter Project—furthermore, the U.S. The Consulate in Hyderabad announced financial assistance ranging from Rs. 80 lakh to Rs. 1.5 crore to combat fake news in regional languages such as Telugu, Marathi, Bengali, Hindi, and Tamil. While the official rationale

was to curb the spread of misinformation and offer training, the initiative effectively sought to target narratives that conflicted with the U.S. definition of fake news, particularly those aligned with pro-Bharat or Hindutva ideologies.

Washington's Deepening Influence Over Digital Discourse

There is a broader context to these efforts. Both the Trump and Biden administrations implemented strategies to influence social media globally to combat fake news. The Biden administration, in particular, employed methods of censorship and manipulation through Western-controlled social media platforms. This was documented in a 98-page report released on May 1, 2024, by the 'U.S. House Committee on Weaponization,' an official body of the U.S. federal government. The report disclosed internal communications between intelligence agencies such as the CIA and FBI and media platforms like Facebook, detailing how the Biden administration influenced content moderation decisions. These efforts were not confined to Facebook. Google was also implicated, par-

ticularly in its management of YouTube and Instagram. Google Docs itself confirmed secret collaboration with the Biden administration. Many Bharatiya users, especially in Kerala, reported issues with their accounts during this period, for instance, following the uploading of the trailer for the film *The Kerala Story*.

Another well-known case is Elon Musk's release of the 'Twitter Files' after he acquired the platform. These documents revealed internal communications indicating that U.S. government agencies—including the Department of Homeland Security, CIA, and FBI—pressured Twitter to censor or shadow-ban users. Then-Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, who openly criticized Bharatiya democracy, allegedly instructed staff to block certain accounts. In essence, while social media platforms appeared to offer a space for free expression, covert restrictions limited the reach and visibility of many voices. This control extended beyond social media. The Biden administration also allegedly pressured platforms like Amazon to selectively promote books and publications aligned with specific ideologies. The report mentioned that the FBI edited Wikipedia pages as early as 2008. These revelations prompted Wikipedia's co-founder, Larry Sanger, to label it a biased and compromised platform, while his fellow co-founder, Jimmy Wales, reportedly supported such censorship. In short, Wikipedia has drifted from its original purpose and has become a vehicle for U.S. propaganda.

Bharat is a Key Target in the Global Information War

Although the committee's re-

port primarily focused on censorship of domestic political opposition, its implications are global, and Bharat appears to be a primary target. Unlike China, which banned platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram in 2009 and developed its alternatives, Bharat continues to provide open access to these platforms. Russia followed suit in 2022 by banning Facebook and Twitter. In this context, the role of U.S. diplomatic missions in Bharat must be viewed critically.

The U.S. Embassy has partnered with the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) to conduct anti-disinformation initiatives in Bharat. Established in 1968 by the Ford Foundation, IREX is known for funding foreign governments and insurgencies. Christine M. Lord, the current head, is affiliated with the U.S. Institute of Peace, USAID, and the Code of Federal Regulations. One of IREX's key funders is George Soros, and its global advisor, Paige Alexander, has previously worked with USAID. Her husband, Steve Grand, has deep connections with NGOs and is an expert on the Islamic uprisings referred to as the Arab Spring. He has also worked with the Atlantic Council. These associations highlight how combating disinformation has become a tool of foreign policy used to influence, destabilize, and control governments and societies. The core message of this American-led war on disinformation appears to be: do not trust your government, your institutions, or even your own experiences—believe only what America tells you. This is not the first foreign interference in Bharat's internal affairs via social media. In February 2023, the government

In today's world, social media is an integral part of daily life. Altogether, avoiding it is neither practical nor feasible. However, most countries still rely heavily on Western-controlled platforms. Apart from China and Russia, countries like Brazil, North Korea, Myanmar, and Bangladesh have also taken steps to restrict or ban platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

of Bharat banned 138 betting apps and 94 loan apps linked to China. Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra clarified that these bans were necessary to curb the spread of fake information and prevent exploitation. These apps were found to be misusing user data, threatening to release morphed photos, sending obscene messages, and ultimately pushing some users into distress, including cases of suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In response, state governments in Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and central intelligence agencies urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action. Earlier, in 2020, the Bharatiya government had banned approximately 250 Chinese apps in three phases—June, September, and November—including popular platforms such as TikTok, Xender, Shine, CamScanner, PUBG, and Garena Free Fire. The rationale behind these bans was to protect Bharat's sovereignty, security, and public order.

The Urgent Need for a Sovereign Social Media Infrastructure

In today's world, social media is an integral part of daily life. Altogether, avoiding it is neither practical nor feasible. However, most countries still rely heavily on Western-controlled platforms.

Apart from China and Russia, countries like Brazil, North Korea, Myanmar, and Bangladesh have also taken steps to restrict or ban platforms like Facebook and Twitter. Bharat remains one of the few major nations that offers these platforms near-complete freedom and access. This has significant commercial implications. In the financial year 2024, Facebook earned Rs. 3,034.8 crore in revenue from Bharat, including a profit of Rs. 505 crore. With over 400 million users, Bharat is WhatsApp's largest market. In 2023 alone, these platforms earned USD 7.874 billion in revenue from Bharat. However, Twitter's revenue has sharply declined. At the same time, there has been a rise in anti-national activities and propaganda disseminated through these platforms.

Foreign entities increasingly collaborate with domestic elements to advance destabilizing agendas via social media. The protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the Delhi riots, and the farmers' protests have all been linked to such interference. These developments underscore the urgent need for Bharat to develop and promote its social media platforms, ensuring both sovereignty and informational security in the digital age.

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Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart-Quit India

In recent times, e-commerce has made people's lives convenient. When we make a transaction for buying or selling a good (tangible) or a service through a web portal on the Internet, we call it e-commerce. Booking a rail or air ticket or booking a hotel is a matter of a few seconds. We can also buy mobile phones, electronic goods or groceries with the help of a website or mobile app. The payment options are also very convenient. We can pay online or through net banking or cash on delivery.

Due to convenience, e-commerce is in fashion these days. There are more than 10,000 web portals doing e-commerce, but some portals are leading the show. Flipkart, Myntra, Homeshop 18, Amazon, eBay, Ola, Uber, Make My Trip etc. are some e-commerce portals, whose business has increased a lot. Apart from this, railway booking web portals (IRCTC) and airlines' web portals are also doing good business. Today more than 70 percent of railway bookings and almost 100 percent of airline bookings are done online.

In the recent past, retail trade has grown very rapidly through e-commerce. Today e-commerce business is growing rapidly. The share of e-commerce retail in the total retail market has increased from 4% in 2018 to 8% in 2023 and is expected to reach 13-15% by 2028. Today 82 crore people are using the Internet, out of which 44.2 crore internet users are from rural India. In such a situation, the business under e-commerce in India is increasing.

Despite the advantages of e-commerce, the main cause of concern is that large e-commerce companies are trying to increase their business by using unethical methods, and are putting traditional shopkeepers and small e-commerce firms out of competition. The strategy of these companies is that they lure consumers by giving huge discounts, and somehow capture the market by incurring losses, and keep trying expanding the same, riding on the vast amount of data they collect in the process. While traditional shopkeepers can offer a maximum discount of 10 to 20 percent, large e-commerce companies offer discounts between 30 to 50 percent. It is worth noting that these high discounts are not due to their efficiency, but due to their ability to bear losses for the purpose of capturing the market. These companies are not giving discounts due to their generosity, however, it is a well-thought-out strategy. Experts believe that these losses have reached several thousand crores of rupees and are going to increase even more in the coming years. Big companies like Flipkart, Snapdeal are suffering the most losses. If we look at the figures of previous years, it is clear that these companies are doing business by continuously incurring losses, and are slowly eliminating small and big shopkeepers from competition.

Unethical Strategies: Sometimes supporters of e-commerce argue that customers are happy with the e-commerce experience because they are getting goods at cheaper prices. Sometimes it is also argued that since the operational costs of these companies are low, customers will eventually make a profit by purchasing through e-commerce. However, we must understand that the strategy of selling below the cost of purchase is unethical and it eliminates competition; as it follows predatory pricing. Using financial power to drive traditional shopkeepers, booksellers, etc. out of business cannot be considered fair in any way and hence needs to be stopped. There are also complaints regarding tax evasion by e-commerce companies.

What is the solution: Clearly, companies based on their economic power are not only eliminating traditional business but are also becoming a big obstacle in the way of new entrepreneurs in e-commerce. Since new entrepreneurs have limited resources, they cannot face the giant e-commerce companies in terms of losses. Moreover, new entrants in the e-commerce system are also deprived of the data which these established e-commerce players possess. The big companies with huge resources have adopted the strategy of incurring losses initially to capture the market, and hence it is like a death knell for the 'start-up' enterprises. It is regrettable that the regulator to deal with unfair practices, Competition Commission of India (CCI), has been finding itself helpless in controlling the unethical behavior of these big e-tailers. When booksellers complained against these companies that these companies are selling books at huge discounts, even more than the discounts given

to these companies by the publishers, the government could not take any action on it. CCI has been expressing its inability to consider their demand, as it said that it can accept such complaints against the guilty e-commerce companies only from the e-commerce business enterprises. Later, CCI also started taking up these issues.

Unethical and Illegal Business: The big question is whether this 'cash burning business model' which eliminates competitors and drives away established shopkeepers and entrepreneurs from the market is an ethical business model. The answer is clearly 'no'. Ethics in business is being considered conservative in the present times. However, if we look at it from a legal point of view as well, this business model is not legally tenable either. Before 2016, no kind of foreign investment in e-commerce was permissible under the law of the country. To somehow accommodate the operations of these companies that did not follow legal norms, in 2016 the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) came up with a policy framework in the form of Press Note-3, 2016. Though, FDI was not allowed in e-commerce, it was allowed for the marketplace model with three major conditions.

Firstly, these marketplaces should not influence the prices of goods and services and should not offer discounts. Secondly, they are not allowed to hold inventory (stock) and Thirdly, no seller would sell more than 25 per cent of the sales.

In the month of May 2018, Flipkart struck a deal with global retail giant Walmart for the sale of 77 per cent of its equity. Flipkart was accused of violating FDI rules and circumventing the law in many ways.

From this whole analysis of how e-commerce giants have been circumventing the law of the land, and the fact that they are adopting unethical and illegal practices, with the objective of eliminating the small businesses, it is the need of the hour that a clear e-commerce policy for India, be made. Rules were being violated openly but all the government agencies, which are supposed to be the guardians of the law, were silently helping these companies to operate freely and no action was taken against them. The important question is, can a company that keeps burning cash and constantly takes compensation by selling shares to foreigners, not even paying taxes which circumvents the law of the country including foreign investment rules, Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), RBI rules and many others; can it get away with selling shares to another big business entity (Walmart)? Do rules apply only to the common man and not to big business entities? Why were these companies allowed to create a web of companies and operate by circumventing the laws with the help of top lawyers and consultants who deceive the regulatory bodies, why were they not prosecuted by government departments that are the guardians of the law?

E-commerce has gained importance in today's world. E-commerce is witnessing a remarkable growth in India, with many small companies emerging rapidly and some giant companies trying to capture the huge Indian e-commerce market. Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal, Uber, Ola, etc. are some examples. Some of these are called swadeshi, in the sense that their promoters have been Indians. But later they attracted foreign equity and eventually became dominated by foreign investors. As per the law of the land, foreign investment is not allowed in e-commerce. Therefore, these companies received foreign investment in the name of marketplace model. In this way, while running a full-fledged e-commerce business, they are circumventing the law. The draft e-commerce policy released in 2018 states, "At the foundation of the growing online retail business is data flow. Communication over mobile phones using mobile applications not only generates a vast array of data, including physical location, financial details and consumer preference, but also creates a dynamic profile of the individual user... The browsing and search history by consumers also generates rich information of consumer preferences... By tracking search history, online retail websites are able to target consumers with tailor-made marketing material."

Counterfeit goods: Recently, the Delhi branch of India's national standards body, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has carried out several raids targeting major e-commerce distributors and seized thousands of substandard products. The team seized thousands of substandard products from the warehouses of Amazon Sellers Pvt Ltd located in Delhi's Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area. More than 3,500 items, including geysers, food mixers and various electrical appliances, have been seized in the raid conducted on March 19. The team found that a large quantity of products either lacked the mandatory ISI mark or had fake ISI labels. The total

estimated value of the seized goods is around Rs 70 lakh. In a separate raid, BIS officials targeted Flipkart's subsidiary Instacart Services Pvt Ltd, located in Delhi's Trinagar. The operation also found a stock of sports footwear, ready to be packed and shipped, which did not meet the required ISI standards and did not have proper manufacturing date information. During this operation, about 590 pairs of sports footwear were seized, which is estimated to be worth Rs 6 lakh. Earlier also, raids were conducted on the warehouses of e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart in Tiruvallur district, seizing a large quantity of products being sold without mandatory certification. At Amazon's warehouse in Pudukkottai, officials seized 3,376 items including insulated flasks, food containers, metal potable water bottles, ceiling fans and toys without BIS standard marks. The seized products are worth Rs 36 lakh. It has been proved beyond doubt that these e-commerce platforms cheat consumers by selling substandard and counterfeit products.

But how to make e-commerce giants follow the rules? Currently, the rules restrict e-commerce marketplaces so that they do not directly or indirectly influence the price of sale of goods and services. There is an urgent need to implement this ban on group companies of e-commerce marketplaces. This will remove the loopholes in the current rules. India urgently needs a well-defined e-commerce policy, not only to provide a level playing field but also to facilitate negotiations at the WTO and other regional trade negotiations. Swadeshi Jagran Manch strongly believes that multinational foreign e-commerce companies are indulging in illegal trade practices in India. These firms are openly violating rules through shell companies like Appario Retail, which are indulging in predatory pricing and discounting, thereby destroying the business of offline retailers and small sellers. Amendments should be brought in the Competition Act, 2002 to ensure protection to offline retailers and small traders from foreign e-commerce companies. Swadeshi Jagran Manch hopes that the 'Boycott Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart Quit India' campaign will inspire consumers and the government to completely reject the products of FDI e-commerce companies and bring back smiles on the faces of Indian sellers. The Centre should bring in a well defined policy to protect the interests of consumers as well as offline traders and small traders. □□

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SJM protests outside Turkish embassy over Ankara's support to Pakistan



Calling for a boycott of Turkish products and travel to Turkey over its alleged support for Pakistan amid recent tensions with India, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) staged a protest outside the Turkish Embassy in Delhi. The protestors raised slogans against Turkey, urged the public to boycott goods manufactured in the country, and appealed to fellow Indians to avoid traveling there for tourism. The demonstration was held in solidarity with Indian soldiers and in defense of national interests. The activists advocated for self-reliance instead of depending on countries that back India's adversaries. As the SJM activists attempted to march toward the Turkish Embassy, they were stopped by the police. The protest comes amid growing criticism in India against Turkey, with a reported rise in cancellations of travel plans to the country.

Meanwhile, in a significant move, over 120 leading Delhi-based traders on Friday announced a complete boycott of all commercial engagements with Turkey and Azerbaijan. This announcement was made during a meeting of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). The move follows public statements from both Turkey and Azerbaijan expressing support for Pakistan in the wake of India's recent actions against terrorist infrastructure across the border.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/swadeshi-jagran-manch-protests-outside-turkish-embassy-over-ankaras-support-to-pakistan-1503433634.html>

125 Leading Indian Traders Pledge to Boycott Trade with Turkey and Azerbaijan

In a strong show of solidarity and national resolve, more than 125 top trade leaders from across India have pledged to boycott all trade and commercial ties with Turkey and Azerbaijan, including travel and tourism activities.

The call to action was made during a Conference jointly organized by Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) in New Delhi, with participation from representatives spanning 24 states. The leaders passed a unanimous resolution to sever economic and commercial engagement with both countries, citing their recent public support for Pakistan amid a sensitive national security climate for India.



As part of the resolution, the trade leaders also urged the Indian film industry to refrain from shooting films in Turkey or Azerbaijan. They warned that any films shot in these countries would be boycotted by both the business community and the general public. The resolution further cautioned corporate houses against producing promotional content in these nations.

The move follows statements and actions by Turkey and Azerbaijan in support of Pakistan-widely criticized for its ties to terrorism-which Indian traders view as a betrayal, especially in light of the diplomatic, strategic, and humanitarian support India has extended to both countries in the past.

"It is deeply unfortunate that Turkey and Azerbaijan, nations that have benefited from India's goodwill and support, have now chosen to side with a country globally known for harboring terrorism," said CAIT Secretary General and Member of Parliament Praveen Khandelwal. "Their actions undermine India's sovereignty and insult the sentiments of 1.4 billion Indians."

The conference highlighted Turkey's continued anti-India rhetoric on international platforms and its alignment with Pakistan's narrative. Azerbaijan's open endorsement of Turkey's stance and support for Pakistan were also condemned as a betrayal of India's long-standing friendship.

The program was attended by Smt. Smriti Irani (Ex Cabinet Minister), Sh. Kashmiri Lal (Akhil Bharatiya Sangthak, SJM), Dr. Ashwani Mahajan (Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Sanyojak] SJM) & Sh. Satish Kumar (Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Sangthak, SJM).

https://indiannewengland.com/125-leading-indian-traders-pledge-to-boycott-trade-with-turkey-and-azerbaijan/#google_vignette

Youngsters urged to explore entrepreneurial opportunities

A one-day workshop titled "Empowering Youth for a Self-Reliant India" was organised at Indira Gandhi National College, Ladwa, in collaboration with Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Haryana.

Malkeet Singh, Lead District Manager, Punjab National Bank, elaborated on several banking support systems and motivated students to explore entrepreneurial opportunities across different sectors.

Dr Virender Pal, Associate Professor, DAV College, Cheeka, and a mushroom farming entrepreneur shared his personal journey. He expressed concern over the shortage of skilled individuals in India.

Deepak Narwal, District Head, MSME Kurukshetra, elaborated on schemes and subsidies offered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Rajesh Kumar of the Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Kurukshetra, briefed the audience about the diverse training programmes offered by the institute. OP Sharma, Financial Literacy Coordinator, and Neelam Panchal, Financial Literacy Counsellor, Krishi Foundation, discussed several important government financial schemes and insurance plans, including NPS, Atal Pension Yojana and PradhanMantriShram Yogi Maandhan.

Dr Ankeshwar Prakash, Controller of Examinations, Kurukshetra University, who was the chief guest, encouraged the youth to take charge.

Prof. Kushal Pal, principal of the college, said the workshop proved to be highly motivating, encouraging the youth to step forward towards self-reliance.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/youngsters-urged-to-explore-entrepreneurial-opportunities/>

India 2047: A Vision for Innovation and Inclusivity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's ambitious vision for the year 2047, focusing on transforming the nation into a hub of innovation, sustainable growth, and inclusivity, ensuring a higher quality of life for every citizen over the next few decades.

Addressing the inaugural session of an international conference titled 'VISION 2047: Prosperous and Great Bharat', organized by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, Modi emphasized that the vision transcends mere economic goals. It deeply integrates pride in India's cultural heritage while embracing innovation and modernity, aiming for a centenary of independence marked

by prosperity and self-reliance.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the journey towards 2047 is a continuous effort of growth and transformation driven by the synergy between inspired youth and empowered institutions, setting India on a path toward becoming a globally respected nation.

<https://www.dediscourse.com/article/entertainment/3357982-india-2047-a-vision-for-innovation-and-inclusivity>

India won't compromise with freedom, sovereignty, safety: Khattar



Union Minister Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar said India talks about universal brotherhood but it will not make any compromises when it comes to protecting its freedom and sovereignty.

Sh. Khattar was speaking at an international conference organised by Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan, a unit of Swadeshi Jagran Manch here. His remarks came against the backdrop of the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed and several injured.

In his opening remarks, the minister for housing and urban affairs and power condemned the Pahalgam terror strike and expressed condolences for those killed in the incident.

<https://www.ptinews.com/story/national/india-won-t-compromise-with-freedom-sovereignty-safety-khattar/2495843>

Krishna Gopal calls for development model to boost Indian economy

RSS Joint General Secretary Sh. Krishna Gopal has pitched for a development model for India which would not just help boost the country's economy but also promote and preserve its culture, traditions and value system. In the past, India was a far greater industrial and manufacturing nation than any other in Asia, but unfortunately people of the country did not know about it and relied on what foreigners said, Gopal said on Friday while addressing an international conference.

The event was organised by Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan, in collaboration with some national and international academic institutions. "Any economic progress will not be enough. With economic progress, sanskar, value system and spiritual upliftment are also needed... We must ensure that our country's ideological foundation and culture are also maintained," Gopal said.

India is witnessing progress in various sectors and has become the world's fifth largest economy, but about 57 per cent women and 67 per cent children are anaemic, he said. "India has the world's largest number of people below the poverty line... About 25 per cent children have stunted growth, which means they don't get adequate food... When such is the situation, we cannot accept that the country is making good progress. It is painful and worrisome," he said.

The senior RSS functionary said the country's development model should also keep in mind farmers and agriculture. "Agriculture is not profitable... If agriculture has to be made viable, we have to ensure that farmers get a good price for their produce. That is why they keep demanding MSP (minimum support price)," he added. Gopal said industries should be set up at such locations that they can provide jobs to people living in villages, he said. "Then those who become engineers, doctors and professors will go to cities and others who want to earn Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 will stay near their villages," he added.

The RSS functionary also made a strong pitch for making education completely free, saying it was the case in India during the ancient times. Addressing the event virtually, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said India is witnessing rapid development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and moving towards becoming the world's third largest economy. Under PM Modi's leadership, efforts are on to make a "wealthy, prosperous, glorious and powerful Bharat", he said.

The production of food grains has increased so much that it is not only meeting the country's requirement but is also being sent abroad. The Centre has adopted a multi-pronged approach to increase production and decrease production cost, he said.

Chouhan said the government is taking steps to make villages in India "developed and self-reliant".

Efforts are being made to provide basic amenities to villagers like road connectivity, pucca houses, potable water and local markets, etc., the minister said.

<https://theprint.in/india/rss-krishna-gopal-calls-for-development-model-to-boost-indian-economy-preserve-value-system/2605411/>

SJM asks people to boycott e-commerce giants

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) a nationalist economic movement has officially launched a region wide campaign urging citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to boycott e-commerce giants like Flipkart and Amazon. Talking to reporters here, today along with other members of the Manch, Ajay Singh Chandel, the provincial contact head of the Manch has appealed the people of Jammu and Kashmir to come forward and make this campaign a mass movement. "This is not just protest. It is the declaration of economic independence. Every purchase from the local vendor helps sustain a family, supports the regional economy and strengthens the cultural fabric of our society," he added.

He urged all people to completely abstain from on line shopping during the ten day campaign period launched by the Manch and instead turn to local markets and neighbourhood stores. Consumers are encouraged to explore the rich variety of Swadeshi (indigenous) products from clothing and electronics to groceries and handicrafts and in doing so, contribute meaningfully to the Swavalambi Bharat (self reliant India) mission.

He said the ten day long campaign also included awareness drives, distribution of pamphlets, street corner meetings and social media outreach to educate citizens about the long term economic and cultural consequences of unchecked globalisation and the dominance of foreign companies in the Indian market.

https://www.dailyeconomist.com/swadeshi-jagran-manch-asks-people-to-boycott-e-commerce-giants/#google_vignette

PayG Drives Digital Transformation of Indian MSMEs and Traders

Reaffirming its position as a frontrunner in India's fintech and digital commerce ecosystem, PayG, a leading homegrown payment gateway, has taken a transformative step by launching INSPIRE, an outreach programme designed to empower MSMEs and traders across the country. This initiative is a collaborative effort between PayG, ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce), and the EGLF, aimed at democratizing access to e-commerce and digital payments for India's vibrant business community.

PayG, founded in 2020, is purpose-built to simplify digital transactions for Indian businesses especially MSMEs, SMEs, and retailers in semi-urban and ru-

ral markets. With its lightweight, mobile-friendly app optimized for low-bandwidth environments and a virtual POS system, PayG eliminates the need for expensive hardware while enabling merchants to accept payments via QR codes, SMS links, and mobile apps.

The launch event brought together a distinguished gathering of policymakers, industry leaders, and trade association representatives, all united by a shared mission: to accelerate India's digital economic inclusion through innovative and indigenous solutions like PayG.

The event was graced by eminent Guests of Honour, Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-Convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch; Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Advisor to NSDC; Shri Sunil Singhi, Chairman, National Traders' Welfare Board, DPIIT; Shri Ravindra Sathe, Chairman, Maharashtra Khadi Village Industries Board; and Shri Lalit Gandhi, Chairman, Jain Minority Financial Development Corporation & President, MCCIA. Other notable attendees included Shri Dhairyashil Patil (CAIT & AICPDF), and Shri Bhimji Bhanushali (Grains Rice Oilseeds Merchants Association), reflecting strong national support from the trader and MSME communities.

Sh. Kamal Manohar Roa Jangeti, Chairman of PayG, said, "INSPIRE is a pivotal step toward empowering India's MSMEs and traders with digital tools and global access, and we at PayG are proud to support this national mission to unlock their full potential. By fostering innovation and financial inclusion, we aim to accelerate their growth and integrate them into the global digital economy. PayG stands as a symbol of India's digital self-reliance - built in India, for India." Shri Ashwani Mahajan praised PayG's dual role as a Buyer and Seller Network Participant in the ONDC ecosystem, highlighting its fee-free onboarding model for MSMEs and traders as a disruptive, inclusive move. He encouraged trade associations nationwide to rally behind such domestic innovations that can compete with global e-commerce players and ensure India's digital sovereignty.

<https://thewire.in/patiprnews/payg-drives-digital-transformation-of-indian-msmes-and-traders-with-the-launch-of-inspire-in-collaboration-with-ondc-and-elite-global-links-foundation>

SJM welcomes government's decisive action against Pakistan-supported terrorism

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) welcomed the Central government's firm and resolute response to the continued terrorism supported and abetted by Pakistan. SJM, in a statement, said, "This bold step

reflects the will of the Indian people its leadership and reaffirms our nation's unwavering commitment to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of its citizens."

"Pakistan has nurtured terrorism as an instrument of its state policy, resulting in the loss of countless innocent lives and sustained instability in the region. India's decisive retaliation send a clear and unambiguous message that terrorism will not be tolerated, and those who shelter and support such forces will face the consequences," it added.

SJM also urged the international community to hold Pakistan accountable for its persistent role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism. SJM said it stands firmly with the government, our armed forces, and the people of India. "We appeal to all citizens to maintain unity, remain vigilant, and support national initiatives aimed at eradicating terrorism from our soil," it said.

"Amidst this ongoing action against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, where our armed forces are engaged in the fight against terror, the Pakistani army is seen siding with terrorists, for example, a slain terrorist is being given a state funeral wrapped in the national flag of Pakistan," it added.

After the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a USD 1.4 billion loan to Pakistan from its climate resilience fund, along with an additional \$1 billion under the existing USD 7 billion economic stabilization program, Swadeshi Jagran Manch expressed its displeasure with this decision.

"While we refrain from directly calling this IMF funding a support for terrorism, the fact remains that loans provided to Pakistan in the past have often failed to serve their stated purposes. Instead, there are serious concerns that such funds have been diverted towards defense expenditures and the repayment of third-country debts, rather than toward genuine economic stabilization," it added.

SJM further urged the member countries of the IMF who supported this loan to reconsider their decision in light of Pakistan's continued support for terrorism. It also calls upon the Government of India to engage all available diplomatic channels to ensure that the newly approved IMF funds are not misused. SJM is particularly concerned that these funds may be diverted to strengthen Pakistan's military or indirectly aid terrorist activities, rather than contribute to meaningful economic reforms.

□□

<https://thenewsmill.com/2025/05/swadeshi-jagran-manch-welcomes-governments-decisive-action-against-pakistan-supported-terrorism/>

Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Programs

Pictorial Glimpses



Guwahati Vichar Varga



Lucknow (Pravas)



Baba Saheb Bhimrav Ambedkar University, Lucknow



Hardoi (Pravas)



Swadeshi Activities Protest Against **Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart**

Pictorial Glimpses

