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PATRIKA

July 2025



India Fourth Most Equal Country

Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Meetings

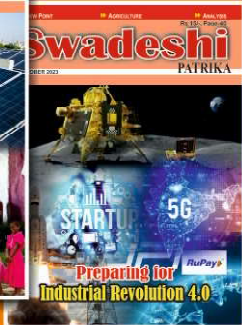
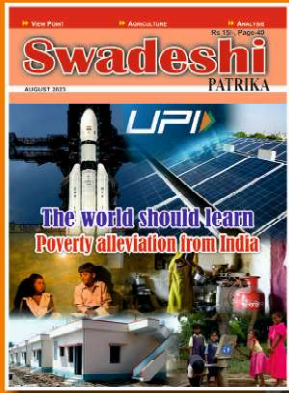
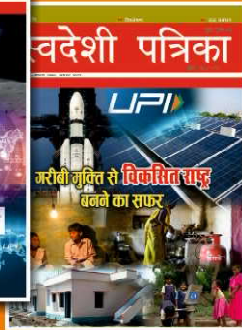
Pictorial Glimpses



Panchkula (Haryana)



Bihar Vidhan Prishad



VOICE OF

SELF RELIANT INDIA

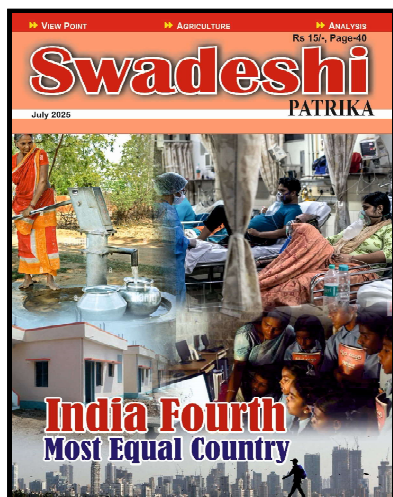
SWADESHI

Patrika

स्वदेशी

पत्रिका

पढ़ें और पढ़ायें



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The Hidden Cost of Globalization: Decline of Local Food and Fashion in North East India

North Eastern India has witnessed a sharp rise in e-commerce and modern consumerism, with platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and Myntra gaining significant ground in cities such as Guwahati and Shillong. E-retail penetration in the Northeast is now 1.2 times higher than the national average, reflecting rapid adoption of online shopping and global brands. This surge is driven by improved internet access, smartphone usage, and aggressive digital marketing by global companies.

Food and beverage giants like Pepsi and Coca-Cola have also expanded their presence, with their products now widely available and promoted through both online and offline channels. The influence of these brands, combined with targeted social media campaigns, is shifting food habits—youth and urban consumers are increasingly choosing packaged drinks and snacks over traditional local foods.

Fashion platforms such as Myntra and Flipkart have popularized Western clothing, leading to a decline in demand for traditional attire and locally made textiles. This not only impacts local artisans but also erodes the region's unique cultural identity.

A notable trend is the rise in impulse buying and overspending. The convenience of online shopping, frequent sales, and easy credit options are encouraging people—especially the youth—to purchase beyond their means. Many households are now spending more than their financial capacity, contributing to increased waste and financial stress.

— Vijeet Kumar, Delhi

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Quote-Unquote



A robust MSME ecosystem is not only important but also essential for the country's sustainable economic development. They generate more employment opportunities at a relatively low cost of capital. Most importantly, these enterprises generate employment in rural and backward areas.

Droupadi Murmu, President, Bharat



To adopt the Swadeshi behaviour, the language, attire, bhajans, buildings, travel and food should be our own.

Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak, RSS



Following the success of Chandrayaan, a renewed interest in science and a growing passion for space exploration has emerged among India's children and youth.... [Shubhanshu Shukla's] historic journey is further strengthening that resolve.

Naredra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat

Story of Indian Samosa and Jalebi

Recently, India's Samosa and Jalebi, which are easily available and liked by countrymen in every nook and corner of the country, were much discussed on social media. The reason for this was the letter of Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Health of India, in which she had issued an advisory, asking ministries, departments and autonomous institutions, to put up 'Oil and Sugar Board' in public places like cafeteria (canteen) and lobby, highlighting the hidden fat and sugar in Samosa, Jalebi, Vada Pav, Kachori (and also pizza and burger). After that, it faced the wrath of the people on social media. The Indian Samosa must have never been glorified on social media, so much as it was done post this advisory. Ministry later clarified that this instruction was not focused on any particular item. It can be understood that the problem of high fats, sugar and salt (HFSS) is not very much prevalent in fresh snacks like Samosa and Jalebi (and we can't avoid sugar in Jalebi in any case), it's actually with packaged food, which this directive has conveniently ignored. Due to the HFSS, various types of non-communicable diseases occur. Heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and many other NCDs not only have a huge adverse effect on people's health but also on their pocket. While mentioning fast food in the advisory of the Health Secretary, it is a bit odd to give the first example of samosa and jalebi. In fact, the fast food and packaged food that are often mentioned as the cause of non-communicable diseases (NCD) often include pizza, burger, Chinese, noodles, beverages, potato chips etc., but India's samosa and jalebi were never mentioned. It has been observed that excessive amounts of salt, sugar and fat are used in these fast foods and packaged foods, so that people, especially children, get addicted to these things. Health experts have often expressed concern about this.

It has to be understood that traditionally, from the common man walking on the road to the biggest industrialists, officers and leaders can be seen enjoying samosas and jalebis. Samosas are available for every pocket in the country. You can buy a samosa from two rupees to 200 rupees. The state of jalebi is such that every happiness in the country is expressed with jalebi. Recently, in some states, even before the final results of the elections were announced, jalebi was started being made in the Congress party office, which had to be stopped later.

Surprisingly, government has not yet been able to issue an order giving warning signals about products containing high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS), which are harmful to health, despite all the recommendations of experts. It is worth noting that these types of products are abundant in the packaged food being made by big companies, due to which NCDs are occurring in a big way, on which not only the government but also the general society is incurring huge expenses; and it is becoming the cause of death of lakhs of people. It is worth noting that the Food Regulator of India, FSSAI, had put forward a proposal of star rating for packaged food, two years ago. In this, there was a proposal to have a provision for rating from one star to five stars, where five stars means most suitable for health. The interesting thing was that there was no provision for giving any warning for harmful contents, on any product. Many experts objected to this proposal, saying that through star rating, products harmful for health will also be given star rating and the consumer will remain unaware of how harmful those food items are for health. Experts argued that most packaged food items contain excessive fat, salt and sugar. This happens because the manufacturers of these food items add these harmful ingredients so that consumers get addicted to it. Experts demanded that the process of star rating be stopped and a provision for giving warning signals be made. That is, consumers should be aware about harmful contents, such as excessive fat, salt and sugar.

After such pointed reactions, to the proposal of star rating, the proposal of star rating was shelved with the intervention of the Health Ministry then, and in its place a proposal was brought that these harmful ingredients should be written in bold letters on the packets. In such a situation, now people may start getting at least this information about packaged food that how many harmful substances are there in them. It has to be understood that in the whole world, except New Zealand and Australia, there is no provision of star rating in any country; in the rest of the world, where there is a provision of labeling on packaged food, that is, Front of Packet Label (FOPL) warning signals are being given. If the Health Ministry had to talk about the quality of oil, then that type of advisory should have been issued, and not by marking samosas and jalebis and warning about them at public places. The question here is why FSSAI, which comes under the Health Ministry, has not yet decided to issue a warning on packaged food with high fat, salt and sugar content which are definitely harmful to health. Moot question is why target desi samosas and jalebis while saying no word about harmful packaged food of big companies?

India Fourth Most Equal Country



The recently released World Bank's 'Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief' has started a debate in India and the world. Debate is that whether India has really become the fourth most equal country in the world, as stated in this report? In fact, this report contradicts the discourse prevalent in the country and the world. A large number of intellectuals in the country, citing earlier reports and figures, have been arguing that inequalities have increased along with economic growth in the country. In other words, it can be said that along with economic growth, the gap between the poor and the rich has widened, the conditions of the de-

prived class have worsened and this inequality is visible in both income and wealth. In such a situation, if a report says that inequalities have narrowed down in the country, then confusion is obvious.

But it is also true here that those who believe that the income and wealth inequalities have increased in the country can also prove their point on the basis of data; and the report published by the World Bank, claiming reduction in inequalities, is also based on data. Let us try to understand this puzzle and enquire that whether the World Bank report is just a play of data, as its critics claim or there is some truth in it. And if this is true, then we will also try to understand, how inequalities have come down in India?

Income and wealth inequalities

Gini coefficient is the most popular measure of inequalities. The Gini coefficient ranges from zero to one, where zero indicates complete equality and 1 shows complete inequality.

According to the data of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and other household income surveys, the income Gini coefficient was 0.410 in 2023, which was 0.371 in 1955. If we consider the distribution of wealth, in rural areas this coefficient was 0.405 in 2023 which was much higher than 0.341 in 1955, whereas in urban areas it decreased slightly from 0.392 in 1955 to 0.382 in 2023, but it continues to remain at a very high level.

But the inequalities in consumption have decreased. "Amid the growing inequalities of income and assets in India, the good news is that the inequalities in consumption are decreasing. This was stated in different words, first in the UNDP's Report on multidimensional poverty and later in the recently released report of the World Bank, it was told that a big reduction has been registered in extreme poverty in India. Although the definition of extreme poverty has been changed



We must understand that although inequalities have come down, the credit for the reduction in inequalities goes to govt support & to some extent freebies; but we cannot expect the govt to continue supporting the poor & the deprived indefinitely.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

from 2.15 dollars per day to 3.0 dollars per day, even then only 5.3 percent of people were suffering from extreme poverty in 2022-23. Interestingly this figure was 27.1 percent in 2011-12 (Based on 3.00 dollar criterion). And if this definition is kept as before at 2.15 dollars, then the percentage of people suffering from extreme poverty will only be 2.3 percent in 2022-23.

In this report released recently by the World Bank, it has also been said that the inequalities in consumption in India have now reduced. India's journey towards a more equal society is reflected in its Gini Index (ranging from 0 to 100) over the years. The index was measured at 28.8 in 2011, and reached 25.5 in 2022. That means, now from UNDP to the World Bank, there is consensus, that consumption inequalities have certainly narrowed down in India.

But on the other hand, critics putting forward the argument of increasing inequalities in India, are not ready to accept the fact that both poverty and consumption inequalities have come down.

What do these critics say?

Their first argument is that the World Bank report is based on the data of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES Survey) and it does not include income and wealth. Consumption based Gini coefficient underestimates the inequalities, because rich people save a large part of their income. In comparison, income based inequalities is a more comprehensive concept and the reality is that income and wealth inequalities have actually increased in India.

The second argument of the critics is that the survey used by the

World Bank could not assess consumption properly. The top five percent rich people under-report their consumption and the conclusion based on that will not be correct.

Thirdly, critics also say that there is a big difference between the methodology used in surveys of 2011-12 and 2022-23, two years, between which the comparison has been made. Therefore, comparison may not be correct.

Critics further argue that only 49 percent of the total national consumption could be covered in the survey, because the rich underestimate their consumption, so correct conclusions cannot be drawn on this basis.

We must understand that no survey is perfect in all aspects. So, on the basis of these arguments, we cannot deny the fact that while reports after one another are indicating a reduction in poverty, whether it is extreme poverty or multidimensional, a reduction in consumption inequalities is a reality. This has happened in India due to the inclusive policies of the present government. For the first time in such a short time, the construction of three crore houses in rural areas and one crore houses in urban areas has transformed the lives of the poor. Along with this, electricity in all houses, piped water for the majority of the population and availability of clean cooking fuel, as well as free secondary health care and primary health care facilities up to Rs 5 lakh, to every eligible family below a certain income under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana are taking care of the factors that make people poor.

Along with this, we also see that earlier also governments used to spend huge amounts of money

in the name of improving the consumption of the poorer sections of the society, but due to huge corruption and leakages, the expected results were not in sight. But opening of more than 56 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts with zero balance and linking all these accounts with Aadhaar and mobile numbers made direct benefit transfer possible without any leakage. This not only reduced government expenditure but also improved the lives of people by lifting their consumption standards. So, while the shortcomings and weaknesses of household surveys measuring inequalities can be understood, there has definitely been a reduction in poverty, both extreme or multidimensional. The same is reflected in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), which shows a reduction in consumption inequalities, but this should not be taken as the end goal.

We must understand that although inequalities have come down, the credit for the reduction in inequalities goes to government support and to some extent freebies; but we cannot expect the government to continue supporting the poor and the deprived indefinitely. In the long run, we have to make people capable enough, so that they can fulfill the needs of their families, such as housing, education, health, sanitation, electricity, water, etc. People have to be empowered by providing them requisite skills and small businesses and entrepreneurship have to be encouraged in the country on the basis of decentralized development model, so that we can achieve the long term objective of required equality in distribution, in income and also in wealth. □□

Aftermath Operation Sindoor

(International Media on Operation Sindoor-II)

In the previous article on 'International Media on Operation Sindoor (I)', the background of British and the US conspiracy on Kashmir partition was discussed in historical perspective along with the significance of Indus waters for survival of Pakistan. Shortly after the ceasefire following four days of Bharat-Pakistan conflict resulting in massive destruction of Pakistan's terrorist and defence infrastructure, the Israel-Iran war took a diversion to Pak-Iran hostility and treachery as alleged by Iran, owing to the US with its conspicuous involvement supporting Israel.

The US-Pak collusion is worrisome for Bharat as the Operation Sindoor is directly linked to Pakistan post Pahalgam attack on Hindus and four decades of thousands of killings of Hindus by Pak supported and sponsored terrorist attacks. Instead of focussing on the international narratives on the Operation Sindoor, it needs worrisome consideration that Pakistan has been obliged with financial aid of IMF and the World Bank and appointment as UNSC President with obvious support of the US and China ignoring that 123 countries who supported Bharat on Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor. It questions the sanctity of the United Nations and UN Security Council:

(Quotes from the latest book – The New World by Shri Ram Madhav)

'We, the people of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.... ('United Nations Charter: Preamble,' the United Nations, <https://tinyurl.com/42ffy5pv>)'

Further, it brazenly justifies the psychotic approach of the big powers emerged after the World War – II:

'Two months later (after World War-II), Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met in Tehran, and declared that 'we recognise fully the supreme responsibility resting



Resisting all the obstructions and challenges, Bharat is determined for nation's security against all threats from all directions. Pakistan survived only because of Bharat despite its seven decades' hostility for us. The US and China are eroding its existence.

Vinod Johri



upon us and all the United Nations to make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of the war for many generations. (*The History of the UN, United Nations*, <https://tinyurl.com/4r4kxye>.)

This is undoubtedly an important theme coming at the most appropriate time and the significant inflection point and passing through disruptive times. More and more voices are being raised over the growing ineffectiveness and inefficiency of this cherished multilateral body (UNO). (*Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 'Dealing with crimes against Humanity', Development Dialogue, No. 5, March 2011*, <https://tinyurl.com/ye83s8y2>)

Thus, Pakistan appointed as UNSC President is no big surprise. Recently our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has expressed concern for reforms in the United Nations.

In the statement on 4th July 2025, the Army Deputy Chief Lt. Gen. Rahul R. Singh stated that Bharat faced three foes – Pakistan, China and Turkiye.

It is very apparent that Pakistan is worst affected by the suspension of Indus Water Treaty. In a statement published in the newspapers on 6th July 2025, PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto has offered to extradite Mumbai blast accused and mastermind dreaded terrorists Hafiz Saeed and Masud Azhar for restoration of IWT, though its sanctity is as doubtful as Pakistan itself.

Though the international narratives against have rendered irrelevant and the US and China have brazenly supported Pakistan. Yet such narratives are repeatedly built

every time during Bharat – Pakistan face off.

Few Bizarre Media Reactions against Bharat

Journalist Imran Khalid opined and reported Modi's strikes were politically engineered. He claimed the confrontation "was not a spontaneous response to terrorism, but rather a premeditated manoeuvre by Prime Minister Modi... rooted in domestic politics".

Andrew Latham viewed the conflict through an ideological lens. He argued that *Sindoor* was not just retaliation or electioneering but a symptom of India's turn toward hardline Hindutva politics. He traced how Modi's BJP had institutionalized Hindu-majoritarian policies (e.g. revoking Kashmir's autonomy, citizenship laws).

Fabian Hoffmann examined India's claimed success with scepticism. He highlighted that "several Indian losses had been verified, casting serious doubt on the success of the operation". Hoffmann noted India fired advanced stand-off weapons (SCALP-EG, AASM, BrahMos) at Pakistan, but images of debris (e.g. a BrahMos booster) suggested Pakistani defences held some intercepts.

Azad Essa strongly condemned India's actions as communal and expansionist. The tone was outraged and alarmist.

AlJazeera: Opinion columnist Yousuf Nazar argues *Sindoor* backfired on India. He contends Modi's aim of projecting strength instead "boosted Pakistan's regional standing and left Modi diplomatically weakened".

Umair Jamal argued the conflict strengthened Pakistan. He claimed India's decision to strike

"has backfired" by uniting Pakistan and boosting confidence.

A report (citing U.S. analysts) praises Pakistan's integrated air-defence "kill chain." It contends that a networked Pakistani strike fusing Chinese radars, J-10C fighters, PL-15 missiles, and AWACS – successfully shot down an Indian Rafale.

A report quoted analysts who say Chinese arms acquitted themselves well. Yun Sun observed that Indian systems "are not as effective as a lot of people thought they would be", and Dr. Carlotta Rinaudo noted the old bias that "Chinese weapons are inferior" is now "not the case anymore".

Aqil Shah's Foreign Affairs piece warned that India's recent strikes did little to deter Pakistan and may instead fuel future violence.

Some Different Voices

A different voice was raised by Joshua White who outlined four emerging dynamics: (1) Attribution has shifted in India's favour (terror attacks are now readily pinned on Pakistan), which may increase political pressure for immediate retaliation. (2) Both militaries have set new precedents in target selection; (3) Information warfare has become central (particularly Pakistani propaganda); (4) Widespread use of drones/loitering munitions is blurring escalation ladders. Notably, White observed that India's friends now assume Pakistan's guilt.

Christopher Clary's working paper offers a factual, balanced narrative of May 7–10, 2025. It catalogues several firsts (India's first use of BrahMos and SCALP missiles; Pakistan's use of Fatah ballistic missiles; first combat drone use by both sides) and noted that both nations claimed victory amid ram-

pant disinformation. India, it finds, repeatedly launched precise stand-off strikes deep into Pakistan, showing Pakistani air defences vulnerable.

Some Realistic Voices

Brahma Chellaney analysed *Sindoor* as a real-world trial of Chinese weaponry and finds them wanting. He noted that Pakistan's Chinese-supplied J-10C jets (armed with PL-15 missiles) and HQ-9 SAMs saw combat but scored "no independent verification of successful hits," while India's layered air defences held firm. By contrast, Indian cruise missiles (BrahMos) struck deep into Pakistan – "crippling major Pakistani air bases" – without suffering confirmed losses. Chellaney highlights India's use of precision standoff weapons (especially BrahMos) as highly effective.

John Spencer hailed Operation *Sindoor* as a "massive victory" that surpassed its strategic goals. It neutralised nine major terror camps, struck multiple Pakistani air bases, and asserted India's military dominance, marking a shift in its national security doctrine. He commended the operation's precision and restraint, describing it as "decisive and controlled." India's intent, he emphasised, was deterrence—not vengeance. Calls for full-scale escalation "miss the point," as the strikes were designed to impose costs and redefine red lines. Spencer argued this restraint reflects "maturity, not weakness," and that Bharat's swift response "changed the strategic equation." The campaign, he concluded, redefined India's strategic posture—terror from Pakistan now invites calibrated military retaliation. Under the shadow of nuclear risks,

Spencer saw the operation as both a "strategic success" and a "decisive Indian victory."

Arzan Tarapore framed *Sindoor* as the latest step in India's shift to a cost-imposition strategy. He noted India struck a larger array of targets with greater force (cruise missiles, drones, etc.) than before. The article emphasised India's use of stand-off weapons (BrahMos, Spice/SCALP missiles, Israeli Harops) to hit terror-linked infrastructure quickly and without mobilizing ground forces. It calls *Sindoor* an "important evolution" from mere warnings to directly punishing militants.

Royal United Services Institute: Walter Ladwig commended Bharat's restrained execution of *Sindoor*. He noted that despite much focus on aircraft losses, India "largely achieved its stated objectives," using precise stand-off strikes against terrorist. Crucially, Bharat's pilots accepted the risk of confronting Pakistani air defences but were ordered not to initiate combat with Pakistani aircraft, a choice that shows intent to limit the war's scope. The piece portrays *Sindoor* as a "lesson in restraint": India struck hard only at militants, and even hit Pakistan's air-defence radars at bases, yet issued no nuclear threats nor full mobilization. The tone is measured and somewhat positive about India's new "calibrated" approach.

The repercussions of the newspapers' reports on China's live support to Pak and Moscow's Kabul Rush to Create Space for India' (5th July, 2025), make it imperative to weaken Chinese influence in West Asia. The 'borrowed knife' i.e. Pakistan, of China blunted and stumbled within 48 hours of launching Operation *Sindoor*

despite substantial military hardware and logistics support by China and begged for a ceasefire. It shows that China failed to deter Bharat through its proxy to the extent that the ceasefire was desperately prayed by Pak DGMO. If Pakistan is China's razor blade for India, it is China's Achilles' heel too as a dumping ground for its billions of dollars in Gwadar and CPEC projects as well as its losing ground in West Asia because of the US sponsored Pak-Iran hostility. China must evaluate what they have achieved by supporting Pakistan against Bharat. Rather it has fierce domestic opposition in Balochistan and POK. Russia's overtures to Afghanistan's Taliban 2.0 Government is set back for China and a game point for Bharat. China's entire international borders are disputed and seventy five percent of its land is under its unauthorised possession of lands of other independent countries including Tibet. China and the US should stop their stratagems targeting Bharat.

There are published reports that Bharat has fast tracked launch of 52 defence surveillance satellites at the project cost of Rs. 26,968 crores by April next year. Parallely, Indian Air Force is pursuing the case for three high altitude platform system (HAPS) aircraft which are basically unmanned aerial vehicles or pseudo satellites that operate in the stratosphere for long durations on Intelligence, Surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Resisting all the obstructions and challenges, Bharat is determined for nation's security against all threats from all directions. Pakistan survived only because of Bharat despite its seven decades' hostility for us. The US and China are eroding its existence. □□

Iran-Israel Conflict: An Analysis

The primary reasons for the conflict between Iran and Israel are rooted in historical, religious, and geopolitical differences. Both nations have long been engaged in confrontation, conflict, and indirect warfare through proxies. This conflict is not only a regional issue but also has strategic and political implications, with a long historical backdrop.

Historical and Ideological Conflict

The tension between Iran and Israel can be traced back to the 1979 Iranian Revolution, when the Islamic Republic was established in Iran. Iran refused to recognize Israel's legitimacy, labeling it an "illegitimate entity." Conversely, Israel perceives Iran's nuclear program as a direct threat to its security. In 1982, during the Lebanon War, Iran supported Lebanese Shia groups like Hezbollah and Palestinian groups like Hamas, escalating tensions between the two nations. Through proxy groups such as Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas (Gaza), and the Houthis (Yemen), Iran has waged indirect warfare against Israel. The October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, further intensified the conflict.

The U.S. seeks to maintain its influence in the Middle East, a region critical for global energy markets and strategic positioning. The notable work "Traacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran, and the United States" (Yale, 2007) provides detailed historical analysis of the triangular relationship between Iran, Israel, and the U.S., focusing on the ideological and strategic roots of their conflicts.



Over the past decade, India has faced declining trade with both Iran and Israel, and the conflict could impact projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Dr. Abhishek Pratap Singh

Dispute Over Iran's Nuclear Program

Iran's nuclear program began in the 1950s but became a focal point of international controversy in the 2000s. Western countries, particularly the United States





and Israel, suspect Iran of developing nuclear weapons, while Iran insists its program is for peaceful purposes, such as energy and medical research. In 2002, revelations about Iran's secret nuclear facilities (Natanz and Arak) led to sanctions by the U.S. and its allies. The U.S. labeled Iran a "state sponsor of terrorism" in the 2000s and imposed economic sanctions as part of a broader "war on terror." In 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed between Iran, the U.S., and other world powers (P5+1), under which Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief, subject to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). However, the Trump administration withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, calling it a "bad deal" and imposing a "maximum pressure" policy with renewed sanctions, severely impacting Iran's economy.

Recent Military Backlash

The United States' interests in Iran are multifaceted, driven by strategic, economic, security, and ideological considerations. The book "Guardians of the Revolution: Iran and the World in the Islamic Republic" (Oxford, 2009) explores

Israel has conducted strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities (e.g., Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan), which it deems necessary for its security.

Iran's foreign policy, its support for proxy groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, and its rivalry with Israel, providing context for the regional power struggle.

These interests have evolved over decades. Since 2021, efforts by the Biden administration to revive the JCPOA have been unsuccessful. Israel and Western nations remain concerned about Iran's nuclear program, which could be used for military purposes.

Israel has conducted strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities (e.g., Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan), which it deems necessary for its security. Iran labeled these attacks "heinous crimes" and retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israel, target-

ing locations such as Tel Aviv and Soroka Hospital. The U.S. supported Israel and conducted strikes on Iranian nuclear sites, which U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan called it "successful." Iran condemned these as "international crimes" and threatened retaliation against both the U.S. and Israel. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei stated that Iran would not back down and would deliver a "decisive response" to Israel and the U.S. For the U.S. and Israel, Iran's nuclear program is a security issue. The U.S. military actions had escalated these tensions in the region.

Conclusion

The Iran-Israel conflict is driven by disputes over nuclear weapons, regional dominance, and ideological differences. It affects not only the two nations but also the Middle East and the global economy, particularly oil prices and trade for countries like India. India had emphasized resolving the conflict through international law and diplomacy. This position is driven by its strategic interests with both nations. Oil price volatility also affects Indian economic interests. India also thanked the Iran government for aiding the evacuation of Indian nationals.

Over the past decade, India has faced declining trade with both Iran and Israel, and the conflict could impact projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

Since the ceasefire took effect, both sides have accused each other of violations. However, this relief and peace remains far from certain and with a possibility for renewed violence.

(Author teaches Global Politics at Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi.)

2025 AI in Education: Deadly than Macaulay in 1835

We have been struggling since 1835 to regain our education system legacy. As time passed, the attack on our education system became brutal. Today, the situation is more alarming and dangerous than it was in 1835. From Macaulay to Artificial Intelligence (AI), we have generally failed as policymakers and as a society to revive our education system.

The 1835 Macaulay education policy, as outlined in its “Minutes on Indian Education System,” emphasized English as the medium of instruction and Western thought as the foundation of the educated mind. It is well summarized as “Indian by blood, and English by taste.” The tools engaged were scaling up and financial support to this cause. The scaling-up procedure involved educating a select group of Indians, who would, in turn, train the broader Indian population. They will transfer whatever they have learned. Those who have learned English and Western thought will disseminate it to the masses, thereby scaling up the influence of English and Western thought. Financial support was available to any educational institution that aligned with this agenda. The tools of financial support are active today. It is active within the academic institutions of the country as well as abroad.

Post-independence, policymakers in the education sector didn’t make any strategic changes. Nor did they have any blueprint to reimpart our original education system.

The language emerged as a powerful tool, but it became entangled in the realm of power politics. Language as a tool for politics is so powerful that it resulted in the creation of a separate country, Bangladesh. Language as a political tool is more powerful than religion. And Macaulay knew it about 150 years before the creation of Bangladesh. It reflects how poorly our policymakers in the educa-



The choice of language is the choice of culture. We can't sustain foreign languages and indigenous cultures simultaneously.

Alok Singh



tion sector performed after independence.

After seventy-five years of independence, we did get a National Education Policy (NEP) that focused on language. But today, society is responding poorly. This is reflected in the fact that there are no takers for admission to a Hindi-medium medical college in Madhya Pradesh.

The Chinese could save themselves, but we couldn't. If we examine our original countrywide accepted official language, i.e., Sanskrit, it is also under the influence of foreign powers. It's not about Friedrich Max Müller today, but it's about Harvard and Princeton today. It's not only about the foreign funding today, but it's about our money funding Sanskrit chair professors in elite Western universities.

Sanskrit, Harvard, and Indigenous business houses funding foreign universities reflect the state of our mindset. It trickles down to our society and parents' unwillingness to impart education to their wards in their regional language. During the Vijayadashami celebration, Sarsanghachalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat Ji expressed concerns that policymakers have done their job by implementing the NEP after a detailed stakeholder consultation spread over multiple years. Still, the parents are not ready for this change.

Today, policymakers are ready, but society is not. The elite business houses have joined hands with elite foreign universities that are digesting our knowledge system using our own Sanskrit. We are in a trap.

Elite foreign universities receive funding from our business houses for promoting Sanskrit.

They conduct due diligence and later demean our knowledge system, positioning their knowledge system above ours—our money funding our cultural decline.

Max Muller conducted an extensive study on Sanskrit and Indology to critique our system, i.e., our knowledge system, using our language as an offensive tool and establishing English as a defensive tool for a better future for our society. Our society and business houses are still reeling from that conspiracy. The Chinese business houses also funded Chinese language chair professors at elite Western universities but didn't allow them to demean their language and knowledge system.

We are struggling with the conspiracies of Macaulay and Max Muller to date. NEP arrived to rescue us. The schools and colleges are preparing themselves. The government established the Rashtriya Bhasha Samiti to accelerate the implementation in regional languages. And suddenly, we find ourselves surrounded by the teeth of the AI sword.

AI is something that can democratize processes wherever it is engaged, apart from its core functionality of replacing human efforts. It aims to replace human efforts that are not necessarily repetitive. AI can think more effectively than the average human intelligence.

The 2025 tools of AI have emerged as a challenge to our education system. Academicians are concerned about whether assignments, research papers, and articles submitted for evaluation or consumption by regular audiences are written by an author whose name is printed or AI-generated, camouflaged under a human name.

AI can even do an illiterate doctorate if AI is engaged from start to end in the education supply chain, spanning from preschool to universities. The massive crowd of students aspiring to higher degrees and those masking in AI is a deadly combination.

Our policymakers are struggling to regulate personal data, the dependency on foreign data centers is enormous, and now our education system is vulnerable to AI. Before the advent of AI, our education system was also churning out unemployable engineers. On multiple occasions, our elite institutions have been labeled as strong forts with a weak army. These statements can be generalized, but at the same time, we must respect and trust those individuals who, in this toxic academic environment, have protected their character and credibility and are working for the nation's interest.

The path ahead is that policymakers should regulate AI heavily in the education sector, the society should believe in NEP and participate actively to promote education in regional language, and our business houses, whether elite or struggling, should spend their money on funding our knowledge system. The choice of language is the choice of culture. We can't sustain foreign languages and indigenous cultures simultaneously.

Our institutions of national importance, like AIIMS, IITs, IIMs, and others, are spread across the country. They can design a few courses in regional languages to cater to the needs of regional students in their geographical location. □□

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

Food provides hope, alas, Not for Food Producers

Whenever a video clip of a distressed farmer throwing his produce in the crop fields goes viral, and it happens quite frequently, a chorus erupts on social media blaming farmers for not making any value addition.

Often I read that the only way for farmers to enhance their income is by value addition. In fact, it is often said that the future belongs to farmers who can process, package and sell value-added products. The solution to the vexed crisis on the farm is seen through the value-addition route. The farmer must make an effort to move up the value chain and emerge as an entrepreneur. Therein is the expressway for economic diversification at the grassroots level.

In such a scenario where everyone is quick to pass the buck to farmers, blaming him for the price crash, I found it very surprising to see a recent LinkedIn post on who gets the benefit from value-addition. When farmers add value to his produce aimed at increasing the economic value of primary produce it isn't the farmer who actually ends up making a profit from value addition in agriculture. In an accompanying illustration, where a farmers is shown with his produce, followed by a depiction of the agribusiness industry, the pathway to economic empowerment of resource-poor farmers or forest dwellers, the answer provided is crystal clear: 'No money coming back to farmers'.

As an agriculture expert and consultant, Mukti Sadhan, adds: "Despite all the talk around value addition, the money rarely flows back to the farmer. This must change."

I completely agree. Value-addition in agriculture, despite the hype, hasn't benefitted the farmers, at least not yet. If it was so, there is no reason why farmers in rich developed countries continue to face severe distress often leading to a high rate of farmers suicides. Even in the United States, where hardly 1.5 per cent of



If the base price for raw commodity goes higher, so will be the output price after processing. That is why it is so important to realise the need for making Minimum Support Price (MSP) a legally binding commitment.

Devinder Sharma



the population now remains involved with farming, the rate of bankruptcy on the farm, which had touched a high of \$425 billion in 2020-21, is inching up again after declining for some years. And I also see no reason why protesting European farmers, with farmers in 24 countries protesting on massive scale demanding among other things, a guaranteed price for their crop produce.

In the US, the rate of suicides in the rural areas is 3.9 times the national average. In India, reports say since 1995, close to 4 lakh farmers have taken their own lives.

It is alright to say that food

profits at the cost of farmers.

In an article I wrote for a European publication, entitled: "No sustainable world without a living income for farmers" (Fair Food, Sept 22, 2021) I had talked of some of the popular examples in value-addition and how the farmer was left behind. This includes adding value to cocoa beans and also to coffee beans. I remember, a few years back, when invited to address the coffee growers at Bangalore, I explained how adding value to coffee didn't leave much in the hands of farmers. The emergence of brands like Starbucks, Barista and Coffee Café Day that have sprung

on to farmers. This price assurance cannot be ensured by market forces. It has to be ensured by state intervention. Similarly, for chocolate, which incidentally is a \$200 billion industry. If the chocolate industry had given farmers their due share, there is no reason why bulk of the farmers income should have been less than the cost of a chocolate bar that consumers buy on an average. To make it possible, the effort must be on how to ensure at least 40 per cent of the benefit arising from value-addition from cocoa beans goes to the producer.

My argument is that the maximum retail price (MRP) should be controlled in a manner that the agribusiness industry as well as the retail is forced to share at least 40 per cent of the end consumer price with the primary growers. Adequate provisions in law must be made to ensure no supermarket sells a product lying on its shelf unless farmers get 40 per cent of the retail price. It cannot be left to the whims of the market forces.

In reality, value addition of the primary produce will rarely benefit the producer unless of course there is a rethinking in ensuring a higher base price to growers. If the price of raw material stays put, I don't think it will ever be possible to make farming a viable enterprise. If the base price for raw commodity goes higher, so will be the output price after processing. That is why it is so important to realise the need for making Minimum Support Price (MSP) a legally binding commitment. Farmer call a legal MSP has to be re-considered keeping economic viability of farms in focus. □□

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture & hunger). Source: Bizzbuzz



In the US, the rate of suicides in the rural areas is 3.9 times the national average. In India, reports say since 1995, close to 4 lakh farmers have taken their own lives.

provides hope, but as I have often said the food producers do not see any hope. Over the decades, whether we like it or not farming has been kept deliberately impoverished. Even in the rich countries, if the suicide rate is so high, it is quite obvious that all permutation combinations to help improve farmers income have failed. Not many will like to acknowledge but even value-addition as the common prescription, has failed to transform the face of agriculture. It obviously means that besides farmers, everyone else up the value chain, makes

up almost everywhere but the benefit of value-addition bypassed the small growers. Coffee beans conversion into coffee, globally valued at \$2 billion, should have elevated the economic status of farmers. But in reality, it didn't happen.

The next time you visit a coffee kiosk and shell out Rs 300 for a cup of coffee, be sure what the farmer gets out of it just Re 1. If this is the benefit that value-addition has provided to coffee growers, it is high time we make efforts to see how does at least 40 per cent of the end consumer price is passed

Blanket Tariff Cuts On US Farm Goods May Harm Indian Agriculture



A working paper, published in May 2025 by NITI Aayog on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), which is currently being negotiated, with the title “Promoting India-US Agricultural Trade under the new US Trade Regime,” raises many curious questions for India.

The paper recommended the opening of Indian markets to a wide range of US farm products, including rice, pepper, soybean oil, shrimp, tea, coffee, dairy, poultry, apples, almonds, pistachios, corn, and genetically modified (GM) soy products. The obvious reference was towards the ongoing India-US BTA negotiations.

While the recommendation has been justified on the grounds of addressing supply gaps or ensuring reciprocal access, it ignores the structural risks to India’s 700 million farm-dependent citizenry.

To address those concerns, a broader public consultation process is required.



A recent NITI Aayog working paper argued for allowing the US agricultural goods into India. In reality, such a foray of American agri and dairy products may spell doom for Indian producers in the long run.

Ajay Srivastava

Why Tariff Cuts Are Risky For India’s Farmers?

Reducing tariffs on agricultural products, like corn, soybean derivatives, edible oils, dairy, and poultry, raises serious concerns. This market-access-first approach is deeply flawed, both in terms of implementation and long-term impact.

In the past, India tried the strategy of offering tariff concessions on products with domestic supply gaps, and paid a high price.

In the 1960s and 70s, when India was heavily dependent on imports of rice, wheat, and skimmed milk powder, it agreed to GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) recommendations of zero binding tariffs on these items.

However, by the 1990s, as India became self-sufficient, these zero-duty bindings became a major threat to millions of Indian farmers.

While India later succeeded in raising bound tariffs on key staples, like rice, wheat, and milk powder, it had to offer significant concessions elsewhere, mainly to developed countries, by lowering its bound tariffs on other products, like butter, apples, citrus fruits and olive oil.

This opened the door to a surge in subsidised agricultural imports to India.

The lesson is clear: Using trade policy to address short-term supply gaps can create long-term structural vulnerabilities that are difficult to reverse.

Risk of Exposing Indian Agriculture To Global Prices Volatility

The paper also argues for eliminating tariffs on items like rice and pepper, which India exports in large volumes. However, subsidised grain exports from developed countries have been a major driver of global grain price volatility, with

devastating consequences for self-sufficient farming systems in several African nations.

Between 2005 and 2008, and again in 2010-11, global grain prices spiked sharply. Wheat rose by over 130 per cent, maize by nearly 70 per cent, triggering food riots and forcing governments in countries like Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal to resort to costly subsidies and emergency imports.

Equally destructive were the artificially low-price periods that followed. From 2014 to 2016, global wheat prices fell below US\$ 160 per metric tonne, driven largely by surplus subsidised exports from the developed West.

These low-price phases wiped out local cultivation incentives, leading to widespread farm abandonment and a dangerous dependence on imports.

The cycle is vicious: Cheap imports depress farmer incomes and reduce planting, while sudden price surges, often caused by droughts, conflicts, or export bans, lead to inflation, hunger, and political unrest.

Cutting Tariffs Likely to Encourage Adversarial US Counterparts

Slashing tariffs on rice would also be playing into the hands of the USA Rice Federation — an industry body that has repeatedly attacked India at the WTO.

It accuses India of breaching subsidy limits on rice, misusing the 'Peace Clause', and distorting trade through minimum support prices (MSPs) and public procurement. The most recent accusation happened in 2022-23.

In 2013, the WTO members agreed to a 'Peace Clause' as an interim measure, with a commitment to find a permanent solution.

Any tariff cuts would only embolden such adversarial actors and increase pressure to dismantle India's food security architecture.

Indian Dairy Products May Also Be At Risk

The NITI Aayog paper also recommends allowing the import of dairy and poultry products if the US products meet India's SPS (sanitary and phyto-sanitary) measures, rather than imposing any tariffs.

The US has long challenged India's dairy SPS requirement that imported milk must come from animals that have not been fed meat, blood, or internal organs.

Washington sees this as an unjustified trade barrier, but India considers it essential for public health and cultural values.

India's lack of capacity in formulating stringent SPS measures got exposed in the WTO dispute initiated by the US against India during the avian flu epidemic in 2012.

Finally, here's the rub: Stringent SPS measures would apply not only to outside importers but also to domestic producers. If Indian domestic producers are unable to comply with India's own stringent SPS norms, they would not be able to sell even in the domestic market.

And then there are GM Concerns

Another proposal recommends imports of US corn for ethanol blending, and also permits corn byproducts like Distiller's Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS) for processing and re-export. The claim is that it will keep genetically modified (GM) material out of India's food and feed supply.

It also suggests importing GM soybean seeds under a "controlled model", where the seeds would be crushed in coastal areas,

the oil sold locally, and the soymeal (which contains GM traits) exported to avoid domestic contamination.

These plans assume India can tightly control the movement of GM material through strict SPS protocols. In reality, enforcement in India is weak, supply chains are fragmented, and markets are hard to monitor.

Once GM products enter the country, there is a high risk they will leak into domestic agriculture — raising serious concerns over food safety, environmental impact, and export bans from countries that do not accept GM contamination.

Tariff Flexibility Not Protectionism, More Stakeholder Consultations Needed

Keeping tariff flexibility is not outdated protectionism. It's a smart, essential policy tool to protect food security, support rural incomes, and respond to market shocks. Once this flexibility is given up in a trade agreement, getting it back is extremely difficult.

India should hold open, transparent consultations with state governments, farmer groups, and agricultural experts before making any binding commitments.

Attention should also be paid to the asymmetry in commitments — while India is being asked to reduce its MFN (most-favoured-nation) tariffs, the US is offering no such concessions.

With over 700 million Indians dependent on farming, agriculture is not just a source of livelihood. It is the bedrock of India's rural economy and food security system.

Trade policy must be aligned with India's development goals, not dictated by external pressures. □□

<https://theecretariat.in/article/blanket-tariff-cuts-on-us-farm-goods-may-harm-indian-agriculture>

Evaluation and analysis of Pahalgam postmortem reveals that Pahalgam attack is to arrest Bharat becoming Super Power

Preamble: The analysis and evaluation of Phalgam Postmortem reveals that Phalgam attack was a part of larger plan carried out by jihadis to derail or arrest the Bharat's speedy Progress towards becoming the Global Power. Since before the head shot of the Yatrikas', they were forced to humiliate. Their women family members and children were shocked to see that their own men are getting headshots. Further, the Hindu woman who begged for death along with her husband was told, "go and tell Modi ". So, this type of terrorist act is nothing but a cold-blooded massacre of Hindus. Each and every actions of murders were designed to evoke anger, communal resentment against the Central Government with Nation First ideology . The trap was laid in such a way that the government has no choice but to go to war with the Pakistan. Enemy nation is being used as a proxy, the agent provocateur, while the real mastermind is some one. Further distracters interested in forcing the Bharat into a war and want to put a full stop to its speedy progress towards Global Leader.



Bharat wishes to see a new fairer world order. Mutual and holistic advancement and growth across region. We see our development as a responsibility towards others - Lokaa Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu. Mahadevayya Karadalli

Plan to arrest progress

It might not be a pure coincidence that ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and torturing Hindu minorities/smashing of Hindu temples in Bangladesh. Pakistani agents wants to create another 'East Pakistan'. The puzzle is that the curious behaviour of India's Opposition. Instead of habitual criticism of the government's actions during the 'surgical strike' or the Balakot air strikes, this time the same parties adopted a tactic action, and are going to the right of the Central government goading to go to war with Pakistan.

The immediate kinetic action aftermath of the massacre is to bring the pressure – publicly declaring that it anticipates a strike from Bharat within the next 48 hours. The adversaries forced Bharat to take an impulsive action. Central government signaled a terrible retribution, it has refrained from plunging headlong into a kinetic retaliation despite keen anticipation. It reduced the 'audience cost', but also caught the Congress Party totally off-guard by a shock announcement of 'caste census'. Throwing the 'caste census' which is bone to the Congress, which has also enables India to retain the element of surprise in retribution that will come at a time and place.

Supporter's even expressed their anger, criticised for caste census and delaying the retaliation, which caused considerable erosion of political capital for the Ruling Party - the BJP. But the critics are likely missing the bigger picture. By refusing the bait, Bharat has shown alertness and thwarted an elaborate Chinese game design. The Pahalgam Postmortem is part of a much larger conspiracy against Bharat by foreign powers who do not want Bharat to rise as an economic and global superpower. But the game isn't over yet. Bharat first planned to destroy, Kill and wipe the enemies actions.



Conspiracy of Foreign Hands

Let us logically analyse their incomplete conspiracy to expose the hidden foreign hands to weaken Central Government .

1. Foreign powers tried to create an unwanted conflict between the farmers and the government through farmers' agitation to trigger a civil war within the Country. Union government handled it patiently by accepting few demands. Thus avoided the trap.

2. Foreign forces again tried to incite civil unrest during the CAA protests (Shaheen Bagh and Delhi riots),. Central Government handled the situation smartly and nullified the conspiracy successfully.

3. in Manipur, Also, anti-national forces tried to provoke Bharat to fall into a civil war. They tried to drag the issue from street to Parliament. But Central/State governments together solved the problem without much difficulty and without wasting much bullets.

4. Mass killings of Hindus were happened in Bangladesh for more than six months to provoke Bharat for the war. However, our government understood the conspiracy by taking necessary steps of geo politics.

Red Signals

Following are some red signals in the unusual actions of vested internal as well as external foreign forces. When our PM was visiting Saudi Arabia at the time the U.S. Vice President was visiting India. Read in between lines, having the interconnections. An influential young Indian leader visited the U.S. He might have received orders and guidance! Observe the speeches and actions to understand his intentions.

Once side with cover of friendship mask U.S., Canada, Germany, France, and U.K. declared their support to “Bharat's action “. Since they expected war to weaken Bharat's rising power.

Other side, almost all opposition parties, who earlier demanded “proof” during Balakot strikes, now they declared support for Central Government. As savior they want war, expecting failure of Central Government. Aftermath they can try their best to grab the power at Center. For one are other reason, internal as well as external powers, opposition parties, and even Pakistan are all want to war with Bharat. Their ultimate goal is to weaken Bharat internally. Detractors either intended to put obstacle or stop

Bharat to become world super Power. Tooth and nail they want to push our country back into 100 years of subjugation.

General Bipin Rawat rightly observed and warned that a “Half-Front” has emerged within the country. Traitors within the country working with foreign forces, which are the same elements behind the farmers' protests, CAA riots, and communal violence. These forces want war to incite internal Hindu-Muslim communal riots and disturbances to stall Bharat's future growth. Though our Army is capable of fighting external forces like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China simultaneously. But internal civil crises might tied their hands, that's what exactly anti-India forces want to achieve. Unfortunately their all plans were nullified. Bharth emerged as powerful country, which US did not thought of.

History Is repeating. The strategy “let enemies exhaust before striking” and Delay. Drain. Dominate which was adopted by earlier Successful Chakravartis' of Vijayanagar, Rastrakutas' Chalukyas, Travancore, Cholas, Ahoms and War Hero's like Shivaji, Rana Pratap, Chatrasal Bappa Rawal. With new century tactics, a new thinking that, we don't rush to war. We wait till the enemy collapse economically, diplomatically and militarily - with zero loss, maximum gain. the enemies destroy themselves. It is our age old Chankya's strategy “Before you crush the snake, ensure it has exhausted its venom.”. Now without firing a shot, we made Pakistan to collapse automatically.

No money. No fuel. No forex. IMF gave \$180 million — India spends more on toilet subsidies. Bhart is cutting their wings whose

are raising their voice with stopping of Electricity/water/transport and Fuel lines. Our countries is tightening the water tap by saying good bye to Indus water treaty. Tightening the economy of Turkey who supported Pakistan.

Responsibility of Civilians

At this critical movement, the citizens shall be alert and cautious to counter the pressure for war. People shall not fall for foreign media's biased and false propaganda. Now situation has changed, Bharat is booming whereas China is desperate. Let country men shall prepare to face Modern Psychological, Cyber, and Internal War. Since war will not be limited to borders or battlefields. War will fought with Psychological warfare and misinformation flooding through social media. Cyber-attacks on our financial systems, power grids, and communication networks. Terror strikes

on civilian infrastructure viz ports, solar parks, refineries, airports, railway stations and even busy markets. Creating Internal unrest, engineered by sympathisers and proxies, which may force the Army's to intervene. Hence, be alert, Reject the enemy's false propaganda and support the Nation with all your strength. Now, World is watching that even without war, we can make Pakistan to suffer by cutting off Sindhu water.

Patriotic Bharatiyas', do not fall for enemy sympathisers and political agents propaganda within country, who all are trying to divide us with caste, creed, Language, state etc. Till date we've never faced a full-scale war in this digital era. So, Always Be alert. Be informed and Be strong to face worst of worst situation. Feel that each every countryman is a Soldier. All civilians shall be part of the Armed Forces and the government. We shall trust the

Central government and support it to take required action at the suitable time. Since experts know what strategy to adopt at what time.

Lokaa Samasta Sukhino Bhavanto

Our beloved PM is n't just leading India; he's reviving its soul. This is 21st century new Bharat. Let us remain united. Together we can. The collective strength itself is our greatest weapon. We are strengthening the hands of women to build a modern Bharat. From space to sports, startups to entrepreneurship, education to, science, armed forces to aviation Bharath is leading to a new future in various domains. For us, democracy is not just a political system. it is a way of life. Bharat wishes to see a new fairer world order. Mutual and holistic advancement and growth across region. We see our development as a responsibility towards others - Lokaa Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu. □□

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India's brain drain powers Trump's MAGA dream. Numbers prove the irony

Defending a liberal immigration policy, President Joe Biden told an election fundraising event in May 2024 that while 'xenophobia' and a lack of openness to immigrants was 'hobbling' the economic growth of countries like China, India and Japan, the US had, in fact, been a beneficiary of its openness to talented immigrants. 'One of the reasons why our economy is growing is because of you and many others,' Biden told a gathering of Asian Americans. 'Why? Because we welcome immigrants.'

Addressing members of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin-Connecticut Chapter (GOPIO-CT), US Congressman Jim Himes called Indian Americans 'a secret weapon for economic growth...the future of US innovations'. 'The brains of tech innovations are here... We have so much to do on immigration to enable this tech-savvy and entrepreneurial Indian American community to have a smoother and faster way to have Green Card and job visas.'

Not to be left behind in attracting the Indian American vote, Donald Trump announced during his election campaign that an automatic route would be opened for green cards for bright young Indian immigrant graduates coming out of US colleges and intending to remain in the US. 'What I want to do and what I will do is—you graduate from a college, I think you should get a Green Card automatically as part of your diploma, a Green Card to be able to stay in this country.'

Trump said he was sad to hear 'stories where people graduated from a top college or from a college, and they desperately wanted to stay here, they had a plan for a company, a concept, and they can't—they go back to India, they go back to China, they do the same basic company in those places'. Educated Asian immigrants, Trump was telling his voters, would also help Make America Great Again (MAGA)—his campaign slogan.



In 'Secession of the Successful', Sanjaya Baru explores why Non-Resident Indians are increasingly turning into Non-Returning Indians.
Sanjaya Baru



Having been re-elected on an anti-immigration platform, it remains to be seen how friendly he would remain towards legal Indian immigrants. In his first 100 days in office, Trump's focus has been on illegal immigrants and tariffs. However, his administration has slowed down the grant of new H-1B visas and is reviewing policy with respect to the grant of a green card. There is growing anxiety about Trump's immigration and citizenship policies, both among Indian Americans, NRIs and Indians aspiring for an American visa.

Indian Americans have contributed to US global leadership in a large number of fields, ranging from medicine and healthcare to information technology and finance. President Biden's acknowledgement, however, was probably the most public and bold statement by a senior political leader. East and South Asian immigrants—Japanese, Koreans, Chinese and Indians—have powered the post-War dynamism of the US economy.

Chinese and Indian immigrants, who arrived on American coasts in their thousands over the past quarter of a century, have contributed handsomely to the continued global dominance of the US as a premier knowledge-based superpower. Much is often made of the US contribution to China's and India's rise. Surprisingly, few have tried to quantify the Asian contribution to the US's global dominance as a technological power.

It is true that demographic shifts have hurt the growth prospects of many ageing developed economies. Biden was right to point to the economic cost imposed by the inward orientation of many developed economies. The US,

however, has benefited not just from her openness to immigration but, in fact, and more so, by attracting highly talented immigrants, especially from Asia.

Gone are the days when the typical immigrant landing on the shores of Manhattan was a desperate European escaping poverty or war. Of course, many of the world's impoverished, persecuted and desperate still enter the US. They too provide fuel to the engine of US growth and the comfort of the American lifestyle. However, it is the 'best and brightest' from Asia that illuminate the top of the pyramid of power and knowledge in the US.

The realization that innovation and the powering of the knowledge economy in the US requires a more liberal policy towards the immigration of Indian American talent has had to contend with the more familiar and generalized opposition to immigration. Responding to such opinion, Ignatius Chithelen published a study of Indian American contribution to business and innovation in the US, provocatively titled *Passage from India to America: Billionaire Engineers, Extremist Politics and Advantage to Canada and China*.

If President Trump restricts visas to Indians, Chithelen argued, there would be a flight of talent to Canada and in the end, China rather than the US would benefit. Chithelen pointed to the contribution that 'billionaire engineers' such as Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai, Shantanu Narayen and several other CEOs and persons of eminence have made and continue to make to powering US business and the knowledge economy. Biden certainly got that message, but it remains to be seen if eventually Trump will too.

China and India have exported large numbers of highly educated professionals as well as skilled labour to the US over the past half a century. Their contribution to a wide range of fields, including computer science and information technology, basic and natural sciences, medicine, nuclear and space technology, finance and business, government and public affairs, has been considerable and highly visible.

In an aptly titled study published two decades ago, *Give Us Your Best and Brightest: The Global Hunt for Talent and the Impact on the Developing World*, Devesh Kapur and John McHale drew attention to this American search for talent from developing countries. A developed West was siphoning off talent from a developing South, their study warned, enabling the former to remain globally competitive and dominant. Better compensation, living and working conditions drew such human capital away from developing economies to the developed.

Post-war development economics did focus on the possibility of developed economies in fact continuing to benefit from their relations with developing countries even in the postcolonial era. Beginning with the early work of Hans Singer, Raul Prebisch and Celso Furtado in the 1950s, an entire body of literature emerged in the 1960s and 1970s that questioned the hypothesis that developing economies could benefit from foreign trade, investment and aid.

The Dependency School led by Andre Gunder Frank and Samir Amin and the World Systems school led by Emanuel Wallerstein went further to suggest that the 'centre'

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Killer Wife: A sign of Moral Decline



Why couldn't she tell the Raghuvanshi family about her love affair and call the wedding off? The story raises fundamental questions about how individuals today contemplate murder with shocking equanimity and how a civilisational crisis of unknown magnitude is unfolding before our eyes.

Sandhya Jain

A civilisational collapse of unknown magnitude is unfolding before our eyes, ignored by the family(s) and society where this development is taking place; social and religious reformers (if any exist amidst the burgeoning army of frivolous social media influencers); the entire judicial fraternity; and the political class. We are witnessing the rise of a new tribe: Asuric women for whom cultural norms are disposable irritants in the way of satisfying an infatuation, fetish, or appetite.

Sonam Raghuvanshi epitomises this new breed of Indian womanhood, but is neither the first nor will she be the last. The saving grace in this episode is the alacrity with which the Meghalaya Police solved the case and saved the honour of their State, and the moral stance taken by her brothers in the face of fairly convincing evidence.

When Raja Raghuvanshi, 29, an Indore-based businessman, and his bride, Sonam, went missing on their honeymoon in Meghalaya, the truth exposed a “murder of trust” within the most intimate of human relationships, and destroyed at least six families: the family of the groom, the family of the bride, the families of the four killers. The story raises fundamental questions about how individuals today contemplate murder with shocking equanimity.

According to available accounts, Raja Raghuvanshi and Sonam had an arranged marriage on May 11, 2025, and went to Meghalaya for their honeymoon on May 21, 2025. When they were reported missing on May 23, the hapless State and its people were subjected to a barrage of hostility from social media accounts presumed to be based in North India. The charges were so ugly that as the truth became known, Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava apologised for the damage done to the State’s image and its tourism. He said tourists are safe in the north-east. Sonam’s brother Govind and Sachin Raghuvanshi, Raja’s elder brother, also apologised for their harsh language against Meghalaya, its government and the police investigations there.

Eventually, with the help of local search parties, Raja’s body was found on June 02, 2025, in a gorge near a waterfall in Sohra region (Cherrapunji), East Khasi Hills district. As the case quickly unravelled, Meghalaya police assessed that Sonam planned the murder with boyfriend Raj Kushwaha, and planned the booking of a one-way ticket to Meghalaya. The speed of the Meghalaya police forced Sonam, who planned to remain in hiding for a month, to surface and claim to have been drugged, with no clue how she ended up in Ghazipur, UP.

Regardless of how the murder case fares in the courts, this is the point where society (and eventually the law) must ask questions. Raja’s elder brother, Vipin Raghuvanshi, told Aaj Tak news channel that, according to a close friend of the bride’s family, Sonam had told her mother about her relationship with Raj Kushwaha, and warned that something bad would happen if she was pressured to marry Raja. Apparently her family refused to accept the out-of-caste relationship.

The questions that arise are manifold. First, if Sonam was bold enough to enter into a relationship that she knew her family would disapprove of, callous enough to plan the cold-blooded murder of her prospective husband before the wedding, and financially empowered enough to pay for the killers’ tickets and offer them a huge sum of money (Rs 15 lakhs per reports) to execute the deal, why couldn’t she tell the

Raghuvanshi family about her love affair and call the wedding off?

Second, Sonam's mother must explain why she did not confide her "caste is all important" view with the Raghuvanshi family. Caste may have some value for them as well, but would they go ahead with a relationship where the bride wanted to marry someone else?

Third, can we consider a law in which such disclosures are mandatory and concealing the same is a crime? If the non-disclosure results in a tragedy as in the case of the Raja Raghuvanshi, the bride's parents must be charged as accessories to the crime, because it is impossible to believe that they did not know. If the husband discovers that a previous relationship has not been ended and is impacting his marital ties (several such cases have come to light in recent times), this should be a ground for prompt annulment or divorce without financial liability.

Meghalaya Police deduced that Sonam returned to Indore via Siliguri on May 25, dodged her family and stayed with Raj Kushwaha in a rented accommodation. They later travelled to Ghazipur, UP, via Varanasi. The police found her here at a roadside dhaba on June 10, 2025.

Details of the gruesome crime need not detain us here, but another amazing question arises: when Raj Kushwaha, just 21 years old, asked his childhood friends, Akash Rajpoot (19), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Anand Kuli (23) to help him to murder Raja, how and why did they agree? This willingness of ordinary citizens to participate in chilling crimes that have no connection with their lives deserves investigation. Why did no one blow the whistle?

When caught, Raj Kushwaha claimed he didn't want to execute the plot and cancelled plans to go to

Meghalaya. He allegedly advised the three others not to go, but they went to see Meghalaya after Sonam booked their tickets. Even at the last moment, the three allegedly refused to kill the newlywed husband, but were pressured by Sonam who offered ₹ 15 lakhs for the murder. Police, however, found that Raj Kushwaha stayed in touch with Sonam via phone, throughout the time and also coordinated with the three contract killers.

The Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills, Vivek Syiem, informed the media that Raja was murdered with a dao (machete) made in Assam (not Meghalaya) – the first clue that this was a premeditated crime. The State Police realised on June 03, 2025 that Sonam was involved and established that she was seen with the accused 10 kilometres away from the site where her husband was killed. The arrested accused stated that she had asked them to hit Raja Raghuvanshi and that he was killed in front of her.

Sharing the grief of Raja Raghuvanshi's mother, Sonam's brother, Govind, said, "I stand with Raja Raghuvanshi, and I will fight this battle for him. Even my parents have accepted the truth, they didn't know anything before, but after finding out, they themselves decided to boycott Sonam. I have apologised to Raja's family, and I will always stand by them. We will make sure that Sonam is punished, and we will appoint a lawyer to take legal action against her."

If crimes against women have not abated, the past decade has seen a sharp rise in crimes by women and the misuse of law by women. A rather novel crime includes entrapping a man to a date at a remote restaurant, in connivance with the staff. Though probably the least harmful scam, it involves the young lady ar-

iving early and working up a huge bill in drinks and food. After a man joins, the lady goes to the washroom and disappears while he is presented with an exorbitant bill. Threatened by staff, there is no option but to pay up and draw the appropriate lesson.

A large number of crimes relate to allegations of rape on grounds of promise to marry, even when the couple has been in a consensual live-in relationship for several years. Courts have now begun to these cases with suspicion.

By far the worst abuse of law can be seen in acrimonious divorce cases in which the girl and her family (mis)use every law on the statute to take revenge on the boy, demanding alimony and compensation far in excess of his known sources of income. Aided by competent lawyers and kind-hearted judges, these women have been making a killing, often to the extent of making the former husband lose his own financial stability.

These extractions have led many young men to commit suicide, often to save their family members from being harassed via false police cases. Cases of abetment to suicide are in order in all such instances. Further, while tax-free alimony may be a boon to needy women with children, the law needs to consider if such tax-free bounty can in fairness be higher than the man's leftover income which is subject to tax. This seems against the principles of natural justice.

There is an urgent need to tabulate the growing crimes committed by women and do justice to their victims. The Indian Constitution is founded on the principle of equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sex, caste, or religion. Sadistic women cannot be allowed to get away with their crimes.

<https://sandhyajainarchive.org/2025/06/25/killer-wife-a-sign-of-moral-decline/>

Gramshree Promotes Sustainable Livelihoods from Forests Based on Non-Timber Produce

It is widely agreed that in its efforts for inclusive development, India needs to give special attention to its various tribal communities. These efforts in turn are likely at least initially to have higher chances of success in activities that involve special skills and knowledge base of these communities, and that are based on access to familiar resources in nearby areas.

In this context interventions based on improving collection and processing of non-timber forest produce (also called minor forest produce and NTFP) can be particularly important. This is familiar terrain for tribal communities as they have been involved in this work for a long time, although they frequently could not get fair returns from this and traders cornered most of the profits. The challenge ahead is to ensure that they get fair returns for collecting forest produce and in addition also benefit from various value added activities based on processing the collected produce locally to market several healthy food and other products at a higher price and profit margin.

This can be a high potential area for social entrepreneurs interested in promoting the combined objective of promoting improved livelihoods, nutrition and health as well as environment protection practices at the same time.

Rakesh Gupta is one such social entrepreneur who recognized this potential at an early stage and has been steadily working for over a decade to carry this forward in ways that can result in the market getting healthy food products based on improved livelihoods of thousands of tribal women in particular. In addition care is taken to link this with increasing possibilities of improved nutrition and health in the communities. Hence it is not just the main marketed products that are emphasized, but in addition the availability of a diversity of vegetables to the community also gets the due attention.



It is likely that there are several valuable crops, including millets, and herbs which had an important role in farming, nutrition and health earlier but which have largely vanished from farms, gardens and surroundings in recent times.

Bharat Dogra



Gramshree Foundation Trust, an NGO founded by him, has already established an important presence in a range of final and intermediate food products based on custard apple (sitafal) and Indian blackberry (jamun), to some extent also Indian gooseberry (anvla) and tamarind (imli), while other possibilities are also being explored. This collection and processing work is integrated with other work in numerous villages to promote nutrition, health and planting of trees, apart from improved savings and economic security of women organized in self-help groups.

An important aspect of this achievement is that income addition and livelihood support is being achieved in communities that are located in very remote villages (in Rajasthan and Chattisgarh) where such achievements of a sustainable nature based on other work are difficult. Rakesh gratefully recalls the support and guidance of his mentor Ved Arya in this success.

Gramshree Foundation trust initiated a 'van dhanshakti' effort based on empowerment of women of tribal communities linked to better utilization of forest produce and higher economic returns based on this.

In fact he started more than one organization. Apart from Gramshree Foundation Trust, he also initiated Gramshree Development Services Pvt Ltd as a profit making company, creating what he calls a hybrid model for taking forward similar objectives.

As the new voluntary organizations struggled to establish a base, these efforts again got much needed help from a familiar source. Rakesh's mentor Ved Arya had meanwhile started Buddha Fellow-

ships to help such socially relevant efforts to gain strength particularly in their early stage of struggle. A regular stipend from here was helpful for Rakesh and his efforts, and this help was enhanced when this fellowship helped to open the doors for a loan of INR 2.5 million for expansion effort. "This helped us to spread our efforts to Chattisgarh state as well, apart from the two districts of South Rajasthan where we were already working (Udaipur and Rajsamand)", says Rakesh, recalling the important contribution of this support.

The basic idea of integrating the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods of tribal communities with improved nutrition and health was a sound one and the new organization soon attracted attention and even awards—including a first prize as the best agricultural start-up and Villgro and British Council prize. Its reach in terms of tribal households covered continued to grow over the years, as also the number of its products and range of its activities. The COVID crisis saw Gramshree helping many households in distress with food and rations.

While products based on blackberry, custard apple and anvla have been the mainstay, new ones like those based on tamarind are also being developed. More recent initiatives include poultry farming and growing diverse varieties of plants in nurseries to contribute to more diversified growing of vegetables and fruits as well as other trees. In many villages of its work area, self-help groups of women provide a strong base for not just their savings and economic security, but also for other many-sided development interventions of Gramshree.

In many villages of its work area, self-help groups of women provide a strong base for not just their savings and economic security, but also for other many-sided development interventions of Gramshree.

I recently spent a day in the villages of Sayra block in Udaipur district with Rakesh and several team members like Vijay Dhakse. In one of the visited villages the main concern related to finding suitable places for keeping the poultry birds which the villagers had recently acquired under an initiative of Gramshree. Instead of creating a bricks and cement structure two women had created a suitable place for keeping poultry birds by using bamboos from their own farm. Rakesh encouraged and praised this, telling team members that this may be a much better option than bricks and cement structure. At the same time a discussion took place on what further improvements could be made in the bamboo structure to make the birds more comfortable. Praising the two women for their efforts, Rakesh discussed with his team members how their skill can be more widely used, also increasing their earnings.

Visiting a nursery started by a small farmer of modest means, Rakesh and his team members discussed with the farmer a lot about

why the nursery plot was being under-utilized. There was concern regarding the harm already caused by strong winds to the nursery covering, and ideas regarding how this can be repaired soon were discussed.

This was followed by a many-sided discussion with a self-help group of women and team members, trying to sort out many pending questions quickly, such as how nutrition and health conditions are to be monitored.

Such field-level, on the spot discussions and decisions based on real-life situations help to maintaining close contact with emerging problems and issues and also resolving these without undue delay.

All this can be helpful in taking forward the work in remote

villages in such ways that unexpected and unforeseen problems are avoided.

While these initiatives obviously have a bright future based on their high social relevance and well-recognized need, at the same time more care should be taken regarding ensuring sustainability and reducing potential risks. To give an example, it is safer to work with the many kinds of available diverse forest produce and local farm produce, instead of introducing species whose suitability to local conditions is uncertain. By emphasizing safe and sustainable harvesting and helping to take better care and protection of trees, the young organization can establish an even higher credibility for environment protection and sustainability. This

process is also helped by a stronger base in terms of scientific knowledge of local trees, crops plants and herbs, as contained in scientific papers of botany but in addition also supported by what experienced and elderly local villagers, farmers, vairs, particularly women have to tell. It is likely that there are several valuable crops, including millets, and herbs which had an important role in farming, nutrition and health earlier but which have largely vanished from farms, gardens and surroundings in recent times. Their revival, collection and protection of their seeds, can be an important part of the development work being taken up. □□

The writer is Honorary Convener of Campaign to Save Earth Now. His recent books include Protecting Earth for Children, Planet in Peril, A Day in 2071 and Man over Machine.

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India's brain drain powers Trump's MAGA dream. Numbers prove the irony

of the world economy, namely developed industrial economies, were, in fact, contributing to the 'underdevelopment' of the 'periphery', while the periphery was feeding the continued global dominance of the centre.

Teresa Hayter's classic expose of development aid showed how even aid money was not serving the goals of development but was, in fact, promoting the business interests of developed economies.⁸ This development economics literature viewed brain drain from developing to developed economies within this dependency framework. What few foresaw in the 1960s and

1970s was the role that developing country talent would play in the early twenty-first century by contributing to the technological progress of the world's biggest economy through the continued augmentation of its 'knowledge power'.

Surprisingly though, there is no significant study of this phenomenon despite the fact that many Indian professionals are based in US universities, institutions and think tanks. As many as 22,000 PIOs and NRIs are employed as full-time faculty across all US universities and sixteen Fortune 500 companies are headed by Indian Americans.

A 2024 report, put together

by Indiaspora, an organization of Indian Americans, and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), titled Small Community, Big Contributions, Boundless Horizons: The Indian Diaspora in the US merely skims the surface.

Even so, it presents some startling facts. A low-middle-income economy, that India is classified as by international financial institutions, has invested up to \$40 billion in the world's biggest economy since 2008, while total US FDI into India since 2000 has been estimated to be \$64 billion. The irony underlying these numbers seems lost on the authors of the report. For if these numbers are correct, it could be claimed that on a per capita national income basis, a less developed India invests more in a developed US, than the other way round. □□

<https://theprint.in/pageturner/essays/indias-brain-drain-powers-trumps-maga-dream-numbers-prove-the-irony/2696862/>

Only inclusive growth can cut subsidy burden

All the peninsular states have dramatically reduced extreme poverty and made considerable improvements in living standards, human development, and economic modernisation. These are fantastic achievements when measured against the abysmal state of affairs in North and East India. However, the next phase of economic transformation necessitates a strategy of prosperity that secures higher incomes for the majority of people to improve the lives of their families—without relying on public subsidies. And the biggest challenge to executing such a strategy will be reversing the persistent and ubiquitous inequality that characterises the contemporary economic landscape of the peninsula.

To understand this better, it is essential to distinguish between inclusion and redistribution. Consider a family of working adults. One earns 80 percent of the family income, and the rest, 5 percent each. The top earner will subsidise the others, but that will make the family entirely dependent on this single earner. In a family where all four members contribute 25 per cent each to the total income, the question of dependence does not arise.

When growth enriches the few at the expense of the many, governments spend more on redistribution to compensate for inequality. This gives rise to “schemes” to provide the majority with subsidised medicines, affordable meals, pensions, income support, and free transport, among other benefits. These subsidies are more affordable the richer a State. Hence, a lot of people who suffer from unequalising growth in the peninsula are better off than those in poorer states.

However, fiscal policy is a hard taskmaster. States with a \$3,500 per capita income (PCI) are spending the same proportion of their budgets on providing compensating subsidies as states with a \$1,100 PCI. Both categories of states have no resources to invest in growth, employment and human capital. The peninsular states will be at higher levels of income and human development due to past progress, but will also be stuck in a development trap. The success of peninsular states in fostering growth is precisely why they need to pay the most urgent atten-



The success of peninsular states in fostering growth is why they must pay attention to reducing inequality of participation in delivering growth, not of consumption through redistributive subsidies.

Rathin Roy



Tamil Nadu has the highest manufacturing-GDP ratio in the peninsula. Consumption inequality is declining. While deprivation and inequality between rich and poor districts are pronounced, state govt interventions and subsidies have considerably improved the quality of life in poorer districts in recent years.

tion to reducing inequality, not inequality of consumption through redistributive subsidies, but inequality of participation in delivering growth and enjoying the income rewards that come with it.

Take Kerala. It has the highest per capita income (PCI) of all major states and topnotch human development. However, there are not enough quality jobs for a well-educated young population. Female labour force participation is falling. Income and consumption inequality in Kerala are now among the highest of all Indian states. This means that the state government must undertake increasingly heavy fiscal lifting to compensate those not benefiting from the Kerala story.

Tamil Nadu (TN) has the highest manufacturing-GDP ratio in the peninsula. Consumption inequality is declining. While deprivation and inequality between rich and poor districts are pronounced, state government interventions and subsidies have considerably improved the quality of life in poorer districts in recent years. Yet, wages offered by foreign mega corps like Samsung and Foxconn are too low for these workers to be eligible to pay income tax.

So, manufacturing has not been the engine of inclusive prosperity in Tamil Nadu. The state continues to subsidise these workers and their families with meals, education, and transportation, despite

their employment in high-quality manufacturing jobs. It also spends a significant amount of public money offering incentives to foreign investors, but the resultant investments do not deliver a quantum increase in inclusive prosperity—the rich continue to disproportionately enjoy the income and wealth benefits of the manufacturing boom, leaving the government with the task of compensatory redistribution.

In Telangana and Karnataka, the picture is stark. Nearly 38 percent of Karnataka's GSDP is generated in the Bengaluru urban district. The Hyderabad metropolitan area (Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts) accounts for over 50 percent of Telangana's GSDP. These metros have concentrations of high-net-worth individuals and serve as a hub of luxury consumption, in stark contrast to the picture of low prosperity and high vulnerability that prevails in the rest of the state. This, despite excellent human development, and near elimination of extreme poverty. Again, therefore, the major activity of these state governments is redistribution—spending money to compensate the majority who have benefited very little from the transformational increases in the aggregate per capita of these states. Better to be an average Kannadiga than a Bihari, but a long way to go to approach the prosperity of an average Malaysian.

Two important corollary fea-

tures of inequality cause further roadblocks to investing in future prosperity. Much of the concentrated wealth and income is stowed “under the hood” to avoid taxation and accountability. Hence, gold and real estate markets boom in these locations. I am unable to buy a resale property in the four major cities of South India without being asked for at least half the payment in “cash”. Young families and small businesses, therefore, confront outrageously expensive asking prices for the limited stock of “clean money” real estate. This is a pan-India phenomenon, but a particularly serious challenge for the peninsula.

The second is the persistence of the informal sector. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have the same PCI as Indonesia, but the cheapest cup of tea costs about the same as in Bihar. A low-paid, low-productivity, informal sector, fuelled by cheap labour from the poorer northern and eastern states, is deployed in substantial measure to subsidise feudal lifestyles that are otherwise anachronistic in a middle-income region. This perpetuates an extractive culture of low wages and low productivity, which throttles progress toward the next stage of high-wage, high-productivity development transformation.

If the peninsula is to grow and prosper, building on its impressive achievements, compensation for inequality is not enough. A strategy of inclusive prosperity, rather than fiscal redistribution, needs to be urgently executed. There is the talent to do this, but is the peninsular elite and political leadership capable of rising to meet the challenge? □□

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<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2025/jul/20/only-inclusive-growth-can-cut-subsidy-burden>

India's children face health risks as tariff-free British junk food enters market under new FTA



India-Britain FTA may allow tariff-free entry for British food. This includes chocolate and soft drinks. A similar FTA with EU nations indicates cheaper chocolates.

Concerns arise about unhealthy diets and childhood obesity.

Narendra Modi launched an anti-obesity campaign. Strong regulations are needed on marketing HFSS foods. The health ministry needs to act boldly. Otherwise, Indian children will pay the price.

Arun Gupta

India-Britain FTA, announced on 24 July (Thursday), will allow tariff-free entry for British food and drink, such as chocolate, gingerbread, sweet biscuits, soft drinks and non-alcoholic beer. Another FTA with four EU nations also indicates that chocolates will be cheaper to enter India. This is bad news for the health of India's children.

Cheap Britain-made food products, which are likely to be high in fat/sugar/salt (HFSS), could now flood the Indian market and fuel the rapidly growing market of ultra-processed food products. It means consumption of unhealthy diets would increase when India is grappling with a surge in childhood obesity, diabetes and other diet-related NCDs.

Aggressive marketing of HFSS products is fuelling obesity. Between 2006 and 2019, the per-capita consumption of such products rose by nearly 50 times. Earlier this year, Narendra Modi launched an anti-obesity campaign, asking people to reduce oil consumption by 10%. This must now be backed by strong regulation on marketing, including mandatory front-of-pack warning labels on HFSS food products. Further, a clearly worded law must restrict advertisements of HFSS foods.

In the 1990s, Mexico signed Nafta with the US. Without safeguards, it led to an explosion of sugary drinks and processed foods, ushering in a wave of obesity and diabetes that haunts the country to this day. Mexican health experts call it their 'Nafta moment'. India can't afford to repeat this mistake.

Globally, regulations are not only focusing on labelling but also on marketing restrictions, especially to protect children. While Britain exports HFSS food products to India, it uses traffic light labels, restricts HFSS marketing, and will enforce a 9 PM TV and online ad ban from October. The EU is strengthening its food labelling and marketing restrictions, especially for children. Britain aims to reduce

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Hindu Mukt Bharat 2047: PFI built Darul Qaza court, reporter & hit wing to kill RSS-BJP leaders for Islamic state- NIA



The banned Islamic terror outfit, Popular Front of India (PFI), plotted a radical Islamic takeover of India by 2047, creating secret hit squads and parallel courts to eliminate RSS-BJP leaders, the NIA has revealed. Explosive evidence submitted to the Kerala High Court exposes a chilling blueprint of terror, espionage, and ideological and religious cleansing and genocide.
Vishnu Aravind

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has revealed shocking details about the Islamic extremist organisation Popular Front of India (PFI), accusing it of forming an intelligence unit named the ‘Reporter Wing’ to collect information of non-Muslim individuals marked for assassination. In a report submitted to the Kerala High Court, the NIA stated that the PFI’s terror activities are part of a broader conspiracy titled ‘India 2047’, aimed at establishing Islamic rule in the country.

According to the agency, the brutal murder of RSS karyakarta Srinivasan in Palakkad district was a direct outcome of this agenda. The NIA claims to possess documentary evidence and voice recordings that confirm the organization’s involvement in the planned killing. A case was registered against the PFI in 2022 on orders from the central government for engaging in anti-national activities, following which the organization was officially banned. The murder of Srinivasan was later incorporated into this investigation.

PFI’s Parallel State: Hit Lists, Kill Squads, and a Shadow Court

The NIA detailed to the court how the PFI prepares hit lists, gathering personal information about those deemed a threat. This data is collected at the district level and passed on to state leadership, where it is regularly updated. Once compiled, the organization’s ‘Service Wing’ and ‘Hit Wing’ initiate steps to eliminate these targets. The PFI also operates a dedicated weapons training wing to prepare its cadres for such terror operations. The NIA pointed out that the Periyar Valley campus in Aluva in Ernakulam district was used as a training ground for this purpose, further contributing to a climate of fear and intimidation in society.

The NIA stated that the PFI planned to physically intervene in issues concern-



ing the Muslim community and respond using weapons and explosives. The goal was to recruit loyal individuals into key institutions such as the judiciary, police, and armed forces, while eliminating opposition through armed rebellion. The organization had established a parallel judicial system under the 'Darul Qaza Court,' which directed the Reporter Wing, the Physical and Training Wing, and the Service Wing – Hit Team.

The Reporter Wing functioned as the PFI's intelligence arm, monitoring individuals, Hindu leaders, and social developments, and submitting daily reports to district committees. Based on this information, targets were identified and forwarded to state leaders for action. The Hit Team was then assigned to execute these missions. Punishments were dictated by the Darul Qaza Court.

India 2047: A Blueprint for Killing of RSS -BJP leaders & Islamic Supremacy

The NIA has also informed the court that the PFI aimed to emerge as the exclusive representative of the Muslim community by undermining other Muslim organizations. It intended to gain political power through its affiliate, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), as part of its long-term strategy to convert India as an Islamic state in 2047. A report submitted to the NIA Special Court in Kochi disclosed that a hit list comprising approximately 950 individuals, including RSS BJP leaders and a former judge, had been created in Kerala. The prominent Hindu leaders, including Sasikala Teacher and Valsan Thillankeri of the Hindu Aikya Vedi (HAV), as part of a larger plan to eliminate ideological opponents.

The list, seized from Sirajuddin, the 51st accused terrorist in the Srinivasan murder case, includes 240 non-Muslims. Additional details about five individuals, including a former district judge, were obtained from Abdul Wahab, the 15th accused terrorist. Another document found with Muhammad Sadiq, the 17th accused terrorist, named 197 individuals, while a separate list of 35 people was also retrieved. Ayub T.A., the 69th accused, possessed a list of 500 individuals.

Terrorists Deny Charges as Court Rejects Bail Pleas

Despite these allegations, the terrorists have denied all charges, dismissing them as fabricated. They have sought bail on the grounds that

there is no prima facie evidence against them and that the trial has not yet commenced, even after three years in custody. However, the court denied the bail request, deeming the allegations too serious to overlook.

The NIA emphasized that the murder of Srinivasan exemplifies the terror strategy employed by the Popular Front. The agency noted that the accused had no personal animosity towards Srinivasan, many did not even know him personally. His killing, the NIA argued, was a calculated move executed on the orders of the organization's leadership as part of its broader anti-national conspiracy. □□

<https://organiser.org/2025/06/26/299537/bharat/hindu-mukti-bharat-2047-pfi-built-darul-qaza-court-reporter-hit-wing-to-kill-rss-bjp-leaders-for-islamic-state-nia/>

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India's children face health risks as tariff-free British junk food

children's exposure to unhealthy food promotion. Chile, Mexico, Brazil and Israel have implemented strong front-of-pack warning labels.

In sharp contrast, India has no mandatory warning label, and the food industry enjoys the freedom of advertising, partly because of weak laws that are open to interpretation. Cartoon mascots or health claims on unhealthy food products, sponsorships of school or sporting events by food/drink product companies, and unrestricted celebrity endorsements of HFSS products are common occurrences. This is not just a policy gap, it's an equity gap.

So, why the hesitation in India?

The science is clear. The PM has spoken. Yet, regulatory action is still caught between industry resistance and

bureaucratic delay. The question isn't whether we can do it, it's whether we will. The Supreme Court has also spoken about food labelling and its glaring gaps as the judges asked: 'You all have grandchildren? What are you feeding them? The packets have no information.'

The PM has given a moral nudge. The apex court has given a legal one. The Economic Survey has offered the economic rationale. Technically, GoI's dietary guidelines for Indians make this case strong enough.

Now, the country needs the health ministry to act boldly. Because if India doesn't lead on this now, it will be our children who pay the price, bite by bite. □□

The writer is convenor, Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI)
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/indias-children-face-health-risks-as-tariff-free-british-junk-food-enters-market-under-new-fta/articleshow/12291072.cms?from=mdr>

GDP vs. Environment: A Sanatani View

The pursuit of economic growth, measured through Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has become the cornerstone of modern development. Yet, this relentless drive often clashes with the imperative to protect the environment, leading to ecological degradation, climate crises, and a loss of harmony between humans and nature. From the Sanatani perspective—rooted in the eternal wisdom of Sanatana Dharma—this conflict is not merely a policy dilemma but a profound spiritual and ethical issue. Sanatana Dharma, with its emphasis on Dharma (righteous duty), interconnectedness, and reverence for nature, offers a holistic framework to reconcile material progress with environmental stewardship.

The Illusion of GDP: A Materialistic Paradigm

GDP measures the monetary value of goods and services produced within a nation, but it's inherently reductionist. It ignores the ecological costs of industrialization, such as deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Modern economies equate growth with prosperity, often prioritizing the exploitation of natural resources over sustainability. This materialistic worldview, which treats nature as a commodity, stands in stark contrast to the Sanatani understanding of the Earth as a sacred, living entity. It's a mindset that prioritizes short-term gains over long-term planetary health.

In the Bhagavad Gita (3.12), Lord Krishna states, "By performing one's natural duty, one sustains the cosmic order (rita)." Sanatana Dharma teaches that human actions must align with cosmic laws, not disrupt them. Exploiting nature for short-term gain violates the principle of Dharma, as it destabilizes the equilibrium essential for life. This imbalance eventually leads to societal and environmental breakdown, impacting everyone.



Embracing a Sanatani approach means recognizing that true growth isn't just about accumulating wealth, but about fostering harmony between humanity and the environment.

Sachin Awasthi

Prakriti as Divine: The Ecological Ethos of Sanatana Dharma

Sanatana Dharma venerates nature (Prakriti) as an expression of the divine. Rivers like the Ganga and Yamuna are worshipped as goddesses; forests, mountains, and animals are seen as manifestations of cosmic energy. The Vedas and Upanishads repeatedly emphasize humanity's interdependence with nature. For instance, the Atharva Veda (12.1.12) declares, "Earth is my mother; I am her son." This worldview fosters a sense of kinship with all life forms, rejecting the anthropocentric mindset that justifies environmental exploitation. The understanding that all living beings are part of a larger divine tapestry naturally encourages respect and protection of the environment.

Hindu rituals and festivals further reinforce this ecological ethic. Practices like tree worship (Vriksha Puja), festivals honoring rivers (Chhath Puja), and the sacredness of Tulsi or Peepal trees reflect a culture that inherently values biodiversity. The Chipko movement of the 1970s, where villagers hugged trees to prevent deforestation, drew inspiration from this spiritual connection to nature—a testament to Sanatana Dharma's enduring relevance. These traditions aren't just symbolic; they are deeply ingrained practices that promote ecological awareness and responsible living.

GDP and Dharma: A Question of Balance

Sanatana Dharma doesn't reject material well-being but advocates for "Sanyasa" (renunciation of excess) and "Aparigraha" (non-possessiveness). The concept of "Artha" (wealth) in the Purusharthas—the four aims of life—is valid only when pursued ethically, without harming others or the environment. Ancient Indian kingdoms, guided by Dharmic principles, built advanced civilizations while maintaining ecological balance. For example, Emperor Ashoka's edicts mandated tree planting and animal protection, blending governance with environmental ethics. This historical precedent demonstrates that economic progress and environmental protection are mutually exclusive.

In contrast, today's GDP-centric models prioritize consumption and greed, fueling a cycle of exploitation. The Mahabharata warns, "What is found in the forest is to be used with restraint, for the forest is the source of life." When GDP growth becomes an end in itself, it violates the principle of "Mitahara" (moderation), leading to ecological debt and spiritual impoverishment. The relentless pursuit of material accumulation at the expense of natural resources ultimately diminishes the quality of life for all.

Toward a Dharmic Economy: Reimagining Progress

A Sanatani approach to development would redefine prosperity beyond GDP. It would integrate:

- *Sustainable Consumption:* Aligning with the ideal of "Yajna", where resources are used mindfully and shared equitably, recognizing that everything is a divine offering.
- *Circular Systems:* Emulating na-



ture's cycles, as seen in zero-waste practices of traditional Indian communities, where nothing is truly wasted but rather re-integrated.

- *Holistic Metrics:* Measuring progress through well-being indices that account for environmental health, cultural vitality, and spiritual fulfillment, moving beyond mere economic indicators.
- *Ethical Governance:* Implementing policies that prioritize ecological protection and social equity, guided by the principles of Dharma.
- *Community-Centric Development:* Fostering local self-sufficiency and empowering communities to manage their resources sustainably.

The Isha Upanishad reminds us, "All that exists in the universe is enveloped by the Divine. Renounce greed and enjoy life through detachment." True prosperity arises not from dominating nature but from coexisting with it, recognizing its intrinsic value and our place within its sacred order.

Conclusion: The Path of Sanatana Dharma for a Sustainable Future

The GDP vs. environment

debate reflects a deeper crisis of consciousness—a disconnection from our fundamental relationship with the natural world. Sanatana Dharma offers a profound and timeless wisdom that teaches us that humans are not separate from nature but are integral threads in the intricate web of life. By consciously reviving and integrating Dharmic values—such as reverence for Prakriti, ethical restraint, moderation, and the pursuit of holistic well-being—we can forge a path forward where economic progress nurtures, rather than destroys, our precious planet. This isn't just about policy changes; it's about a fundamental shift in our worldview and our actions.

Embracing a Sanatani approach means recognizing that true growth isn't just about accumulating wealth, but about fostering harmony between humanity and the environment. As the Rig Veda proclaims, "Let there be peace in the heavens, peace in the atmosphere, peace on Earth. Let there be harmony." In this harmony, where human endeavors align with cosmic rhythm and ecological balance, lies the true essence of enduring prosperity and a sustainable future for all. □□

MPERC decision on renewable energy and energy storage schemes in MP

Supporting the Prime Minister's vision of making India a Net Zero Carbon Emission country by 2070 and achieving the target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has approved the procurement of 3300 MW of renewable energy from SECI and SJVN (Public Sector Undertakings of Government of India). This procurement is under the Government of India's plan under long term power sale contract. The State Government acted swiftly and obtained approval from MPERC for the approved capacity to be procured. 50% of the ISTS transmission charges will be waived on this power, making this option highly cost-effective. This initiative will help the State meet RPO and reduce the cost burden on consumers. The proposal includes procurement of 800 MW wind power, 1290 MW solar power (PM-KUSUM Yojana), 252 MW hydro power (Dibang Project) and 3300 MW additional solar power (through SECI & SJVN).

MPPMCL has to achieve a total RPO target of 28.13% by 2029-30. The Commission gave in-principle approval to most of the points of the petition, but did not allow the previous incomplete RPO to be carried forward to the next years. Also, the Commission has considered BESS projects important for future energy sustainability. This order not only demonstrates transparency and a long-term vision, but also makes it clear that strength of contracts, timeliness and environmental responsibility are of vital importance in energy policy.

SSM College hosts seminar on entrepreneurship development

The Business School of SSM College of Engineering organised a seminar-cum-expert lecture on Entrepreneurship and the Importance of Localisation. Satish Kumar, Co-Convener of Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), addressed students and faculty on the need for India to build a self-reliant economic framework rooted in local enterprise and indigenous innovation. A senior functionary of SBA, Swadeshi emphasised the importance of youth-led entrepreneurship for India's economic transformation. He spoke passionately about empowering young minds to think



innovatively, take calculated risks, and reduce dependency on foreign goods and systems.

Swadeshi is closely involved with MySBA, a national platform under Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to inspire and equip the youth for entrepreneurship. He has been instrumental in national initiatives such as the Bharatiya Udyamita Utsav (Indian Entrepreneurship Festival), promoting grassroots innovation and sustainable development.

During the session, he underlined the importance of cultural self-reliance, promotion of Indian-made products, and policies that encourage local manufacturing and services. He also called on students to engage meaningfully with government schemes to turn their ideas into viable ventures.

The seminar aimed to equip students with practical knowledge of entrepreneurship and inspire them to become capable and self-reliant professionals contributing to the nation's progress.

<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/business/ssm-college-hosts-seminar-on-entrepreneurship-development/>

'Swadeshi' is soul of India: Governor Arif Mohammad Khan

Governor Arif Mohammad Khan said that the concept of "swadeshi" lies at the heart of India's cultural identity. Speaking at the 'Swadeshi Shankhnaad' programme organised by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch at the legislative council auditorium, he said the values of self-reliance and indigenous pride had been deeply embedded in India's civilisational heritage.

"The culture of India is a living example of swadeshi. There is swadeshi pride in every structure from the Ramayana and Mahabharata periods. Foreigners came and went, but our swadeshi pride remains alive even today," the governor said. Deputy CM and senior BJP leader Samrat Choudhary highlighted Bihar's growing role as a hub for swadeshi production. "Bihari talent is recognised everywhere. Our people are extremely intelligent. Prosperity will only come when there is work in every hand," he said.



Referring to economic development under the NDA govt, he added, “When we came to power, Bihar’s GDP was Rs 6,000 crore. Today, it has crossed Rs 3 lakh crore.”

Choudhary, who also holds the finance portfolio, noted that while people from Bihar had historically migrated to other states and enhanced productivity there, the swadeshi movement now aimed to generate employment locally through self-reliance.

State industries minister Nitish Mishra said the govt had introduced an incentive policy to promote local product-based manufacturing in every district. “Our govt is committed to investing Rs 1 lakh crore in swadeshi industries by next year. This will create job opportunities within Bihar itself,” he said.

The programme was conducted by Praveen Patel and attended by several prominent figures, including RSS Kshetra Karyawah Mohan Singh, BJP MLC Devesh Kumar, former Swadeshi Jagran Manch national convener Arun Ojha, regional organiser Ajay Upadhyay, Manch general secretary Mukund Mishra, CAT Bihar president Ashok Verma, Prince Raju, Sangeeta Jha and former MLC Upendra Prasad.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/swadeshi-is-soul-of-india-governor/articleshow/122145246.cms>

SJM Delegation Invites Jharkhand Governor to Annual Conference in Jamshedpur

A delegation of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) met with the Governor of Jharkhand, Santosh Gangwar, and extended a formal invitation to attend the upcoming 12th Annual Conference of the Swawambi Jharkhand Micro-welfare Development Centre (SJMDC) in Jamshedpur as the chief guest.

The delegation included All India Co-Environment Head Bande Shankar Singh, Director of SJM-DC Ashok Goyal, SJM’s State Publicity Head Amit Mishra, and State Youth Head Pankaj Singh.

During the meeting, the Governor expressed his familiarity with the impactful social initiatives and awareness campaigns being conducted by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

He especially lauded the organization’s efforts towards women empowerment by offering low-interest loans to women, calling it a commendable step towards fostering self-reliance among women and eliminating exploitative lending practices from society.

The Governor assured the delegation of his presence at the upcoming conference and appreciated the list provided by the delegation distinguishing between indigenous and foreign products, emphasizing the importance of promoting Swadeshi alternatives.

<https://uditrani.in/english-news/swadeshi-jagran-manch-delegation-invites/>

India must chart its own path to self-reliance: Experts

At a time when global economic relations are being reshaped by intense trade rivalries and technological dominance, particularly between the United States and China, India is presented with a crucial opportunity to define its own path toward self-sustaining economic and technological growth.

This subject remained at the center of discussion on the concluding day of a two-day national seminar on Swadeshi Vichar Varg. The event was convened by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Punjab, in collaboration with Amritsar Group of Colleges (AGC), and brought together several key stakeholders, including former diplomat and BJP leader Taranjit Singh Sandhu Samundri, Radhika Chug (Director, Institute for Skill Development), and educators from across Punjab.

Under the central theme ‘Foundation for India’s Self-Reliance’, the seminar saw intellectuals, policymakers, technocrats, entrepreneurs, and academicians explore how India can harness its indigenous knowledge systems, cultural ethos, and native talent pool to emerge as a global leader in the Fourth Industrial Revolution—with a strong foundation in self-reliance and swadeshi innovation.

Satish Kumar, Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Sangathak of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, said, “Swadeshi is not merely a reactive movement but a forward-thinking vision to develop India’s own ecosystem of innovation, production, and prosperity. This is the right time to make that shift, as global trade wars escalate and economic alliances are being reshaped. Amid these changes, India must focus on enabling local and mid-

sector businesses to perform, whether through hand-holding or technological innovation.”

He emphasised that academic institutions must become epicenters of indigenous research that aligns with India’s long-term national interests. “They are no longer just degree-vending hubs but are now centers for upskilling and innovation,” he added. Taranjit Singh Sandhu offered actionable recommendations and cross-sectoral insights, effectively bridging grassroots innovation with institutional policy support.

“The focus must be on a unified commitment to mainstream swadeshi research and promote indigenous innovation as the key to achieving a truly self-reliant India. MSMEs and small-scale businesses need support through favorable policies, while entrepreneurship must be encouraged in areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, local manufacturing models, financial inclusion, the role of women entrepreneurs, startup ecosystems, and grassroots empowerment,” he stated. The seminar also marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan, New Delhi, and Amritsar Group of Colleges (AGC). This strategic partnership aims to advance collaborative research initiatives aligned with the core principles of swadeshi. The MoU sets the stage for joint efforts in knowledge creation, innovation, and academic exchange, focused on promoting indigenous development models and self-reliant growth.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/india-must-chart-its-own-path-to-self-reliance-experts/>

SJM unveils ‘Swadeshi–Videshi Product Index’ to boost locally-made goods

Marking the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) released its “Swadeshi–Videshi Product Index” during the inauguration of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samiti Office, reinforcing calls to support indigenous products. The index was jointly unveiled on Wednesday by Ravinuthala Shashidhar, Secretary of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samiti, A. Keshava Raju, National Leader, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and Keshav Soni, Pranth Prachar Pramukh, SJM Telangana.

The initiative encourages widespread use of locally manufactured products during this year’s Ganesh festivities. Organizers from various Ganesh Mandaps received copies of the index, which lists Indian-made alternatives to commonly used foreign goods. SJM

announced awareness drives at every Mandap to educate citizens on the economic and cultural value of swadeshi products. Leaders emphasized that Ganesh Utsav should serve as a platform for cultural resurgence and nationalistic values—transforming each Mandap into a center of Swadeshi activism.

Key members of Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samiti, including K. Mahender and Sriram Vyas, attended the event in support of the campaign.

<https://www.thehinduindia.com/news/cities/hyderabad/sjm-unveils-swadeshi-videshi-product-index-to-boost-locally-made-goods-990529>

India unlikely to allow US imports of GM agri products under trade deal

India is unlikely to allow American imports of genetically modified (GM) corn and soybeans, under the trade agreement that India and the United States (US) are currently negotiating, a source aware of the matter indicated.

“Some things are a matter of principle,” the source said, citing the government’s position on the matter. Under the trade deal negotiations, market access for agricultural products has been one of the key demands from the US. It has also been one of the most contentious issue between both countries. Even in the past, the US Trade Representative (USTR) had pointed out several countries’, including India’s rules on GM products as non-tariff barriers.

Last month, SJM & other organisations have said that the India-US trade agreement is unlikely to happen if America continues to be “stubborn” about securing market access for genetically modified (GM) crops, Business Standard had reported. In the past, The Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) and Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) had flagged the issue that concessions to the United States (US) in the agriculture sector, including dairy products, will have ramifications for the country’s food security.

Government officials had earlier said that the sixth round of negotiations with the US will take place in the second half of August — limiting the possibility of an interim trade deal over the next few days — before August 1. US President Donald Trump has set August 1 as a deadline for double-digit reciprocal tariffs to kick in. India could face up to 26 per cent reciprocal tariff from August 1 if no agreement for an interim is reached by then. □□

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-unlikely-to-allow-us-imports-of-gm-agri-products-under-trade-deal-125072600933_1.html

Swadeshi Activities

Prantiya Vichar Varga

Pictorial Glimpses



Gauraksh



Tripura



Zila Sammelaan, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)



Mahakaushal Meeting



Swadeshi Activities

Prantiya Vichar Varga

Pictorial Glimpses



Haryana



Meerut



Uttarakhand



Kanpur

