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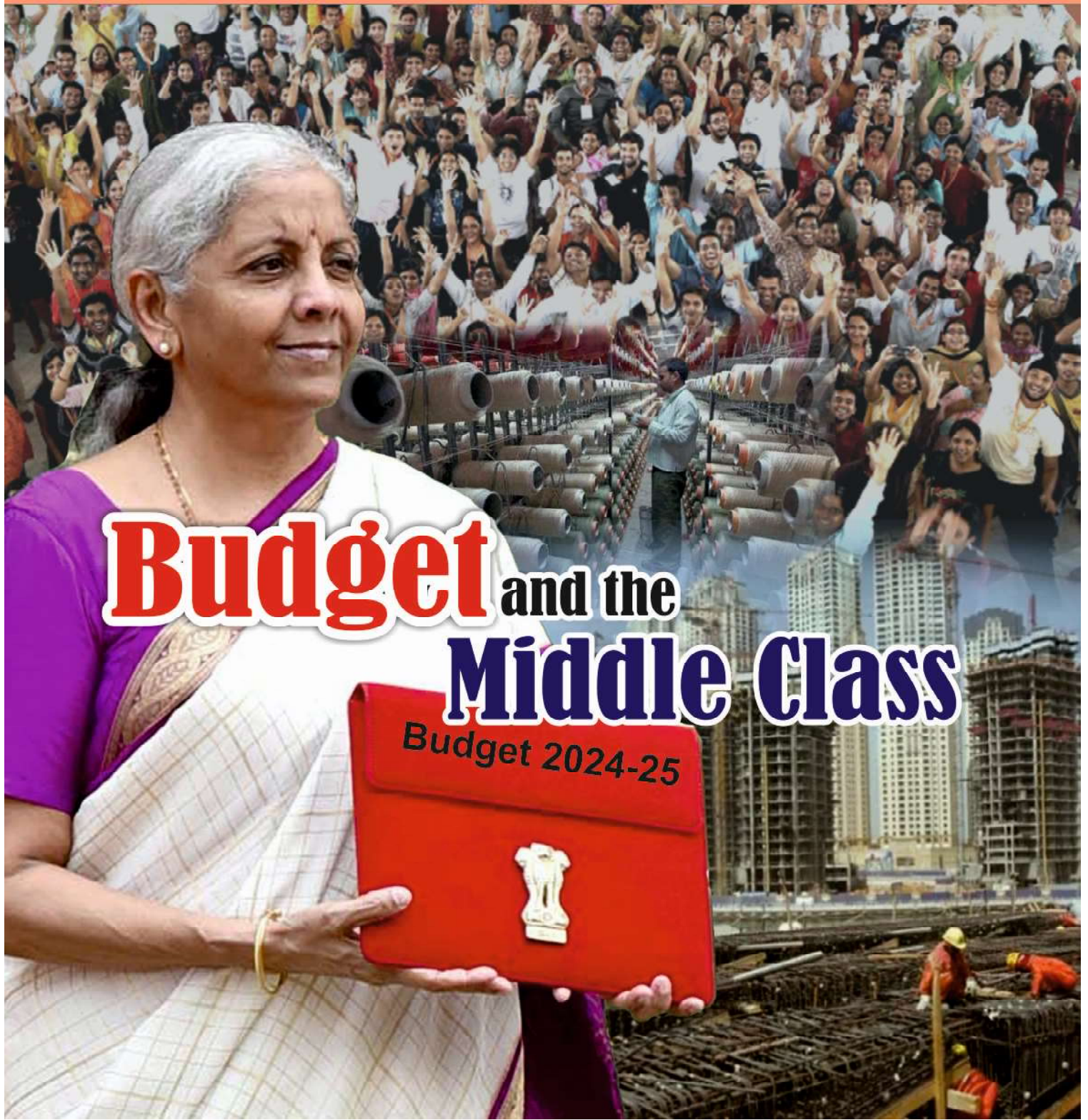
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August 2024



Budget and the Middle Class

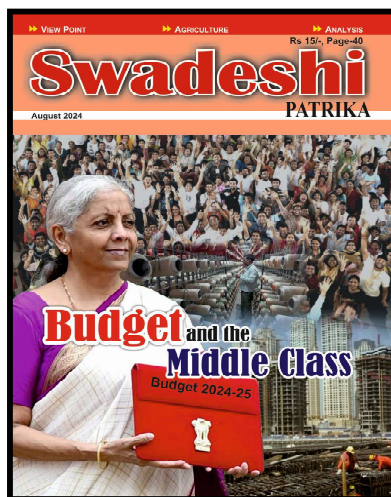
Budget 2024-25

**Swadeshi Patrika wishes its readers,
writers, contributors and entire Swadeshi Family**

Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY

Swavlamban Bharat Abhiyan, Meetings





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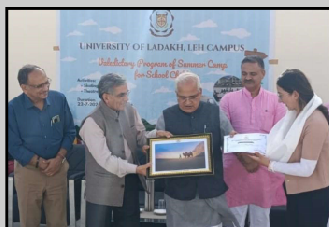
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Budget 2024–25

The Indian Budget for 2024-2025 was presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman mainly focused on employment, skill-ing, MSMEs, and the middle class and for all-around accomplishment. The budget also detailed nine priorities for generating ample opportunities for all and suggests specific actions and reforms required to realise the goal of Viksit Bharat. The budget also emphasized the importance of digitaliza-tion, innovation, and research and development. It proposes measures to promote entrepreneurship, job creation, and skill development. One of the key features of the budget is the establishment of more than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank in the North East region. This move aims to expand banking services and promote financial inclusion in the region. Additionally, the budget provides financial support of Rs. 15,000 crores under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act. This support is intended to aid the state's development and growth. The Expenditure Profile for 2024-2025, published by the Ministry of Finance, Budget Division in July 2024, outlines the government's spending plans for the fiscal year. The profile highlights the government's priorities and allocations across various sectors, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, and defence. Budget also focused on increase of capital expenditure outlay by 11.1% to Rs 11,11,111 crore (3.4% of GDP), fiscal deficit estimated at 5.1% of GDP in 2024-25, Establishment of Rs. 1 lakh crore corpus with a 50 year interest free loan for youth and continuation of the 50 year interest free loan scheme for states with a total outlay of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore. As far as tax payers are concerned, there is no provision of not paying any tax up to Rs. 3 lakh.

Overall, the budget aims to drive economic growth, improve the standard of living, and enhance the overall well-being of citizens. It outlines a comprehensive plan for the country's development and progress in the coming year.

— Nishant Chaturvedi, Researcher, Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan, Delhi

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Quote-Unquote



Youth development and youth-led development will gain more momentum if the energy of the youth could be channelized into positive and constructive work.

Droupadi Murmu, President, Bharat



Some individuals prioritise limited economic gains over national interests, questioning whether fiscal benefits justify avoidable imports. No fiscal gain, regardless of its size, can out weight the value of promoting domestic industries & protecting local employment.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President, Bharat



Bullet train project is a very complex and tech-intensive project. Considering the highest level of safety, it has been designed with Japan's support. Now, work is going on very speedily. We are working on developing bullet trains fully with indigenous technology and become 'atmanirbhar'.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Rail Minister, Bharat



The SJM appreciates the budget proposals as they are employment-centric, pro-agriculture, pro-business, especially MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises).

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

Bharat should reject World Bank's Development Report

On 1 August 2024, the World Bank released its World Development Report 2024. Titled 'The Middle Income Trap', it has made negative comments about India and other emerging economies such as Indonesia, Vietnam, South Africa, etc. The report says it will take another 75 years for India to reach even one-fourth of the USA's per capita income. It's an attempt to mock India's resolve that by the year 2047, it will become a developed economy riding on manufacturing development. The World Bank claims that the report is based on data from 108 middle-income economies that account for 75 per cent of the world's population and generate 40 per cent of the world's GDP. But it is nothing more than an opinionated piece devoid of logic and understanding of realities on the ground. The report has criticised the industrial policy of India and Indonesia, which is aimed at getting rich quickly on the basis of very high growth. Instead, they advocate for slow but continuous growth for a longer period. The report suggests that middle-income countries should give up their obsession with domestic technology development and use the technology developed by high-income countries. Any attempt to develop one's own technology, it said, will be a waste of resources. The report gives the examples of South Korea and Brazil. The East Asian country encouraged the adoption of foreign technology by providing government aid, which led to it catching up and eventually leading on this front. The report has criticised Brazil as it discouraged foreign technology by imposing a tax on international intellectual property. There was a rapid rise in patent applications but they were all low quality.

India has been cautioned not to try to develop its own technology, which Malaysia and Indonesia have attempted. Surprisingly, India's semiconductor policy and defence self-reliance policy have also been criticised. Analysing this report, The Economist said that after India imposed a ban on the import of 509 defence products, it dropped out of the list of top 25 defence exporters in the world. Using the theories of the famous economist Schumpeter in the report, the authors said that due to "policy-induced distortions", such as high regulatory costs, in countries like India, Mexico and Peru, even efficient firms don't grow at the rate they do in high-income countries. The report says that, while an average American firm grows seven times in size in 40 years, in India it only doubles. But the World Bank has got it all wrong. It seems that the World Bank is irked because the Indian government rejected EV company Tesla's proposal and refused to give complete exemption on import duty. The authors of the World Bank Report probably do not know that India's automobile industry has a place of its own in the world. Automobile companies in the country have started manufacturing electric vehicles in large quantities. Sixty-six per cent growth is being seen in the sale of electric vehicles in India.

India is also developing rapidly in the domain of online transactions. UPI, which has been recognised by the World Bank, has revolutionised businesses, especially small ones. Today, India's UPI has carved a place for itself in the world of online transactions and many countries are eager to adopt it. After the development of this technology in India, companies like Visa and Mastercard have started feeling the heat.

India has started doing international transactions partially in rupees, such as buying oil from friendly countries which is obviously not liked by the US and countries in Europe. The space sector is another domain where India developed indigenous technology to launch projects like PSLV and Chandrayaan successfully. It is worth mentioning that when India sought cryogenic engine technology, India's demand was reportedly outright rejected by Russia due to US pressure. India is the first country to reach the dark part of the moon and we did it for just Rs 615 crore. Meanwhile, the US's Apollo mission to the moon cost the country over \$250 billion (adjusted for inflation up to 2020). There is an unprecedented reduction in multidimensional poverty and there have been schemes to provide houses to homeless people. Government welfare schemes that provide electricity, water, toilets, education, and health facilities are changing the lives of the poor. India is being praised by the bodies like United Nations Development Programme for these measures.

The World Bank must know that at present India's per capita income on the basis of purchasing power parity is above \$10,000, which is certainly more than 10 per cent of the US's per capita income. Therefore, it is logically not right to mock India's resolve to become a high-income country in the next 23 years. Many feel that if the World Bank is criticising India's path of development, then this path is definitely correct. It is just trying to push an agenda through such reports. In the past too, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have tried to obstruct India's path by imposing many conditions at the behest of developed countries. The policymakers of India should not only reject such reports, but the Indian government should also register its protest against the same and suggest that the World Bank not misuse its special status.

Budget and the Middle Class

The Budget 2024-25, was presented in the Parliament, as a full budget on 23 July 2024 after the formation of the new government. It was expected that given comfortable revenue position of the government, middle class would be given relief in the income tax. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, by making changes in various slabs of income tax, did attempted to give maximum relief of Rs 17,500 to all taxpayers. If we assume 2 crore tax payers in new income tax regime, for whom this change is proposed, then its implication on the budget would be nearly Rs 35000 crore. But the benefit of people with income more than Rs 10 lakh, especially the upper-middle class, was also limited to Rs 17,500. Therefore, people with income above Rs 10 lakhs, are complaining that the middle class was generally ignored in the budget.

There is a need to fact check about this complaint, so that it can be understood whether the Finance Minister has actually ignored the middle class in Budget 2024-25. There is a need to understand what the middle class really is? Different agencies in India define the middle class in different ways. National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) includes households earning between Rs 2 and Rs 20 lakh in the middle class. According to NCAER, there are three categories of the middle class, one, the lower-middle class, which includes households earning between Rs 2 and Rs 5 lakh, who are lower middle class; households earning between Rs 5 and Rs 10 lakh will be called middle class and households earning between Rs 10 and Rs 20 lakh will be called upper-middle class. The Reserve Bank of India includes households earning between Rs 3.5 lakh and Rs 17.5 lakh in the middle class. The Government of India includes those households in the economically weaker classes, whose income is less than Rs 8 lakh and define creamy layer, as upper-middle class, as those whose income is more than Rs 12 lakh.

If we look at the data of the Income Tax Department, in 2022-23, a total of 7.4 crore people filed income tax returns in the country, but out of them only 2.24 crore people actually paid income tax. Out of 7.4 crore filing tax returns, 5.8 crore people declared income up to Rs 10 lakh. That is, it can be understood that, of the total number filing returns, 78 percent declared Rs 10 lakh or less. It can be understood why the Finance Minister, while giving income tax exemption, has proposed to give income tax concessions only to those with income less than Rs 10 lakh.

It is well known that budget does not mean only tax, or income tax, so it has to be understood in detail what the Finance Minister has in the budget for the middle class this time? Only then it can be understood what benefits the middle class and other sections of the society, will get from the budget. There has been a practice of assessing the budget, in terms of the benefits given to women by government's budget. Experts call it Gender Budgeting. On the same lines, we can assess the budget, in terms of benefits from budget accruing to the middle class.

First of all, today the middle class is most worried about the employment of their next generation. In this year's budget, the government has allocated a



Unless all sections of the country are included in the process of development, we will never be able to make India a developed nation.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

large amount for skill development and employment generation and encouragement among the youth. The Finance Minister has announced that the government will pay the first salary to the first time employed youth in the organized sector. This provision is likely to benefit 2.10 crore youths. Apart from this, the contribution for the Employees Provident Fund (EPFO) by the employers in the new recruitment will be provided by the government for 2 years. Various schemes have been announced in the budget, including the scheme to skill 20 lakh youth in five years. Youths from middle class families are likely to benefit more from this provision.

One of the biggest schemes for the youth that has been brought in the budget is the 'internship scheme' in 500 big companies. Under this scheme, every youth will be given an amount of Rs 5000 per month and one time benefit of Rs 6000; and 1 crore youth will get benefited from this scheme in 5 years. This scheme can play a big role in skilling the youth and making them employable. For the unemployed youth in the families of crores of middle class households, there can be a huge benefit under all these schemes in this budget.

Secondly, the government has announced Pradhan Mantri Surya Muft Bijli Yojana, under which 1 crore households will get free electricity up to 300 units, who opt for installing solar panel on their roof tops. This scheme will be available to poor and middle class families. For this, loans will be disbursed to buy solar panels, along with subsidy. Through this, the beneficiaries will not have to bear the burden of the cost of installing solar panels.



Thirdly, the government has announced a capital expenditure of Rs 11,11,111 crore in this year's budget, which will help building infrastructure including road, rail, water and air transport in the country. This will not only make transportation and life easier for the middle class, it will also create employment opportunities and reduce logistics costs, which can make goods and services cheaper in the country.

Fourthly, apart from the government-aided construction of 3 crore houses in villages, one crore houses will also be built in urban areas, which will benefit the lower-middle class, and they will be able to avail the benefits of affordable housing.

Fifth, the way the government has abolished angel tax to promote start-ups, youth of the middle class may benefit.

Sixth, it is also being said that the way the import duties have been reduced, the middle class will also get indirect benefit of the same as they will get cheaper goods.

Seventh, the government has provided a corpus of Rs One lakh crore, from where, interest-free loans will be provided for research and innovation in the next few

years, which can be returned in a period of 50 years.

Apart from this, there is a need to assess the benefits to the middle class from the various provisions made in the budget. Only then will we be able to properly assess how much the middle class will benefit from the budget provisions. It has to be understood that we cannot assess how much the middle class has got benefited directly from the budget, only on the basis of tax exemption.

We see that in the interest of social justice, the government collects more tax from the rich and spends it on various government-social welfare schemes. We must also understand that the importance of upliftment of various sections of the society, especially the economically less privileged people, is not only important for social justice, but it is also important for the all-round development of the country. Unless all sections of the country are included in the process of development, we will never be able to make India a developed nation. Not only this, inequalities in the society also promote animosity, which can disturb social fabric and hinder the process of development. □□

Economic Survey-2024 and Budget Analysis



India needs to be developed by Indians through Swadeshi technology and by improving the quality and competitiveness of Swadeshi goods and services in order to become an economic power in the whole world with a vision of Bharat@2047.
Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal

The present status of the Indian Economy on the basis of the Economic Survey presented in Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 22nd July and the subsequent Budget proposals presented by her on 23rd July suggests that the total size of Indian Economy was Rs. 295 Lakh crores as on 31-03-2024 with an Year on Year nominal GDP growth of 9.6 per cent over the GDP of Rs 269 Lakh crores as on 31-03-2023. On an exchange rate of Rs. 83.40 as on 31-03-2024 it comes to US\$ 3.54 Trillion and hence still very far from becoming a US\$ 5 Trillion economy as the devaluation keeps us dragging.

The Economic Survey reveals that our economy has grown by 8.2% in the FY 2023-24 and is likely to grow by 6.5-7 per cent in FY 2024-25 and thus being the fastest growing country in the World and particularly when the global economic growth is 3-3.5 percent. The other macro-economic indicators are sound, namely the Current account deficit 0.7%; Retail inflation at 5.4 percent (June 2024, core inflation declined to 3.1%); unemployment rate declined to nearly 3% (pg 33 Economic Survey); Multidimensional poverty declined from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 11.28% in 2022-23 (Economic Survey pg-33); Fiscal Deficit declined from 9.2% in FY 2021 to 5.6% in FY 2024.

In its drive to become Vikasit Bharat@2047, the Finance Minister has outlined that the major focus will be on inclusive growth of poor, women, youth and farmers with primary objectives on improving creativity and innovation, creating more employment opportunities, skilling of youth for their employability and for strengthening the financial assistance to MSMEs and for improvement of infrastructure, manufacturing and ensuring Energy security as part of the major nine priorities.

The Government will focus on productivity and climate resilient Agriculture with emphasis on natural farming with 109 high yielding varieties of seeds and by building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture for coverage of farmers and their land in 3 years.

Employment linked Incentives have been announced for creation of additional employment with three different schemes A, B and C. Scheme A is for direct benefit transfer to first time employees registered with EPFO with one month wages newly entering the workforce in all formal sectors up to Rs. 15000/- in three installments and is likely to benefit 210 lakh youth. Scheme B is for EPFO contribution for 4 years for the benefit of 30 lakh youth entering employment and under Scheme C, the Government will give up to Rs. 3000/- per month for two years to the Employers for their contribution to the EPFO.

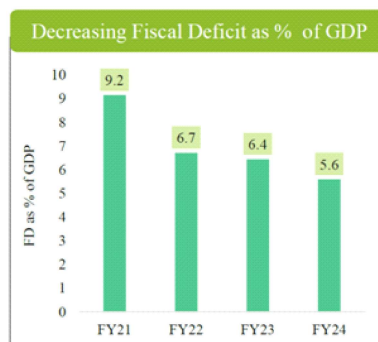
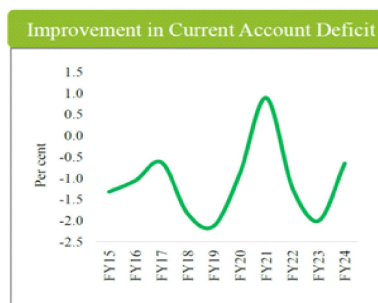
In addition there is a scheme for internships by 500 Corporates by using their CSR funds up to 10% with an allowance of Rs 5000/ per month. This scheme will definitely help the skills of fresh students and provide them an immediate opportunity to learn the practical business environment and will address the question as raised in the Economic Survey about the very poor status of less than

52% employability of the educated youth. This scheme will help in yielding demographic dividends from the rich Human Resources of our country.

The world economy today is surrounded by four major problems and uncertainties due to geopolitical risks, climate-change and global warming, Artificial Intelligence and growing inequality. The Indian economy is not an exception to it and therefore the Finance Minister has tried to walk cautiously and has provided for continuing with Government spending for building infrastructure through capital expenditure of Rs 11 lakh crores. FDI flow has declined globally, private investment is not picking up, and global supply chain is intermittently being affected due to Red Sea insurgencies and due to economic sanctions on various countries by USA and European countries, inflationary situation and rising levels of interest rates and recessionary trend in some advanced countries.

There is a complex problem of increasing trade deficit with China which is more than US\$85 Billion and the Economic Survey has indicated the necessity to allow FDI from China to manufacture the goods in India instead of importing and thereby maintaining a balance between trade and investment but it has serious repercussions on national security.

This being the First Budget of Modi 3.0 Government with the support of coalition partners, the Finance Minister has also tried for a rational allocation of resources amongst states with special emphasis on an all-round development of Eastern States (Purvodaya) including Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa,



Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh. The Budget proposals also include certain corrective fiscal measures to bring harmonious structure for taxation of Long term capital gains and for taxation of E-Commerce activities by eliminating equalization levy and for a reduction in rates for foreign companies from 40% to 35%.

However, increasing the limits of Mudra Loan from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs 20 lakhs and providing collateral free loan facilities with Central Government guarantee will provide a great relief to the ailing MSME sector. The setting up of E-Commerce export hubs will also benefit MSMEs and Artisans for getting remunerative prices of their products in international market. Online Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) can play a very positive role in linking such digital marketing.

However there is also an increasing concern on over dependence on foreign capital and foreign technology despite there being conscious efforts by the gov-

ernment to develop indigenous technology in defense and space sectors for an Atmnirbhar Bharat. It is also a matter of serious concern that there has been a remarkable decline in household savings in the recent three years which has come down from 22.7% in 2021 to 18.6% in 2023 due to inflationary pressure, and increasing consumption. Similarly there is a quantum increase in the cumulative foreign capital of US\$ 2.3 trillion in the form of foreign debt US\$ 648.5 Billion, foreign portfolio investment in stock market US\$ 678 Billion and FDI US\$ 990 Billion as per RBI Bulletin March 2024.

There is a need to review the policy drive for Make in India through foreign capital and reverse the gear by encouraging Indian Diasporas of 3.5 crores NRIs and overseas citizens of India with rich scientific knowledge and with an annual savings of US\$ 500 Billion and around US\$125 Billion annual remittances. Government can set up a Special Economic Zone earmarked for NRIs and Overseas citizens of India with a tax holiday and all other infrastructural facilities and ensuring them full protection from inspector raj and other regulatory burdens.

India needs to be developed by Indians through Swadeshi technology and by improving the quality and competitiveness of Swadeshi goods and services in order to become an economic power in the whole world with a vision of Bharat@2047. It can be expected that the Government of India will be more democratic in decision making by involving people for an improved collective decision making process. □□

Budget 2024-25 designed towards Vikasit Bharat



This budget is a futuristic, with long vision to envisage Vikasit Bharat by 2047 by providing enough employment opportunities to the youth, enhancing business opportunities to the existing people, scaling-up the MSME activities by providing stress free loans and establishment of SIDBI branches in industrial clusters, skilling the youth in top 500 companies is a crystal-clear step and pathway towards developed Bharat.

**Dr. S.
Lingamurthy**

23 July, 2024, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman 7th time in a row presented Union Budget 2024-25, is a futuristic and designed to Vikasit Bharat by 2047 with a focus on four major categories of the society includes farmers, poor, women and the youth. The proposed budget has given the priorities to creation of employment, skilling the large chunk of youth force, enhancing the business and scale up of MSME activities and substantial consideration to the middle class of the society. More than Rs. 48.21 lakh crore budget envisages developed country through outlined nine core priorities includes, productivity and resilience in agriculture, employment & skilling, inclusive human resource development and social justice, manufacturing & services, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation, research & development and next generation reforms.

In the midst of global economic slowdown, political uncertainty, geopolitical issues, India is consistently shown its economic predominance in the globe by maintaining above 6.5 percent GDP growth per annum is due to consistency in targeted goals, continuity in economic reforms, steady focus on the skill development, controlled inflation, increasing ease of doing business rankings, significant increase in CAPEX and focused infrastructure development since 2014 the day Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India.

In a continuous momentum of the Government of India's efforts from last 11 years, 2024-25 proposed budget has targeted creation of dignified employment in the country to cater 1 crore youth in upcoming 5 years. There is a clear message in the budget that through the creation of employment opportunities to the young population the country will embark to Vikasit Bharat. In view of this, the budget specifically allocated budget to the skilling of the youth as well as to provide internship opportunities to 20 lakh youth per year in top 500 companies of the country with Rs. 5000 per month allowance to the students is a path breaking record in the history. It shows the vision and clarity of the budget towards targeted goals. Skilling institutions will also be provided course content & design aligned as per the requirements of the industry in the present context is a remarkable step by the government. Along with this, 1000 industrial training institutions are supposed to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation make sure the certainty in the skill among the youth and working force.

To tackle unemployment problem of the country, the budget also proposed employment linked PLI scheme (Production Linked Incentive Scheme) to the industries. This initiative will certainly bring quality employment and livelihoods to the masses. To scale-up the self-employment or business activity, the budget has increased MUDRA loan opportunities from Rs. 10 lakhs to 20 lakhs without any guarantee or hardships to TARUN loan successful repaid beneficiaries. In order to address the women participation improvement in economic activity, the bud-

get has proposed worked women hostels in collaboration with industry and establishing creches to the needy at workplace. The budget also proposed more than Rs. 3 lakh crores for the schemes which are benefitting women and girls shows the importance of government towards women participation in the economic activity and their welfare.

One more remarkable announcement in the budget is Purvodaya: 'Vikas bhi – Virasatbhi' towards inclusive approach of the country. India is having abundance of natural resources in eastern part of the country which have to be optimally utilised for the benefit of the society as well as economic development of the country. This budget has planned for endowment rich states covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh for generation of economic opportunities to attain Vikasit Bharat. This initiative brings all round development of the country and bringing more people into economic activity by providing opportunities, this will address the unemployment problem and migration issue too in these mentioned states. Establishing Amritsar Kolkata industrial corridor with development of an industrial node at Gaya will create significant employment opportunities to the youth of this area by putting industries and infrastructure projects.

In order to increase the industrial output, industrial establishments and thereby create a greater number of employment opportunities, this budget also announced 12 industrial corridors under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme. For the

development of MSMEs, credit support to MSMEs during stress period also announced this makes MSMEs to function without any turmoil.

Andhra Pradesh and Bihar

There is an uproar in the parliament when the budget proposed the financial support to the aspiring states such as Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The Government of India has considered the all-round development of the country towards Vikasit Bharat. Bihar is part of BIMARU state, historically this state has not been developed, and not given importance to the development, therefore, the state has huge problems in terms of unemployment, infrastructure facilities, economic development etc. and Andhra Pradesh state has not give its due investment as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act after bifurcation of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh state. From last one decade, there is no development activities by any government either TDP for the first five years or YSRCP later, as a result, not significant industries have been set up in this state, infrastructure projects have been ignored by both TDP and YSRCP from last 10 years due to given more importance to the welfare schemes in view of attaining more votes in further elections. This led Andhra Pradesh state considerably backward in terms of infrastructure development, employment creation, etc.

To tackle the pressing problems of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, this budget has considerably given more importance to create competitive economic system in these states. Financial support of Rs. 15,000 crores have been an-

nounced in the budget for Andhra Pradesh, completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project has been ensured which will result in the agriculture development in the state as well as food security of the country. The allotted budget to the Andhra Pradesh will make sure the infrastructural projects such as water, power, railways and roads. Apart from this, the budget also announced two industrial corridors in Andhra Pradesh State in Kopparthy node on the Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and Orvakal node on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor brings economic prosperity and industrial development in the state.

Bihar is also considered to be given boost through the development of cultural aspects and tourism. Development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor and Mahabodhi Temple Corridor boosts tourism development, community development through additional creation of livelihoods in these areas. Along with this Nalanda development will boost tourists and also this budget targeted to reviving the Nalanda University to its glorious stature is appreciable.

In conclusion, this budget is a futuristic, with long vision to envisage Vikasit Bharat by 2047 by providing enough employment opportunities to the youth, enhancing business opportunities to the existing people, scaling-up the MSME activities by providing stress free loans and establishment of SIDBI branches in industrial clusters, skilling the youth in top 500 companies is a crystal-clear step and pathway towards developed Bharat. □□

The author is Associate Professor of Economics, Central University of Karnataka.

Diversified Portfolio of Skilling Budget



The union finance minister presented the budget for the financial year 2024-25 on 23 July 2024. The budget priorities nine domains: Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture, Employment and Skilling, Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice, Manufacturing and Services, Urban Development, Energy Security, Infrastructure, Innovation-Research and Development, and Next Generation Reforms.

The sixty-two-page document of the full budget includes thirty-six pages of annexure to Part A and Part B. Part A is about priorities and theme of the budget and Part B is about direct and indirect taxes. The Annexure to Part A is five pages

and all these pages are about employment and skilling. The title of this annexure is also labeled as Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling. This annexure to Part A reflects the union government's acceptance of the problem and the commitment to a new solution to the problem.

The employment has been discussed and accepted as the core problem of the nation. It's a dichotomy in the prospective employee pursuits for prospective employers and the prospective employers chase for prospective employees. The obvious conclusion is that there is blindness to both. Both are unable to reach each other. If the employment opportunities are seen in isolation, then the solution won't be visible. The problem is the mismatch between the demand for human resources that is needed and the supply of human resources that is available. If such demand and supply do not match then the solution is to convert the available supply so that it meets the criteria of the demand. The prevailing employment challenge is the outcome of a mismatch between the quality of skilled talent demanded and the quality of skilled talent available.

We need immediate talent upgradation to meet the challenge. The long wait is not an alternative as we pass through our Amrit Kaal, the transition phase of our demographic dividend. The future generation has an education policy to take care of. But those in the age group of fifteen years to thirty-five years can't wait for long and their count is more than thirty crores.

The union government realized it decades ago and to meet the immediate demand it came up with the Skill India Program and its variants. To avoid any such future mismatch between demand and supply of human resources, the union government backward integrated the whole training program up to primary schools. And this commitment is echoed in the National Education Policy" (NEP) 2020. NEP rightly figured out multilanguage, regional language, and pedagogy to include vocational, academic, curricular, and extracurricular with equal importance. This is to generate mental, physical, and emotional strength as well as develop team spirit, respect national commitments, and habit of upgrading oneself lifelong. This NEP discards rote learning and degree-producing academic facto-



This portfolio of skilling budgets misses nothing. It captures incentives to employers, employees, internship, CSR, manufacturing, training, and skill development.
Alok Singh

ries. The NEP is a long-term project. We needed something for short-term necessities which resulted in the Skill India Program. However, the outcomes of the old Skill India Program did not meet the intended output.

The missed intended output of Skill India forces the union government to revisit the drawing board and rewrite the script for job opportunities. This resulted in well-crafted incentives linked to employment and job creation apart from the support for entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem.

The Annexure of Part A of the budget document is exclusively dedicated to job-specific employment. The mindset of employment means the job is a challenging thing to change. The Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) within the management of Swadeshi Jagran Manch has grown enough since its inception in the year 2022. SBA is working to change the narrative that employment means a job. It comprises many partners that work in the domain of social, political, technological, academic, and policy making.

The Annexure of Part A focuses on five points. The first three are different variants of employment-linked incentives.

The first is labeled as Employment Linked Incentive Scheme A: First Timers. The core of this scheme is to bear the cost of the learning curve of the prospective employee. The companies fear that once they train a human resource, they leave their company for a marginally better opportunity and this causes a loss of time, money, and energy to the first-time employer. The union government has addressed this concern of the em-

ployers with this scheme. It has been constrained in a way that only the genuine employer and employee can avail the financial support from the government, for example: the employee must retain the employer for twelve months otherwise refund the receiving.

The second is labeled as Employment Linked Incentive Scheme B: Job Creation in Manufacturing. Scheme A is open for all sectors while scheme B has more constraints. Those who are eligible for scheme B can avail of scheme A as well. Scheme B is basically for job offers to new first-time employees with the condition that such number should be at least fifty or twenty-five percent of the previous number of employees who are getting Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) benefits. This scheme is for manufacturing sector corporates, and eligibility for non-corporates is with an additional condition that they should have a track record of contribution towards EPFO in the last three years.

The third scheme is labeled as Employment Linked Incentive Scheme C: Support to Employers. This is basically for those who miss scheme B. Those who are in Scheme A can avail of Scheme C also, and there are special provisions for those who create more than a thousand jobs. This scheme also supports those who create at least two jobs where the total previous year's job strength is less than fifty and create five jobs where the previous year's job strength is more than fifty. This scheme specifies that the new employees don't need to be new to EPFO also, it means that the hired employees need not be first-time job seekers. Those who

are availing of scheme B are not eligible for scheme C.

The fourth scheme is called the Skilling Program and Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes. This scheme aims to benefit twenty lakh youths and upgrade thousands of Industrial Training Institutes with the help of financial support from the central government and other stakeholders. The state government has also to contribute and the industrial contribution is to be considered as Corporate Social Responsibility.

The fifth scheme is labeled as Internship in Top Companies. This scheme is for those who are not pursuing any full-time education or are not engaged in any job. This scheme does not apply to those candidates who studied at the Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, or IISER and hold professional degrees like Chartered Accountants, CMA, and or any other equivalent. The top companies are expected to train one crore youth aged between twenty-one to twenty-four years and the expenses will be considered as contribution towards CSR.

This portfolio of skilling budgets misses nothing. It captures incentives to employers, employees, internship, CSR, manufacturing, training, and skill development. The focus is on applicable quality rather than theoretical printed certificates of skill or quantity. The demand and supply mismatch of skilled youth has been addressed in this budget. We wish success to all the stakeholders. It's also necessary to keep in mind that employment does not mean job only. □□

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

Key Initiatives in the Union Budget 2024:

Manufacturing, Industries, Employment, and Skilling

On July 23, 2023, the Government of India introduced the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the budget outlined nine core priorities aimed at fostering economic growth, social welfare, and modernization. These priorities include productivity and resilience in agriculture, employment and skilling, improved human resources and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation, research and development, and next-generation reforms.

Employment Linked Incentive: To promote employment, the government will implement three schemes under the Prime Minister's package, known as 'Employment Linked Incentive,' based on enrolment in the EPFO. These schemes focus on the recognition of first-time employees and support for employees & employers.

First Timers: The first scheme will provide one month's wage to all individuals newly entering the workforce in formal sectors. A direct benefit transfer of one month's salary, up to Rs. 15,000, will be provided in three installments to first-time employees registered in the EPFO. The eligibility limit for this benefit is set at a salary of Rs. 1 lakh per month. This initiative is expected to benefit 210 lakh youth.

Job Creation in Manufacturing: The second scheme aims to incentivize additional employment in the manufacturing sector, linked to the employment of first-time employees. An incentive will be provided at a specified scale directly to both the employee and the employer concerning their EPFO contribution for the first four years of employment. This scheme is expected to benefit 30 lakh youth entering employment and their employers.

Support to Employers: The third scheme, focused on employers, will cover additional employment in all sectors. For additional employment within a salary range of Rs. 1 lakh per month, the government will reimburse employers up to Rs. 3,000 per month for two years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee. This scheme is anticipated to incentivize the additional employment of 50 lakh persons.

Participation of Women in the Workforce: To enhance women's participation in the workforce, the government plans to set up working women's hostels in collaboration with industry and establish crèches. Additionally, the partnership will organize women-specific skilling programs and promote market access for women SHG enterprises.

Skilling Programs: Over the next five years, 20 lakh youth will be skilled. The government will upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes in a hub-and-spoke arrangement with an outcome orientation. Course content and design will be aligned with industry skill needs, and new courses will be introduced to address emerging demands.

Skilling Loans: The Model Skill Loan Scheme will be revised to facilitate loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government-promoted fund.

The government's commitment to fostering employment, skilling, and industrial growth is evident, but achieving these goals will require concerted efforts, collaboration across sectors, and unwavering focus on addressing the practical challenges that lie ahead.

**Shashi Kumar R
and
Dr. Basavaraj M.S**

This measure is expected to benefit 25,000 students annually.

Education Loans: Financial support for loans up to Rs. 10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions will be provided. E-vouchers for this purpose will be given directly to 1 lakh students every year for annual interest subvention of 3% of the loan amount.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector: A credit guarantee scheme will be introduced to facilitate term loans to MSMEs for the purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral or third-party guarantees. This scheme will operate on pooling credit risks of MSMEs, with a self-financing guarantee fund providing guarantees up to Rs. 100 crores to each applicant, while the loan amount may be larger. Borrowers will have to pay an upfront guarantee fee and an annual guarantee fee on the reducing loan balance.

New Assessment Model for MSME Credit: Public sector banks will develop in-house capabilities to assess MSMEs for credit, rather than relying on external assessments. They will lead the development of a new credit assessment model based on the digital footprints of MSMEs in the economy. This model will significantly improve traditional credit eligibility assessments based on asset or turnover criteria and will cover MSMEs without a formal accounting system.

Credit Support to MSMEs During Stress Period: A new mechanism will be established to facilitate the continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress periods. While in the 'special mention account' (SMA) stage for reasons beyond their control, MS-

MEs need credit to continue their business and avoid becoming NPAs. Credit availability will be supported through a guarantee from a government-promoted fund.

Mudra Loans: The limit for Mudra loans will be enhanced to Rs. 20 lakh from the current Rs. 10 lakh for entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun' category.

Enhanced Scope for Mandatory Onboarding in TReDS: To facilitate MSMEs in unlocking their working capital by converting trade receivables into cash, the turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform will be reduced from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 250 crores. This measure will bring 22 more CPSEs and 7,000 more companies onto the platform, including medium enterprises as suppliers.

SIDBI Branches in MSME Clusters: SIDBI will open new branches to expand its reach and serve all major MSME clusters within three years. With 24 branches opening this year, the service coverage will expand to 168 out of 242 major clusters.

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing: Financial support will be provided for setting up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector. Additionally, 100 food quality and safety testing labs with NABL accreditation will be facilitated.

E-Commerce Export Hubs: E-Commerce Export Hubs will be set up in public-private partnership (PPP) mode to enable MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets. These hubs will operate under a seamless regulatory and logistic framework, pro-

viding trade and export-related services under one roof.

Measures for Promotion of Manufacturing & Services

Internship in Top Companies: The government will launch a comprehensive scheme providing internship opportunities in 500 top companies to 1 crore youth over five years. Interns will gain exposure to real-life business environments, varied professions, and employment opportunities for 12 months. An internship allowance of Rs. 5,000 per month along with a one-time assistance of Rs. 6,000 will be provided. Companies will bear the training cost and 10% of the internship cost from their CSR funds.

Industrial Parks: The government will facilitate the development of investment-ready "plug and play" industrial parks with complete infrastructure in or near 100 cities, in partnership with states and the private sector, through better utilization of town planning schemes. Twelve industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme will also be sanctioned.

Rental Housing: Rental housing with dormitory-type accommodation for industrial workers will be facilitated in PPP mode with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support and commitment from anchor industries.

Roadmap for 'Hard to Abate' Industries: A roadmap will be formulated to transition 'hard to abate' industries from 'energy efficiency' targets to 'emission targets.' Appropriate regulations will be put in place to shift these industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to the 'Indian Carbon Market' mode.

Support to Traditional Micro and Small Industries: An investment-grade energy audit of traditional micro and small industries in 60 clusters, including brass and ceramic, will be facilitated. Financial support will be provided for shifting to cleaner forms of energy and implementing energy efficiency measures. The scheme will be replicated in another 100 clusters in the next phase.

Innovation, Research & Development: The government will operationalize the Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development. Additionally, a mechanism will be set up to spur private sector-driven research and innovation at a commercial scale with a financing pool of Rs. 1 lakh crore, as announced in the interim budget.

Angel Tax Abolishment: To ease investment avenues for startups, the government will abolish the so-called angel tax for all classes of investors. This tax, currently standing at about 30% for investors in high-growth companies, is aimed at early-stage investors, referred to as angel investors.

The Union Budget 2024-25, lays out an ambitious roadmap for India's economic growth, with a strong focus on manufacturing, industries, employment, and skilling. The various initiatives aimed at employment generation, skilling, and MSME support reflect a comprehensive approach to address critical economic challenges and stimulate long-term development.

The 'Employment Linked Incentive' schemes are well-intentioned, aiming to boost formal sector employment and incentivize the hiring of first-time employees. However, the success of these

schemes hinges on their effective implementation and the seamless integration of new employees into the workforce. The ambitious target of benefiting millions of youth requires meticulous planning, efficient execution, and robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the intended beneficiaries truly reap the benefits.

The emphasis on skilling programs and education loans is commendable, as it addresses the need for a skilled workforce aligned with industry requirements. Upgrading Industrial Training Institutes and revising the Model Skill Loan Scheme are significant steps toward this goal. However, the challenge remains in ensuring that the skilling programs are accessible to all segments of the population, especially in rural and underdeveloped regions, and that the curriculum remains relevant in a rapidly changing job market.

Support for MSMEs through credit guarantee schemes, new assessment models, and enhanced Mudra loans reflects a deep understanding of the sector's pivotal role in the economy. Yet, the practical impact of these measures will depend on their accessibility to small businesses and the elimination of bureaucratic hurdles that often impede MSME growth. The creation of E-Commerce Export Hubs and support for food irradiation and testing labs demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to boosting MSME competitiveness in global markets.

The introduction of rental housing for industrial workers and the development of 'plug and play' industrial parks signify an effort to improve infrastructure and living conditions for workers. These initiatives are essential for sustaining

industrial growth and attracting investments. Nonetheless, the success of these projects will require effective collaboration between the government, private sector, and local authorities.

The roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries and the transition to emission targets is a critical step toward sustainable development. However, achieving these ambitious environmental goals will necessitate stringent regulatory frameworks and substantial investments in cleaner technologies. The challenge will be to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability, ensuring that industries comply with new regulations without compromising their competitiveness.

Abolishing the angel tax for startups is a positive move to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. However, the overall startup ecosystem in India still faces numerous challenges, including funding access, regulatory complexities, and market penetration. Continued support and policy reforms are required to create a more conducive environment for startups to thrive.

In conclusion, while the Union Budget 2024-25 outlines a comprehensive and ambitious plan for India's economic growth, its success will largely depend on effective implementation, continuous monitoring, and the ability to adapt to evolving economic conditions. The government's commitment to fostering employment, skilling, and industrial growth is evident, but achieving these goals will require concerted efforts, collaboration across sectors, and unwavering focus on addressing the practical challenges that lie ahead. □□

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Contribution of Women for Samagra Vikas of the Nation-II

Women Achievers

Thanks to the foresight, enthusiasm, diligence and hard work of Bharatiya women, problems have become merely challenges which would be overcome to attain success. India's first Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore said, "Women are not only the light of our home but also the light of the world." Since time immemorial, women have been the source of inspiration for humanity.

The examples of such successful women are many and a few of them are listed below.

Examples from our ancient/puranic period are Pativrata Patniyar (Wives who showed devotion to their husbands) and Rishi Patni the sage wives who were the preservers of knowledge heritage. The historical medieval period examples are Warriors Jhansi Rani Lakshmibai, Ahalyabai Holkara, Kittoor Chennamma etc. Neera Arya of Netaji and Captain Laxmi Sehgal of Azad Hind Fauj are the examples of valorous women in recent pre independence history.

Now many women have made great achievements in their fields. Great Mathematician Shakuntala Devi, India's first Head of Banking Sector (SBI) Arundhati Roy, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj, Arunima Sihna who climbed the Himalayas on one leg, ONGC's first CAMD Alaka Mittala, SAIL Chairperson Seema Mandal can be named as successful ideal achievers who have excelled in different fields. Avani Chaturvedi flew a fighter plane with three companions. Bharat Biotech managing director Suchitra Ela was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan for developing an indigenous Covid vaccine. Indian-origin American astronaut Kalpana Chawla, NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, Fighter Squadron Avani Chaturvedi, Missile Woman Tessie Thomas, who played a key role in developing the 5 Missile, and many more women achievers are role models of strong manifestation of women's power. Indian women are front runner in their successful journey in many fields.



Development is necessarily a value addition process to Growth.

Development though is an ongoing process, needs efforts to provide value addition to the natural process of growth.

**Mahadevayya
Karadalli**



The astonishing fact is that with Jandhan accounts even illiterate women are making digital transactions, which has attracted the attention of the people of the world.

A well-educated woman has achieved economic independence and women's empowerment. And she has grown to be self-reliant and thereby helped in the development of the country. Economist Axis Bank CEO Nideshaki Shikha Sharma, auditor and banker Nainalal Kidwai, OP Jindal Group President Savitri Jindal have been exemplary in their contributions. Apoorva Bajaj, a young woman with an engineering degree in Kalaburgi, left her well-paying job and established a medical cotton industry along with women friends. She successfully supplied medical cotton to hospitals during the Covid period. Smt. Tejasvi Anant Kumar successfully runs an NGO and is fore runner in supplying mid day meal daily to thousands Government school students. Thus, many women have secured their place in the field of entrepreneurship with their own will power & strength. Women's self-help groups by Bidar DCC bank, Grameen Banks of Karnataka, Public Sector Banks are doing good business and running small and medium scale business to become self-sufficient.

Hurdles which are to be removed to make women strong.

In spite of many shining examples, a few of which are listed above many steps are needed to make the participation of women more effective in the economic and social spheres. Empowering her with a motivation for practicing Bharatiya Samskar regularly is need of the hour, since, if character is lost everything is lost. Educating

A well-educated woman has achieved economic independence and women's empowerment. And she has grown to be self-reliant and thereby helped in the development of the country.

them to come out of hangover of Helpless attitude and dependency. In this direction few steps are needed in increasing their physical and mental ability. First of all, Women must overcome the stigma that they are helpless. By birth they possess strong mental ability with brave attitude. It is necessary to remind them about their inherent capabilities, just like Jambavanta reminds Hanuman in Ramayana. Then she will be well prepared to tackle harassers love jihadist and rapists.

In this connection, the society also has to create enabling environment by taking some actions such as stopping the use of alcohol and drugs by the family members. Entertainment mediums such as Cinemas and TVs should stop giving exposure of body parts (with a view to titillate the viewers) in their programs. Heroines, shall reject acting in rape scene, scenes where heroines either runs towards bed rooms or silent zone, or no man places, which show helplessness of the women. Instead, they have to show the scenes where heroine beat the villain. In future, in serials and films, a woman should be shown as courageous to handle the assault effectively and with courage. The

media should not publish such stories which demoralize or discourage the women on front page or as headline such as harassments by a Political Leader, Police, an IAS, a IPS officers, by producer, director and Heroes so on. Instead, they should make a presentation of a women, who struggled hard to protect her dignity. Conscious administrators, especially women administrators should remove insecurity from the minds of women, provide them all protection at all times. Women should be allowed to move with safe and security.

The mind-set of the raped women also should be changed. She shall not feel herself as victim. She, herself should never feel ashamed for the incident beyond her control. And as it is not her fault for becoming a rape victim. Whereas the rapist, the offender, with money power, political influence, using the loopholes in the law come out of the clutches of punishment and moves in public. Men in particular, public in general should change their attitude towards the girl who becomes an unfortunate victim. Society should provide all possible support for her rehabilitation. Of course, Girls should take all precautions before stepping out of home and be well equipped to face boldly and fight with the attacker. She has to raise her voice by shouting to attract the attention of people. Other side young boys should give up their male superiority attitude ego and respect the women. All the section of society should treat the women victim as one of their family members and extend all possible support and in rebuilding their future in a productive manner. This change of mind set will help wom-

en to move ahead without any hindrance and can contribute much more to the economy in particular and society in general.

The role of women in Indian economy and prosperity is of utmost importance. If the voluntary activities which are being performed by an ordinary housewife without expecting single paisa, such as tutor, manger, cook, maid servant, etc. if calculated in terms of money, then such amount/income would be more than that of the income of a working women. Hence the economic value of household work of a house wife should never be undermined, as it is an added advantage to our economy. An ordinary housewife is handling extraordinary works/things such as maintaining her saving account at kitchen or in Jandhan account, digital transactions through mobile, taking care of family

members according to their needs, efficient use of goods & services, art of reusing, avoiding consumerism etc., etc. are the examples of best management skills. There is no doubt that the credit of saving India from the global economic crisis is due to the successful handling of economic activities by an Indian woman.

Pillar for Positive and saving oriented economy

Annual budget from village-district panchayats, municipal councils, to state-central governments are always deficit budget. In spite of Elite financial experts, officials and political leaders involved the budget process it is always expenditure-oriented budget with deficit. Whereas Bhartiya women draws income-oriented budget of each and every family. It is always a savings budget and always asset side is more than liability side.

**Kinchadapi Kurwan:
Soukhyerdukhanyapohati;
Thattasya kimapi dravyam yo
hi yasya priyo Jana:**

Meaning: One who does not do anything but can get rid of grief by their presence, can lighten the heart with comfort, such love is an important quality of Grihini, a lovely housewife.

Samagra Vikas (comprehensive growth of individual and of our country) is possible only by creating a positive environment wherein "Grihini, a Samskari women, can increase their overall contribution to economy. It is very necessary, urgent and need of the hour to make Samskarit women, the Grihini as partners in the Samagra Vikas/comprehensive development process of the country. Let men join the movement of Samagra Vikas together with Women. Together Can! □□

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Hindu Minorities and Current Dhaka regime

Sheikh Hasina's fall from power was like writing on the wall. She one the third term through elections that were all show, rigged and boycotted by the opposition. She suppressed dissent, did not allow free expression. No doubt the economy progressed initially but later the growth did not keep pace with expectations of the people; development narrative could not be played as trump card anymore. With three fifth population in working age group, and recovery from Covid shock for the economy being incomplete, civil unrest broke out. Virtually it led to Sheikh Hasina fleeing to India. Important take away; any attempt for an authoritarian regime in a democracy can at best provide temporary domination; it is pipe dream to hope for an opposition mukt rule.

It is undeniable that the former PM of Bangladesh aimed at running a secular and modern nation. However, this also meant that she relentlessly pushed her own party's agenda, while at the same time refusing to engage with other side of the debate. But in actual effect while a substantial population comprises of secular nationalists there are also Muslim citizens who never wanted independent Bangladesh; the latter infact collaborated with Pakistani army. These people don't approve of secularist approach of Awami League and think little of the party's claim of getting an independent nation called Bangladesh. The authoritarian ways of Hasina provided ample fuel to add to the kindling fire to cook the pot of resurgent Ismalist minority and pro Pakistan elements. To tell the truth, Bangladesh society has never recovered from the trauma of partition and remains in a constant stare of anxiety. Now New Delhi has to be worried that these Islamists have joined the ranks of the protestors who ostensibly were the people agitating against the controversial reservation/quota being sought to be introduced by the then government. But there is no denying the fact that after the fleeing of Sheikh Hasina, anti minority (including Hindus) sentiments have caught the imagination



The present Bangladesh regime, supported by BNP and Jamaat, is not exactly India friendly; besides it has strong Islamist flavour. Yet to safeguard our interests we need to forge friendly ties with Dhaka.
KK Srivastava



of the protestors there. And to further catalyze these sentiments are the two parties – Jamaat and BNP. Incidentally both of them have no pretence of being anywhere close to having any secular credentials.

In the event Indian government has to actively work to contain the damage from demise of Awami government in our neighbouring country; one of the danger ofcourse – and very substantial at that – is the real precarious state of the Hindus in the country. Inter alia, this will depend on the fact (to be revealed now) whether our government had developed working relationships with key figures within Bangla opposition – which may be dominating the politics now – since it has a crucial role to play in calming the public anger plus in preventing the communal forces from putting the minority Hindus in peril. If a stable interim government is formed under the leadership of M. Yunus – who himself is not communal – with which a sustaining and friendly relationship is established then India should be able to ensure the safeguarding of Hindu minority and its property and institutions.

But for this, among other things, New Delhi will have to stop romanticizing the 1971 liberation of Bangladesh, simply because, as we said earlier, that nation itself is deeply divided on writing its own history. The ‘liberation argument’ – the calling card of Awami league for having the right to lead since Hasina’s father had played a crucial role in creating a new entity called Bangladesh – as even advanced by India is not bought by a substantial – now even more so – chunk of population in

In the event Indian govt. has to actively work to contain the damage from demise of Awami govt. in our neighbouring country; one of the danger ofcourse – and very substantial at that – is the real precarious state of the Hindus in the country.

that country. India has to swallow its pride and engage with these ‘anti liberation’ forces so that our long term interests (including protecting our minority citizens in Dhaka) are served well. Indeed India hardly gains anything by tying itself down to 1971 narrative.

However, Bangladesh has a chequered record with interim/ caretaker governments, even if it is not new to the idea and practice. Remember, according to Hasina Jamaat-e-Islami is a terrorist organization. And yet it is a legitimate entity in the current regime overseen by M. Yunus, who incidentally has labelled Hasina regime as monstrous. Moreover, it is imperative to recall that India’s experience with the last BHP-Jamaat government was far from being amiable. It is in this background that one has to be little gingerly – and tread with caution – in relation to two main issues: One, protection of Bangladeshi’s Hindu minority and, two, security along the Indo-Bangla border. For, we have enough hostile undercurrents of disapproving Indian regime both within (Jamaat and BNP), and ex-

ternal (China and Pakistan). All of them will be baying for moments to engage in diplomatic and other kinds of, war; it is a huge challenge for India. Jamaat infact is known for having relations with Pakistan. And, to make matters worse, under the present leadership of M. Yunus – who had no love lost with her bête noir Sheikh Hasina – Awami league (with secular credentials and friendly ties with India) would be kept out of the interim government. Jamaat, which is anti Indian and considers India to be a Hindu majoritarian state, has always spewed venom against us. While Hasina regime took care of India’s security interests, resolved the boundary issue, and checked the restive Islamist elements from fanning anti Indian sentiments, now things are on a cauldron.

In conclusion India should stop bemoaning a potential tilt away from India in present Dhaka regime. Rather we should reach out to the new power barons there and seek to build a consensus about building an environment of cooperation for mutual benefits. While Yunus was jailed by Hasina, friend’s enemy can sometime be our friend – at least under the changed circumstances. We – the govt, policy makers, influencers, public at large, indeed we as a nation – must refrain from painting the present regime as an Islamic takeover that will sink the future of minority Hindus there. Instead, we must open dialogue with the current dispensation and build a matrix of relationship on all fronts – cultural, economic, diplomatic, political... Instead of rhetorical and self destructive words of poison, we must strive to forge better relations. □□

Kashmir: Deep rooted Conspiracy to balkanise Bharat-1



As we are going to celebrate 77th Independence Day on 15th August 2024 with jubilation, we are also pained to commemorate Vibhajan Vibhishika Diwas on 14th August, just a day before, to reminisce the partition horrors, the hounded souls, victims and sufferings of the people displaced from newly formed Pakistan with undecided borders. The subject of the independence of Bharat, the partition more akin to mutilation and strangulation of Bharat in the Jammu and Kashmir, birth of Pakistan with British support, large scale massacre of Hindus displaced from Pakistan, illegal occupation of Kashmir through invasions of

Pak soldiers with kabayalies, the invaders and mutiny by muslim soldiers and officers in the army ranks of the Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of Kashmir, the then PM Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru coerced to refer to United Nations, the consequences of which we are still facing, handing over Hindu majority areas like Mirpur to Pakistan after partition and so many others relating to partition are extremely complex but lost into narrative based history written post partition and by European historians. I have occasion to read Hindi, English and Marathi newspapers of independence era (1940-1959...still continuing...) preserved in micro-films and honestly find that Vibhajan Vibhishika, the horrors and conspiracies in United Nations have been brushed aside in the history books read by our four generations after independence. Plebiscite was yet another issue which haunted our country due to the UN misadventures on Kashmir as a result of massively change in the demography of the state, particularly in Pak occupied Kashmir and the conspiracies revolved around the plebiscite for very long time until it lost relevance. A section of British press, however, was sometimes more candid about the happenings within Britain on Kashmir issue but honestly unaware of ground reality and oblivion of glorious past history of Kashmir of centuries and was carried away by partisan interest and attitude of the then British rulers.



The reaction of Pakistan to Kashmir's accession to Bharat was very violent.
Vinod Johri

It needs volumes to write on the subject but a subtle attempt has been in this article to unearth the sins of partition and strangulation of Kashmir and dig deep into the history on limited issue of pre-conceived bias against Bharat before the independence and balkanise us through illegal occupation of Kashmir by Pakistan. I came across a thesis of Shri R.L. Gupta on Indo-British relations 1947-1950 (Independence Day to Republicday) submitted in 1969, a part of which is referred here. The facts are supported and substantiated by chronology of events discussed here. Many of such events are also published in the newspapers of the corresponding period. I may be pardoned to use the name of our country as

“India” at some places due to historical recording in the newspapers, journals and thesis. Otherwise, Bharat has been mentioned for our Mathrubhoomi.

Genesis of the Problem

On 21 October 1947, a tribal invasion of the state was mounted from across the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and West Punjab (both in Pakistan) and within a day the raiders reached Muzaffarabad. The situation deteriorated rapidly, and, in the words of M.C. Mahajan, the Prime Minister of Kashmir, became desperate: “We had decided by the 25th evening to go to India if we could get a plane, or else go to Pakistan for surrender.... Luckily, at this critical moment Mr. V.P. Menon arrived.”

Under these compelling circumstances, the Maharaja of Kashmir appealed to India for military help. But the Indian Government pointed out that the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian Union was a pre-requisite for such assistance. Thereupon, on 26 October 1947, the Maharaja of Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession and the State of Jammu and Kashmir, like any other princely state, became a part of the Indian Union. But, while accepting the accession, the Government of India made it clear that the final arbiter of the destiny of the state would be the people of Kashmir themselves. Replying to the letter of the Maharaja, Lord Mountbatten, the Governor-General of India, said:

“In the special circumstances mentioned by Your Highness, my government have decided to accept the accession of Kashmir State to the Dominion of India. Consistently with their policy that, in the

case of any state where the issue of accession has been the subject of dispute, the question of accession should be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people of the state, it is my government's wish that as soon as law and order have been restored in Kashmir and its soil cleared of the invader, the question of the State's accession should be settled by a reference to the people.”

The reaction of Pakistan to Kashmir's accession to Bharat was very violent. She had always “considered Kashmir to be within its hegemony”. Therefore, she contested the validity of the accession and declared it to be based on fraud, violence and conspiracy. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan said:

“.....We do not recognise this accession. The accession of Kashmir to India is a fraud, perpetrated on the people of Kashmir by its cowardly Ruler with the aggressive help of the Indian Government....”

Bharat, on the other hand, charged the Government of Pakistan with complicity in and abetment of, the invasion of Kashmir. As, both Bharat and Pakistan took diametrically opposite positions on the circumstances which gave rise to the invasion and offer of accession, the attitude of the two Dominions became hardened and their relations were strained. Under these circumstances, Bharat preferred to go to the Security Council to seek justice in this dispute. In a letter to the Chairman of the Security Council on 1 January 1948, the Government of India stated:

“Such a situation now exists between India and Pakistan owing to the aid which invaders, consist-

ing of nationals of Pakistan and tribesmen from the territory immediately adjoining Pakistan on the north-west, are drawing from Pakistan for operations against Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of India request the Security Council to call upon Pakistan to put an end immediately to the giving of such an assistance which is an act of aggression against India.”

The Security Council never came to grips with the main issue and drifted into discussions of irrelevant and less urgent issues. The basic issue that an act of aggression has taken place in Kashmir got lost in power politics. The Security Council not only brushed aside the Indian complaint, it also refused to name and denounce the aggressor.

As the problem of Kashmir could not be solved by the United Nations, the British Government took the initiative to solve the problem. In a joint letter in September 1949, Prime Minister Attlee (along with President Truman of the United States), appealed to India (and Pakistan) to accept arbitration in the dispute over Kashmir. This suggestion was considered by the Indian government to be unnecessary ‘intervention in Indian affairs and was accordingly rejected. Since then, the Kashmir problem had defied all solutions put forward by Britain or the United Nations or any other country.

In the next issue, we will discuss the British attitude on Kashmir and Indo-British relations, the attitude of Conservative party in Britain and British press reporting followed by issues of plebiscite and Radcliffe line dividing Bharat and Pakistan on northern borders with particular reference to Jammu and Kashmir. □□

The great Indian divide: Opulence and starvation

The obscenity of a never-ending marriage is keeping the nation occupied. Almost six-months after a series of events leading to a vulgar display of wealth and opulence, the scene is now shifting for a three-month post-wedding celebration to London. In the midst of all these celebrations, an equally outrageous study that says 55.6 per cent Indians can't afford a healthy diet has got lost somewhere. Given that India's population exceeds 1.44 billion, the report points out that at least 790 million people are unable to afford a healthy diet. For any country, this United Nation's report should have been a topic for endless discussions in the media. But the cost of prevailing inequality is therefore before us. On the one hand we have the continuing marriage spectacle, with estimates of Rs 5,000-crores already spent, and on the other we have millions of people sleeping hungry every night that no one wants to talk about.

Still worse, the media has been conspicuously quiet

The Niti Aayog should have by now planned a series of meeting with the Chief Ministers, and worked out a strategy to combat hunger in a given timeline. As far as the media is concerned, if major newspapers could devote at least two full pages of news reports and analysis for a number of days after the death of Jessica Lal, and organise a media campaign with candle lights at the India Gate, I see no reason why the media should give the hunger and undernourishment statistics a quite burial.

I agree that Jessica Lal's murder was heartbreaking and unfortunate, but if 55 per cent of the country's population is unable to have three meals a day, it is no less shocking, distressing and immensely perturbing. For a country that is on a high growth trajectory, the appalling hunger and undernourishment statistics are nothing short of a national disgrace.

Released on July 24, the latest report of the UN State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) says India has the highest percentage of under-



While opulence is flaunted with brazen disregard for the nation's realities, millions grapple with the most basic human need; food.

Devinder Sharma



nourished people in the world. The number of undernourished in India stands at 194.6 million. This is almost equal to the combined population of UK, France & Germany.

While I agree that 63 per cent of low, middle-income countries cannot finance their food security, as the report says, but India certainly is not constrained by inadequate finance. Even with private companies not showing any interest in putting money where it counts – eliminating hunger, it shouldn't be difficult for India to spare adequate resources from its annual budget, which exceeds Rs 48-lakh crores in 2024.

Moreover, if the banks can write-off Rs 15.5-lakh crores of corporate toxic loans and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) can direct banks to enter into a compromise with 16,600 wilful defaulters for practically writing-off another Rs 3.5-lakh crore, it is quite evident that there is enough money to fight hunger and undernourishment.

What is lacking is a strong political will.

Coming at the time of Amrit Kaal, the fight to achieve 'Zero Hunger' cannot be treated casually and has to be taken up in a mission mode. Making hunger history should become the top priority. It should also be based on an honest measurement of poverty, which means it should have an index that is close to reality.

In a very thought-provoking interview: 'Hunger, undernourishment stalking India; Placed worse than Least Developed Nations (The Wire, Jan 19, 2024) one of the country's best known economist, Prof Prabhat Patnaik from JNU, finds the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) prepared by

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the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to be based on 'intellectual confusion'. "If we take access to 2,200 calories per person per day in rural India and 2,100 calories per person per day in urban India, as the benchmarks for defining poverty as the Planning Commission had done since 1973, then the proportion of the poor rose from 58 per cent in 1993-94 to 68 per cent in 2011-12 to over 80 per cent in 2017-18 in rural India. On the same dates, the proportions were 57 per cent, 65 per cent, and an estimated 60 per cent in urban India," he says.

Mind you, this interview was done in January, much before the UN released the State of Food Security and Nutrition of the World report in July.

To run down poverty estimates, and to claim that hunger has almost disappeared from India, a number of counter claims will obviously be made. But as I have often said that instead of getting into a tu-tu main-main over the methodology being used to measure hunger and poverty, the best way is to stand on a bridge at any railway station and look at the people disembarking from a long-dis-

tance train. The extent of poverty or what I call as the 'algebra of poverty' becomes starkly visible.

In addition to subsidised food ration being supplied to over 80-crore labhartis under the National Food Security Act 2013; the government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna in April 2020. It was extended in Jan 2023 for another five years. Under this programme, in addition to the food rations, 5 kg of wheat and one kg of dal is provided free of cost every month.

This clearly shows that while food availability is not a concern, what is more important is to work out a mechanism where agriculture and nutritional security is linked in a manner that ensures and assures a living income for farmers. Unless the farming household itself is food secure, it is futile to expect hunger and undernourishment to become history. Take for instance the latest report of the Situational Assessment for Agricultural Households 2019, which tells that farm incomes are the bottom of pyramid, even less than that of MNREGA workers. With an average monthly income of Rs 10,218 for a farm family comprising five members, it doesn't shock me anymore to know that 55.6 percent of the country's population sleeps hungry every night.

The fight to remove hunger therefore begins essentially at the farm level. As long as we continue to deny farmers a profitable price thereby ensuring economic viability of a farm; take it from me hunger and under nourishment will not disappear. □□

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture and hunger)
<https://www.bhaskar.com/opinion/the-great-indian-divide-opulence-and-starvation-1331787>

Rahul Gandhi's asymmetric challenge to Modi

After a somnolent start, the 26-party Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (launched on July 18, 2023) redeemed itself by winning 232 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress party won 99 seats, and the independent MP from Sangli, Vishal Patil, extended support to the Congress and raised its tally to 100. Rahul Gandhi became the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The INDI Alliance is buttressed by the Trinamool Congress and Biju Janata Dal.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party retained its dominant position with 240 seats and enjoyed a clear majority of 293 seats with its partners in the NDA coalition. Narendra Modi became Prime Minister for the third time, but it is undeniable that Rahul Gandhi has risen in the political firmament.

Since then, however, it has been a mixed record with some hits and some terrible misses.

The surprise decision to field Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from the Wayanad (Kerala) constituency vacated by Rahul Gandhi after his victory from Rai Bareilly (UP) aims at overcoming the slump of the previous decade. Congress will now have a Gandhi scion in the north and another one in the south. Retaining Wayanad with its 28.65 per cent Muslim and 21.34 per cent Christian population (Census 2011) will assure the minorities that the party stands by their interests.

Some issues put Congress on the back foot immediately after the elections. The first was Rahul Gandhi claiming a stock market scam just before the election results. He charged that on May 13, 2024, the then Home Minister Amit Shah had advised people to "Buy shares before June 4th," and on May 19, Narendra Modi had claimed, "Stock markets will break records on June 4th." On June 1, the exit polls unanimously predicted a spectacular performance by the BJP as a result of



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Sandhya Jain



which the stock market rose to a record high on June 3, only to crash on June 4 when trends became clear.

BJP leader Piyush Goyal countered that in April and May, when the market was rising, foreigners sold shares and Indian investors bought shares and benefited. On the day of the exit poll, foreigners bought at high prices (Rs 6,850 crores). When the results came on June 4, the market fell and foreign investors sold at a low price while Indian investors bought, confident that the Modi government would come to power. Thus, foreigners bought at a high price and sold at a low price. Indian investors earned both times.

The second issue causing huge embarrassment is the Congress Guarantee Card that promised inter alia an income of Rs. one lakh per annum for the woman head in every poor family. During the election campaign, party workers told women voters to submit the forms with their booth numbers after the elections. Since then, women have been queuing up at Congress offices in several cities, causing mortified party workers to lock the offices and flee!

Then, Rahul Gandhi's attack on the Agnipath scheme has been unproductive at best. The need for reforms in military recruitment was first flagged by Arun Nehru in 1989 after the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka. It resurfaced after the Kargil War. Finally, the Modi government launched the Agniveer Scheme and the first batch is currently serving its term.

A week ago, Rahul Gandhi released a video of the father of an Agniveer who claimed that the

family had not received any compensation from the Centre after his son was killed in a landmine explosion in Naushera in Jammu & Kashmir in January 2024. This was refuted by the army which released details of the compensation paid to the next of kin (mother) of Agniveer Ajay Kumar, with remaining dues to be disbursed in due course.

The narrative that a chunk of the money was from insurance and not a central government pay-out was shameful, as if insurance companies do charity rather than contribute to the Centre's scheme for benefits to the families of deceased soldiers. It needs to be said that the Agniveer's father disgraced himself with his false claims, possibly because the money was paid to the mother's account per long-standing government policy.

Yet Gandhi attacked the government in the Lok Sabha, alleging that the Agniveers were not granted the status of "martyrs" when they died in the line of duty. He seemed unaware that "martyr" is an epithet bestowed by society to honour its brave soldiers, and that no official "martyr" status is granted to any soldier.

As Prime Minister Modi indicated during the debate in the Lok Sabha (July 2), the scheme is a key reform in the defence sector and aims at shedding flab and raising the fighting fitness of the armed forces. Agnipath can be tweaked. Having observed it for two years, the Armed Forces are considering raising the upper age limit from 21 to 23 years to attract graduates for technical jobs and retaining at least 50 per cent (instead of 25 per cent) after four years to hedge against a manpower crunch in specialised areas. The

Centre is keen to avoid the slur that the policy is motivated by a desire to reduce the pension bill.

Separatists

The Congress, members of the INDI Alliance, and informal allies have all avoided taking a stand on the election to the Lok Sabha of three separatists in the recent elections, viz., the pro-Khalistan Bhai Amritpal Singh (Khadur Sahib) and Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa (Faridkot) in Punjab, and Kashmiri separatist Sheikh Abdul Rashid (Baramulla) in J&K.

Amritpal is perceived as dangerous and has unknown backers. He landed in Punjab out of the blue in June 2022. He denied his Indian nationality and urged the youth to pick up arms to fight for Khalistan. In March 2023, he took the Granth Sahib with a mob to a police station but ran away after being chased by the policemen. In July 2024, he took oath as an MP after being briefly released under Section 15 of the National Security Act 1980.

The election of persons known to oppose the unity of India highlights the urgent need for electoral reforms. Senior Advocate Vikas Singh pointed out that such a situation was not envisaged by the makers of the Constitution and hence there should be a constitutional amendment to specify charges under which candidates will be disqualified from contesting elections. Singh called for plugging the loophole that allows persons in jail to contest elections by authorising somebody to file nominations on their behalf. The question is whether this amendment will receive the support it deserves across party lines. □□

<https://www.sandhyajainarchive.org/2024/07/13/rahul-gandhis-asymmetric-challenge-to-modi05/>

Bill Gates: Philanthropy as corporate veil for power

धन्योअहंचास्थिमेधन्यंयस्मादेवाःप्रवृद्धये । ददामिनास्तिसंदेहोनियमश्चमयाकृतः ।।

“I am blessed, my bones are blessed, by which the gods will increase in number. I have taken the resolution that I will donate the bones.” These are the words of sage Dadhichi who sacrificed his body by donating his spinal cord to the Devas to defeat an asura. Indra’s weapon, Vajra, was made out of Rishi. This rightly explains sanatan notion of charity and donation.

But what to do when people in disguise of philanthropy fulfil their hidden greed for accumulating unending wealth. Yes you are absolutely right if it reminds you, likeme, of Bill Gates. As against what had been narrated Gates was born in a rich family. His father was a prominent lawyer, and his mother served on the board of directors of First Interstate Banc System and United Way of America. Gates’s maternal grandfather J.W. Maxwell was a national bank president. Using monopolistics policies at Microsoft he became a billion are only at the age of 31. With net worth of \$128 billions Bill Gate stood as sixth richest person in the world. This is devoid of the fact that he had already donated more than \$59 billion to the Gates Foundation, including a \$20 billion gift announced in July 2022. The Gates foundation headed by Bill Gates and his former wife Melinda Gates had a \$67 billion endowment as of 2022, the last time the organization released figures. It is the second wealthiest foundation in the world.

Surrounded by controversies but with aim of multiplying his wealth Bill Gates started William H. Gates Foundation in the year 1994 under philanthropic veil which was later renamed as BMGF. Over the years Bill Gates has been donating his wealth partially to the foundation which further makes investment to areas promoting his interest.



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Vikas Sinha



Some of the controversies involving Bill Gates and his foundation BMGF are as:

Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA): Depicting the success of Green Revolution in India. BMGF advocated the narrative of Green Revolution for Africa and created AGRA which funded heavily into agricultural research for Africa. These researches promoted use of synthetic fertilizers and patented seeds in the form of GMO, being marketed by companies where BMGF has substantial economic interest including Monsanto, BASF, Coca Cola, PepsiCo, Unilever, and many others. The foundation has become the world's leading funder of research into the genetic modification (GM) of crops and is funding organisations to push GM crops across Africa and to change national legislation on this issue amidst considerable opposition there.

Influencing policy making of International Organisations: BMGF uses private wealth to buy influence in the policies and priorities of international institutions and shape their policies which suit the economic interest of Bill Gates and his BMGF. Its influence is evidenced by the invitation and presence of Bill Gates, Melinda Gates, or both at high-level global health meetings such as the WHO's World Health Assembly (WHA), and the opportunity to give speeches at the UN General Assembly.

BMGF funded heavily to change national legislation on the issue of GM Crop in Africa. The gates foundation still remains one of the top contributor to WHO. BMGF accounts for nearly 88 per cent of the total amount donated

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by philanthropic foundations to the WHO. Many of the BMGF executives have served on the board of WHO and similar international organisations shaping world policy. It has also financed heavily in collaboration with World Bank in many of its projects mainly aimed at influencing policies of the countries where its projects were being executed. GAVI alliance for vaccines was predominantly dominated by BMGF which clearly decided the policy on vaccine distribution in the world and prevented TRIPS waivers.

Unauthorised vaccine testing in India: In 2009 BMGF was found guilty of administering Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine to around 16000 girls aged between 9 and 15 in Khammam district of Telangana for observation studies for a cervical cancer. The vaccine used was Gardasil, manufactured by Merck. Subsequently many girls started falling ill and by 2010 five of them died. Two more deaths were reported from Vadodara, Gujarat, where an estimated 14,000 children studying in schools meant for tribal children were also vaccinated with another brand of HPV vaccine, Cervarix, manufactured by GSK. As many as 120 girls experienced

adverse reactions such as epileptic seizures, severe stomach ache, headaches and mood swings. The Investigating committee found that requisite consent was not taken from the vaccinated childrens or their guardian most of whom were illiterate and could not even write in their local languages. The trial was conducted by PATH under funding of BMGF wherein international pharma companies used India as a ground for cheap medical trial. BMGF invested heavily in the shares of these companies and created a cartel for fixing the prices of medicines and vaccines.

Financial Influence on Media: The Gates Foundation not only funds newsrooms but also dictates how its money should be used, often directing coverage towards specific topics or through a particular editorial lens. This practice has been adopted by some of the most powerful news organisations globally. The Gates Foundation has provided over \$325 million to various prestigious media outlets. This list includes the Guardian, Al Jazeera, NPR, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, CNN, the Atlantic, El País, the Financial Times, the Spectator, and the BBC. Media Impact Funders, an organisation that receives funding from Gates, reports that the foundation's total spend-

ing on all media since 2009 exceeds \$2.5 billion. This funding spans print, digital, and documentary content, alongside fellowships, conferences, and training programs. It also gave \$165,000 to the Aspen Institute to improve media coverage of health issues in the developing world through journalism training.

GlobalAlliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI): It is a public pvt partnership led by BMGF as its founding partner on one side and WHO, World bank, UNICEF on other side with the aim of increasing immunization in poor countries, as its listed vision. The alliance has been criticized for providing high subsidy to big pharma companies to execute research on developing vaccines which are expensive rather than coming out with low cost vaccines which are affordable to poor people. Till date BMGF has donated \$4.1 billion to Gavi which ensured higher representation of pharma companies on the board of GAVI. In conflict of interest the BMGF has invested a large portion of its portfolio in these pharma companies. COVID-19 saw how the BMGF and pharma cos dictated the terms leading to unequal distribution of Vaccine among developed and third world countries and disallowing TRIPS waiver.

Cartel/Monopoly: Bill Gates Microsoft was held guilty in Sharman Antitrust law breach for misusing his monopolistics practices going against free market play. BMGF has been using its large investment from money donated by Bill Gates to purchase substantial stake in companies fulfilling its economic interest. Later on these companies create clandestine deals among themselves and create a

Cartel to soar the prices to a new height. We have already witnessed how the pharma companies have altogether increased the prices of even life saving vaccines. Similar has been the case of agri based companies where BMGF has invested heavily. BMGF has lobbied very high not only to create a new market for this but also sought Govts support in marketing their products like the case of Monsanto, BASF.

Tax Evasion: Philanthropy is being used as an effective tool to evade tax liability. Donations made to charity and trust attract tax exemption and thus causes loss to exchequer which would otherwise had been collected for nation building. For every dollar a billionaire donates to charity, taxpayers chip in 74 cents in lost revenue. This is because wealthy donors not only reduce their income tax obligations, but also capital gains, estate and gift taxes. The concept of tax rebate for philanthropic donation prevails in almost all the countries. Bill Gates has been paying federal tax at rate lower than corporates due to his

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philanthropic donations. In turn the donation as made to his own trust BMGF serves his economic interest. Wealth accumulated at BMGF is exempted from taxation.

Unequal distribution of charity: BMGF has always been blamed for funding developed countries mainly United States and European countries. Though the list of beneficiary countries are large in number but when converted in terms of amount it barely matters. India has been donated approx. \$1.68 Billions over the years as per data available on BMGF site while it is \$37.6 Billion for USA.

Philanthropy has more to do with serving the mankind than merely distributing fund. For example Jamsetji Tata not only donated \$102.4 billion but also introduced the revolutionary welfare practices like apprentice system at work, crèches and primary classes for children of women mill workers, and free medical help to all employees, gratuitous pension fund, provident fund, maternity benefit allowance and a compensation fund for accidents for all employees to name a few. He has topped the 2021 Edelgive Hurun philanthropists of the century, with total donations of \$102.4 billion. Unlike Jamsetjee donating one's income to serve his own economic interest under corporate veil not only goes against the spirit of philanthropy but also reduces resources which would otherwise have been used for benefit of deprived ones. In a world where the gap between poor and rich is abysmal adopting philanthropic veil will further broaden the gap of inequality. □□

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RSS: Mainstreaming the Indianized Curriculum

This brief essay is presented with reference to Walter K. Andersen and Shridhar D. Damle's work, 'The RSS: A View to the Inside (Gurugram, 2018). The authors in an important chapter, 'Indianizing Education' traces the history of the schools set up by Rashtriya Swayamsevak from time to time since the 1940s. RSS has encouraged its affiliates to encourage the message of Hindutava to make it more relevant and with a contemporary appeal. The curriculum included sports, music, art, skill oriented courses and coaching classes. This kind of curriculum definitely appealed to the youth. Why did RSS want to set up its own school system? This action plan was taken to counter the deliberate attempt of Congress Govt's role in denying RSS affiliates and their focus on indigenous culture and history in the educational system. The very image of the educational role of the shakha (character building) to train a future nationalist leadership was often ridiculed by anti-Hindu messages coming from the Universities, press, the Government and much of the intellectual class. It is indeed a sad reflection on the state of mainstream curriculum that it breeds an attitude of ridiculing anything that is Indian in origin, our ancient culture, rituals and indigenous knowledge system. RSS had supported first formal education in a private school in Kurukshetra in Haryana in 1946. RSS chief MS Golwalkar (Guruji) took part in the ground breaking ceremony of this school.

My humble submission is that if the Madras as have been permitted to teach their own curriculum (Dars-i-Nizami). So there is nothing wrong in teaching Hindu traditions in RSS affiliated schools. There was a rapid expansion in the number of schools in the 1960s and 1970s. A separate affiliate, the Vidya Bharati was established in 1978 to manage and supervise 700 schools. A report of 2016 states that that there was a rapid growth of schools under Vidya Bharti. 13,000



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Kapur Sinha**



schools had come up with 32,00,000 students and 1,46,000 teachers. It turned out to be the largest private school system in India. Another significant step was taken with the establishment of Ekal Vidyalaya in 1986 for the students of remote and tribal areas. It has about 1500000 students in some 54,000 one-teacher, one-school facilities. These chain of school systems have given rise to markets for books on history and ethics for use in Shishu Mandirs and other RSS affiliated schools. One of its affiliates Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas ensures that the Ministry of Education recommends text books with value orientation to the states.

“Controversy over the content of textbooks, especially on subjects related to culture and history, have existed from the time of India’s independence when the Congress party was in power. A parliamentary committee appointed in 1966, for example, reported that textbooks in some states ‘were over weighted with Hindu mythology’ and ‘Hindu beliefs are presented in a manner Education Commission in 1964, in reference to this issue, stated, It is necessary for a multi religious democratic State to promote a tolerant study of all religions so that its citizens can understand in 1972 of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in the federal bureaucracy triggered a reaction from the right of a growing Marxist bias in the history texts that it commissioned” (Walter K. Anderson and Shridhar D. Damle, Page- 65).

The tragedy of the educational policy under the Congress Govt was that it failed to promote a centrist history of India. A history in

The tragedy of the educational policy under the Congress Govt was that it failed to promote a centrist history of India. A history in which Ancient Indian achievements in terms of political, economic, cultural, Science and technology had to be show-cased.

which Ancient Indian achievements in terms of political, economic, cultural, Science and technology had to be show-cased. In contrast, they promoted agenda of the left oriented political parties in their educational policy. Historian Dinesh Raza writes in the analysis of the debate on the teaching of History, ‘Historians on the left undervalue the culture and civilization and focus on class and economic factors’ Dinesh Raza, ‘Saffronising Textbooks: Where Myth and Dogma Replace History’, Hindutan Times, 8 December 2014, (<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/saffronising-textbooks-where-myth-and-dogma-replace-history/story-CauM4dmmsPGrjZAPArNxO.html> - accessed 18 August 2017). Akhil Bahartiya Iyithas Sankalan Yojana (ABISY), is the association of Historians of the Sangh Parivar. It has published 350 books since it was formed in 1984.

We as students of Indian History were never taught any topic on science and technology including mathematics and astronomy. In other words, Indian Knowledge System was ignored. We were largely taught socio-economic history

with reference to exploitation of the people by states, kings and the landed ruling classes. Common people/village folk were supposed to be burdened by the long list of taxes those appeared in the land grant charters (Sanskrit inscriptions). We were taught to critically look at State and political elite. As I said it was the political agenda and ideology of the left parties supported and promoted by the Congress Raj in the curriculum of history discipline. Political history was entirely empire-centric. We were trained to ignore small or regional states as splinter states of the big empires of Ancient and Early Medieval India. Regional states were looked down upon as ‘Feudatory states’ and that India witnessed centrifugal forces. Indians were never united and lived in dark ages inherited from the British colonial historiography. We missed out on the indigenous political processes of regional state formation in our curriculum. We forgot that the Guptas, Pushyabhutis, Pratiharas, Palas and Rashtrakutas had begun their political career in early Medieval period with local and regional roots. We forget that the regional cultures and identities across the contemporary Indian subcontinent go back to the political, social and cultural processes in early Medieval India. We must not forget that the regional states of India dated between the seventh and fifteenth centuries gave us the rich mosaic of India today. Author has proved this point in her case study of Rajasthan in her Ph.D thesis published as, ‘State Formation in Rajasthan: Mewar during seventh—fifteenth Centuries’, New Delhi, 2002. Swadeshi Patrika has published a series of this work for the past two years. □□



Swadeshi Jagran Manch
National Council Meeting
 28-30 June 2024, Lucknow - Ayodhya (UP)

New Responsibilities

Regional Responsibility

1. South Central Region

- Sh. Manjunath - Region Coordinator (before – Region Convenor)
- Dr. S. Lingamurthy – Region Convenor (before – Region Co-convenor)

2. West Region

- Sh. Hasमुख Bhai Thakar – Convenor, Gujarat & Saurashtra State (before – State Convenor, Gujarat)

3. North Region

- Sh. Satendra Sarut – Regional Co-convenor (before – Regional Samprak Pramukh)
- Sh. Vikas Chaudhary - Regional Samprak Pramukh (Convenor – Delhi State)

4. Asam Region

- Sh. Amal Vaishya – Region Sampark Pramukh (before – Memer, NCM)
- Sh. Ravi Patva – Region Kosh Pramukh (before – State Convenor, South Assam)

State Responsibilities

1. South Karnataka

- Sh. Jayvardhan – State Co-convenor (before –

Prant Sah Vichar Vibhag Pramukh)

2. Telangana

- Sh. Gauri Ramesh – State Coordinator (before - State co-coordinator)
- Sh. Indrasen Reddy - State Co-coordinator (before – SBA Hyderabad Kendra Pramukh)

3. Gujarat

- Sh. Kiran Singh Gaur – State Convenor (before – State Co-convenor)
- Sh. Uday Bhai Trivedi – State Vichar Vibhag Pramukh
- Sh. Mansukh Bhai Patel – State Co-convenor (before – Vibhag Convenor)
- Dr. Satyajeet Deshpandey – State Co-convenor (before – State vichar vibhag pramukh)
- Dr. Ratna Ben Trivedi – No Responsibility (before – State Co-coordinator)
- Sh. Prag Shah – No Responsibility (before – State Coordinator)

4. Saurashtra

- Sh. Yash Bhai Jaysani – State Convenor (before – State Co-convenor)
- Sh. Hamish Bhai Hirapura – State Co-convenor (before – Vibhag Sah Sanyojak)

5. Jaipur

- Sh. Surendra Kumar Nama – State Convenor (before – State Co-convenor)
- Sh. Vinod Pal Yadav – State Co-convenor (before – Vibhag Sanyojak)
- Sh. Dinesh Sharma – State Co-coordinator (SBA)
- Smt. Reena Joshi – Mahila State Co-coordinator (SBA)

6. Jodhpur

- Dr. Mahesh Srimali – State Co-coordinator (SBA)

7. Jammu & Kashmir

- Smt. Anita Sharma – Prant Mahila Pramukh (before – Mahanagar Mahila Pramukh)

- Smt. Deepali Arora – Prant Sah Mahila Pramukh

8. Himachal Pradesh

- Sh. Sunil - State Co-convenor (before – Vibhag Sanyojak)

9. Haryana

- Dr. Bhagat Singh – Prant Sampark Pramukh (before – State Co-coordinator)
- Sh. Dulichand Kaliraman – State Co-coordinator
- Dr. Naveen Jain – State Co-coordinator

10. Delhi

- Sh. Manoj Gupta – State Convenor

11. Brij Prant

- Smt. Indu Vashney – Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan (before – Prant Mahila Pramukh)
- Renu Dube – Prant Mahila Pramukh

12. Gauraksh Prant

- Sh. Shailendra Rao – State Co-convenor (before – State coordinator)
- Sh. Ishwar Chandra – State Coordinator

13. Kashi

- Sh. Satendra Tripathi – Members of the core team of the Central Research Institute and will look after legal, liaison etc. work. (before – State Co-convenor)
- Sh. Ajay Anand – State Co-convenor (before – State Co-coordinator)

14. Kanpur

- Sh. Sudeep Khare – State Co-conenor (before – Prant Sangharsh Vahini Pramukh)

15. Odisha (East)

- Sh. Nirmal Shadangi – State Convenor (before – State Co-convenor)



- Sh. Prasanna Chhotray – State Co-convenor (before – State Vichar Vibhag Pramukh)
- Sh. Shatrughan Tarai – NC Member (before – East Region convenor)

16. South Bengal

- Sh. Ashok Pal Chaudhary – Member, State Team (before – State Co-convenor)
- Sh. Narayan Panda – State Co-convenor
- Smt. Suman Srivastava – Prant Mahila Pramukh
- Sh. Somresh Naskar – Purankalik, South Bengal (before – Purankalik, North Bengal)
- Sh. Aghray Banerjee – State Co-coordinator (SBA)

17. Central Bengal

- Smt. Bani Sarkar – Prant Mahila Pramukh (before – State Co-convenor)
- Sh. Vishavjit Das – State Co-convenor (before – Prant Sampark Pramukh)
- Sh. Shankar Mehta – State Coordinator (SBA)

18. North Bengal

- Sh. Parth Das – Member, State Team (before – State Co-convenor)

19. South Assam

- Prof. Jaydeep Bhattacharya – State Convenor (before – Prant Vichar Vibhag Pramukh)

20. Tripura

- Sh. Subrat Nandi – State Co-convenor

21. Arunachal Pradesh

- Prof. Kamlesh – State Convenor

22. Manipur

- Sh. Roshni Kumar – State Co-convenor

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SJM welcomes FSSAI approval to labelling of salt, sugar, fat on packaged food items in bold letters



The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) welcomed the FSSAI's approval to a proposal to make mandatory labelling of salt, sugar, fat on packaged food items in bold letters, saying it will go a long way in "significantly" reducing the incidences of diabetes, hypertension, cancer and other diseases. In a statement, SJM said people lack awareness about harmful contents of the packaged food, especially ultra processed food, and are inadvertently consuming these harmful food items.

"Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government to inform people as to which food products are safe to eat and which are not," Mahajan said.

"If such a warning is posted on food products having excess of sugar, salt or saturated fats beyond a WHO's prescribed threshold limit, the consumers will be able to learn and make more informed choices about their food," sjm added.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) approved changes in nutritional information labelling on packaged food items, proposing that total salt, sugar and saturated fat should be displayed in bold letters as well as bigger font size.

"We, at Swadeshi Jagran Manch, wish to sincerely thank Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Food and Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for their approval to bring changes in nutritional information labelling on packaged food items, proposing that total salt, sugar and saturated fat should be displayed in bold letters with bigger font size," sjm official said.

This move of the government can go a long way in saving people, including youngsters, from harmful food and significantly reducing the incidences of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cancer, kidney and liver diseases and many others, he said.

"It's notable that this change has come in place of FSSAI's initial decision to adopt a model of Front of Packing Label (FOPL) of food items and proposed 'Health Star Rating' (HSR). Since then this issue was under public scrutiny and debate, initiated by the SJM," Mahajan added.

<https://www.ptinews.com/story/national/sjm-welcomes-fssai-approval-to-labelling-of-salt-sugar-fat-on-packaged-food-items-in-bold-letters/1705458>

Union Budget 2024 is employment-centric, pro-agriculture: SJM

SJM termed the Union Budget as employment centric, pro-agriculture and pro-business, especially MSMEs, and urged the government to adopt more measures to promote entrepreneurship.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for fiscal 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, outlining nine priorities of the government which included productivity, jobs, social justice, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation and reforms.



"The SJM appreciates the budget proposals as they are employment-centric, pro-agriculture, pro-business, especially MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises)," sjm official said in a statement.

However, SJM expects from the government that "more measures be adopted for the promotion of entrepreneurship in the country", .

Noting that the Budget offers an "innovative comprehensive internship opportunity" in 500 top companies to develop skill sets for educated youth and make them employable, SJM said if the scheme is implemented properly, this can prove to be a "watershed moment for our younger generation".

"This can help 1 crore youth to skill themselves for future job opportunities in the next five years," it added. Apart from this, SJM said, a good number of schemes have been announced in the budget to in-

centivise the creation of jobs in the private sector, including support to businesses for EPFO contribution and also providing first salary to first-time employed from the government's kitty.

"The SJM congratulates the central government, especially the finance minister, for innovative schemes announced in the budget for promoting job creation and also selfemployment," sjm official said.

SJM also appreciated the increase in the capital expenditure and "encouragement" given in the budget to increase private investment. Increasing the cap for Mudra loans from Rs 10 lakh to 20 lakhs also a step in the right direction, it said.

"Introduction of a credit guarantee scheme for MSME, credit support to MSME during the stress period, e-commerce export hubs for MSME, development of investment-ready plug and play industrial parks, rental housing for industrial workers etc. are some of the good measures adopted for development of MSMEs," the SJM said.

Scheme for street vendors is yet another step towards inclusive growth, it added. The SJM said that the budget's push to infrastructure both by way of public capital expenditure and also private investment can go a long way towards much-desired infrastructure development. Encouragement in renewable, especially solar energy, is also an "appreciable programme", it added.

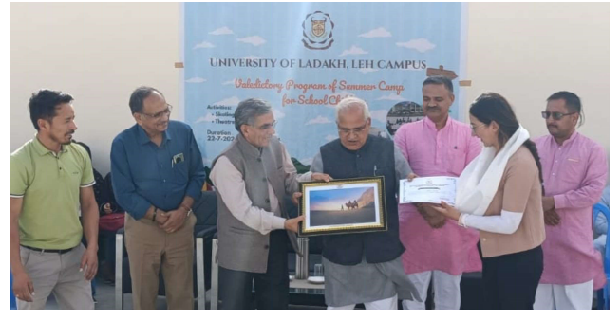
SJM said budgetary proposals made to encourage natural farming and provide support to the farmers in crop diversification can help improve the farmer's welfare. "Reforms and strengthening debt recovery tribunals, steps towards speeding up insolvency resolution are also welcome steps," it added.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/business/union-budget/union-budget-2024-is-employment-centric-pro-agriculture-sjm-3120047>

Ladakh University hosts session on "Entrepreneurship: New Mantra for new Bharat"

University of Ladakh hosted a significant interaction session on the topic "Entrepreneurship: new mantra for new Bharat" by distinguished guests Sh. Satish Kumar, National co-organizer of SJM on July 31, 2024. Sh. Vinay Kumar, Organizational Secretary of the SJM for Punjab, Himachal, and Jammu & Kashmir also graced the session.

Prof. V.K. Jain, President NACS, Ahmedabad along with. Dr. Jigmat Dachen, Dean Students Wel-



fare; Dr, Riyaz M.K. Khan, PRO/Dean School of Earth Sciences; Dr. MohdHussain, Dean Science; Organizing Secretary, LadakhPhanday Tsogspa, Balvinder Singh; Organizing Secretary, ABVP Ladakh, Abhishek; faculty and students were present at the event.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Ashu Rajput, AP (Education Deptt) by highlighting the importance of the event and introducing Satish Kumar, the key speaker who is well known for his impactful contributions to Indian entrepreneurship.

Vice Chancellor Prof. S.K. Mehta welcomed the esteemed guests with traditional Khatakas and Mementoes and emphasized the critical importance of entrepreneurship in today's world. He highlighted how fostering entrepreneurial spirit is essential for innovation, economic growth, and addressing contemporary challenges. The event started with the release of book entitled "37 CroreStartups Ka Desh," by Satish Kumar, Vinay Kumar and Prof. Mehta. The book has been authored by Dr. Raj Kumar Mittal, presently member UGC. In his highly interactive talk, Satish Kumar focused on the transformative potential of entrepreneurship in India. He shared his extensive experience and insights. He stressed the importance of entrepreneurship and encouraged students to become job providers rather than job seekers.

He shared his inspirational journey, emphasizing the role of entrepreneurship in national development underscoring the importance of self-reliance and innovation. The highly informative session was a source of motivation and provided valuable perspectives on entrepreneurship, inspiring attendees to pursue their goals with renewed enthusiasm.

In addition to his keynote address, Satish Kumar actively engaged both faculty members and students, addressing their questions and providing practical advice on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. Few students of UoL elaborated their entrepreneurial skills and explained how along with their studies, they are generating revenue for themselves, a much

needed requirement to gain self-sustainability from a very young age.

He appreciated their efforts and emphasized that every young student has the entrepreneur skills, it is just a question of taking initiative. The event ended with the national anthem. The eminent guests also joined the on-going University's Summer Camp and graced the valedictory program of the 10-day summer camp (July 22 to July 31, 2024) for school children organized by the University of Ladakh.

They lauded the efforts of the young participants and were excited to see the school students performing the skating and theatre performances in a well organised way. Satish Kumar and Prof. Mehta distributed prizes and certificates to the participants. Satish Kumar along with Vinay Kumar, Prof Mehta and other dignitaries led by Dr Riyaz M K Khan, Coordinator CISIC also visited the newly inaugurated "Centralized Interdisciplinary Science Instrumentation Centre (CISIC)" of the University, established under the DST-PURSE and UT Ladakh grants.

Entire team visited every section of CISIC spread over three floors and Geology Museum. Satish Kumar appreciated the efforts of Prof Mehta and his team for creating state of art facility for students and researchers and recorded his encouraging remarks in the Visitor's Book.

<https://earthnews.bibh.core.windows.net/earthnews/ldakh/files/820241105833237.pdf>

FM urges banks to innovate in deposit mobilisation

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on August 10 emphasised the importance of banks focussing on their core business amid concerns around a persistent fall in the growth rate of deposits.

FM, along with Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, addressed the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the customary post-Budget meeting in New Delhi.

Sitharaman expressed concern over the slow pace of deposit collection, likening it to one of the two wheels of a cart that isn't turning fast enough. "Banks need to make deposits attractive," she said, noting that even small savers now have alternative investment options such as the stock market. She urged banks to develop innovative and attractive schemes to mobilize deposits and address the growing mismatch between deposits and lending.



"More portfolios are available for more returns on money, that's why retail investment in markets has gone up. When they have so many options, banks also have to make use of innovative portfolios for attracting investment and deposit mobilisation," she said.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das echoed these concerns, highlighting that while interest rates are deregulated, banks often raise deposit rates to attract funds. He noted that banks have increasingly turned to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments to meet the rising credit demand.

Earlier in the week, Das, while announcing the monetary policy, also voiced concerns about the growing imbalance between deposits and lending within the banking sector. He noted that banks have increasingly relied on short-term non-retail deposits and other liability instruments to fulfill the rising credit demand.

The Finance Minister plans to engage further with banks, particularly on priority sector lending and strategies to enhance deposit collection.

"I'll be meeting banks for various reasons, to take up government's priority sector lending areas, emphasise on some of the government schemes, and also in that process talk to them about how it is important for them to go back to collecting deposits the old fashioned (way)," she said.

The finance minister added, "huge big deposits have always been a very lazy banker's job...but the trickles which comes are going to be the bread and butter money to bank on deposits. So that trickle was the emphasis for a long, long time for deposit mobilisation." Sitharaman is referring to the importance of mobilising even small deposits terming it as a critical aspect for a bank to deal with the fall in growth rate.

The RBI governor has often flagged worries over the bank's sluggish pace of deposit growth.

Earlier, in a meeting with chief executive officers (CEOs) of public and private sector banks, Das had highlighted the gap between credit and deposit growth and instructed banks to re-strategise business plans.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/post-budget-rbi-meeting-even-people-with-small-savings-have-other-options-fm-sitharaman-urges-banks-to-innovate-in-deposit-mobilization-12792709.html>

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch program

The Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya (VKV) organised a Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) event where VKV Principal A Krishnan highlighted the objectives of the SJM, saying that it is involved in “swadeshi movement, surplus food production, and growth of economy,” the school informed in a release.

SJM Northeast coordinator Prof Deepak Sharma delivered a lecture on “the benefits of swadeshi products,” while SJM national convener R Sundarma explained the importance of generating employment for “developing the economy of the local people to make our country self-reliant.”

Other speakers included DNGC Maths Assistant Professor KK Rai and DNGC Prof Ashok Kumar Pandey. A book titled Jaivik Udyamita – Udyamita Ka Bharatiya Marg on organic entrepreneurship was released by Dr Dharmendra Dubey, who urged “37 crore employees” to start their own businesses at home “to make India the richest country in the world,” the release said. Altogether 210 participants attended the programme.

<https://arunnachaltimes.in/index.php/2024/08/11/swadeshi-jagaran-manch-prog/>

Viksit Bharat 2047: Redefining development for Amrit Kaal

What we have achieved in the last 77 years of Independence is nothing short of a miracle. Many nay-sayers expected that neither freedom nor democracy would be sustainable in a diverse country like Bharat. Our food security was abysmal, and defence infrastructure too was negligible. The colonial rule had left the economy in the doldrums. From that precarious scenario, we have indeed made strides on many social, economic and political indicators, whatever the projections of the Western ratings and indexing agencies. We should certainly be proud of that and celebrate those achievements, especially on Independence Day, when the scenario around the world is gloomy. What should be our future approach and trajectory in the age of global uncertainty and instability?

The market globalisation model, provided by the capitalist block, has failed, and they have also accepted it. Technology has brought the world together, but the ‘free market’ philosophy is no longer driving world trade. Instead, different forms of protec-

tionism and regionalism are reshaping the world. The dollar economy is driven by monopolisation in defence, pharmaceutical, banking, insurance, food and agriculture, oil and gas, and technology, which is neither stable nor sustainable. Most of the global conflicts are directly a result of this model of neo-colonising capitalism. The entire global South is trying to fight against this imposed development model.

The Communist version of globalisation collapsed long ago. The new avatar, state-controlled capitalism led by China, can use the debt trap and muscle power to expand business but can never be a universally accepted alternative. The internal contradiction of this dictatorial globalisation will lead to its collapse today or tomorrow.

In such a scenario, Bharat emerges as a beacon of hope, a powerful alternative to the existing models. With its vibrant democracy and the largest population, Bharat has the potential to offer a model of development that is both sustainable and inclusive. The Government of Bharat’s comprehensive outline for Atmanirbhar Bharat in the post-COVID-19 economic package is a testament to this potential. Despite global uncertainties and technological dependencies, the intent and direction are clear, paving the way for a brighter future.

We must be clear that Atmanirbharta cannot be just a Government vision and programme. We as a nation need to have a new resolve, like our freedom fighters, to provide a collective model of development that would inspire others. Our family and community-based skill set, cluster-centred economy, and immense young human capital should be channelled with the spirit of freedom struggle for decolonising development discourse. We need to revive our pre-colonial model of wealth creation in the present context. Recently, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch passed a resolution to achieve Viksit Bharat’s goal by 2047. Through this Independence Day Special, the Organiser presents readers with those seven parameters for intellectual churning. We need a new resolve to redefine the indicators, processes and objectives of development based on the Bharatiya paradigm to accelerate the process of Atmanirbharta. All the stakeholders will hopefully get inspiration to deliberate on the proposed ideas and contribute to the destined role of Bharat in providing a credible alternative. Have a thinking celebration on this Independence Day. □□

<https://organiser.org/2024/08/12/251444/bharat/viksit-bharat-2047-redefining-development-for-amrit-kaal/>

Swadeshi Activities

Prantiya Prashikshan and Vichar Varga

Pictorial Glimpses



Jodhpur



Kashi



Telangana



Purankalik Baithak, Bhopal (MP)



Swadeshi Activities

Prantiya Prashikshan and Vichar Varga

Pictorial Glimpses



Jammu-Kashmir



Brij Prant



Jalandhar, Punjab



Jharkhand

