

▶ VIEW POINT

▶ AGRICULTURE

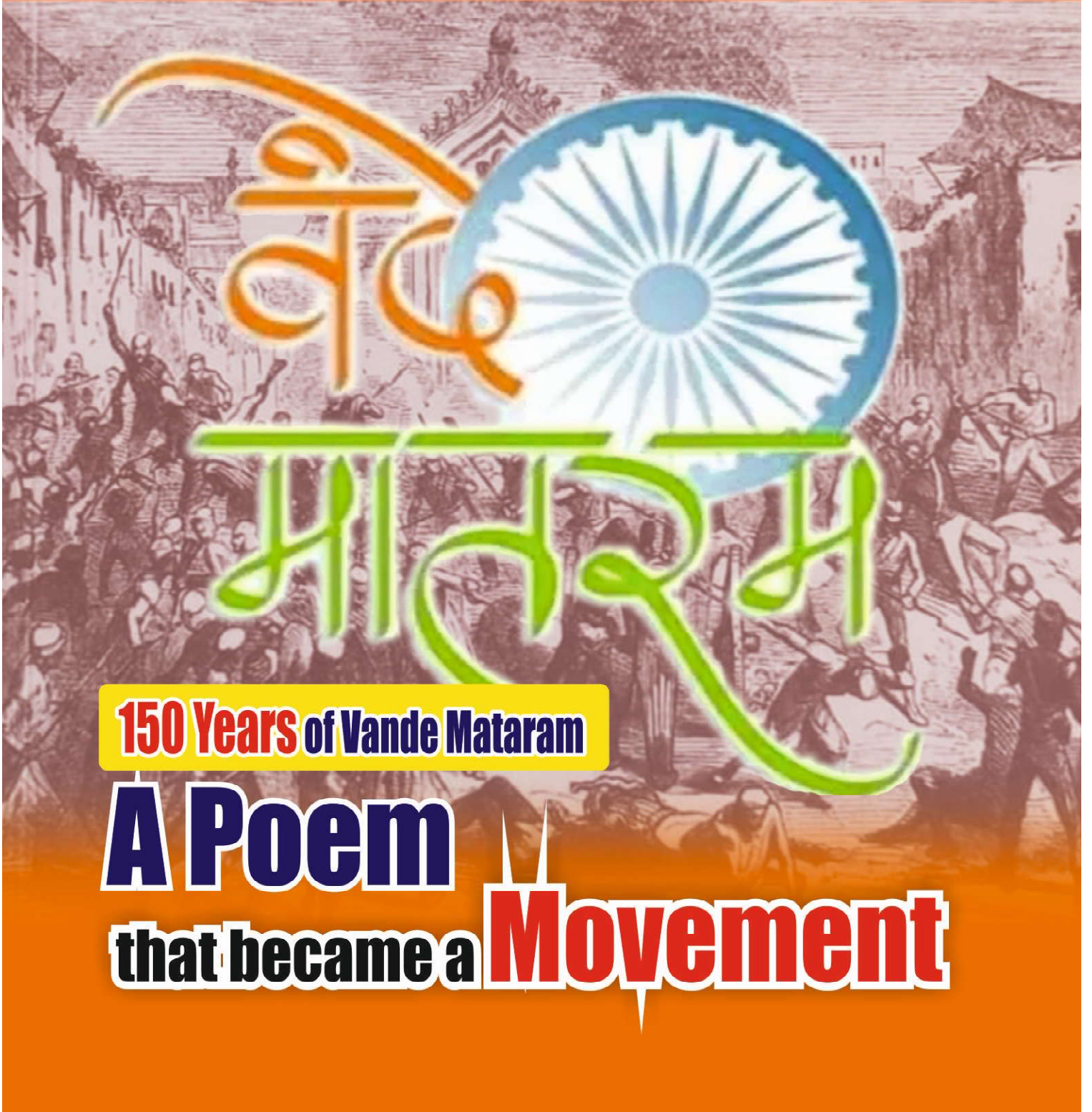
▶ ANALYSIS

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# Swadeshi

PATRIKA

November 2025



**150 Years of Vande Mataram**

**A Poem**

**that became a Movement**

Swadeshi Activities

# Swadeshi Mela

Pictorial Glimpses



Jagalpur, Chhattisgarh



Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

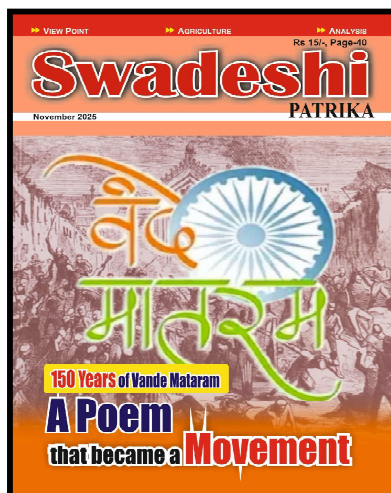


Jamshedpur, Jharkhand



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## The Dangerous Myth of Rupee Depreciation

It is really disheartening to see that some well known economists and commentators are greeting the fall of the rupee as though a weaker currency were a sign of mature economic thinking. Voices like Sajjid Chino, often claim that a softer rupee boosts exports, while overlooking the serious damage it causes in an import dependent country like India.

Our country relies on imports for more than 85% of its crude oil along with large quantities of edible oils, fertilizers and other essential commodities. When the rupee loses value, the cost of these imports shoots up. This pushes up inflation across the entire economy and hits ordinary citizens the hardest. Higher fuel prices increase the cost of transport and soon everything from vegetables to consumer goods becomes more expensive. As we all know that India runs a current account deficit, and in such a situation celebrating a cheaper rupee is a form of economic self harm. A stronger currency lowers the import bill and narrows the deficit. Stronger currency also provides the government fiscal resilience by reducing its subsidy burden on fertilizers and fuel. In addition, it eases the debt repayment pressure on Indian companies that have borrowed from abroad. The obsession with export competitiveness ignores the fact that India is mainly a consumption driven economy. Millions of students study overseas. Households use imported electronics. Industries depend on imported machinery and raw material. In this reality, a stable or rising rupee acts as a natural anchor against inflation, it also strengthens the real buying power of Indian families.

Currency strength is not only a matter of economic statistics. It reflects global confidence in the country's fundamentals. It is time for policymakers to resist the temptation of competitive devaluation and instead focus on maintaining a stable and confident rupee that supports long term economic health. Henceforth, I would like to bring attention to your esteemed publication to stop this madness of believing that India's future growth will be dependent on currency devaluation. Govt should take immediate steps to control this freefall.

— Aniket Dixit, *Freelance Journalist, Delhi*

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## Quote-Unquote



**Our biodiversity is taking a new shape, the youth of the country are seeing agriculture as a modern, scalable opportunity. This will give a major boost to the rural economy of the country.**

Narednra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



**We have highlighted the problem that there is irrational exuberance of some of the players, whom we consider not really adequately informed about the risks in the market.**

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Chairman, SEBI



**India is poised to become a global hub for clean and green energy. We will lead the world in addressing environmental and climate challenges in the years ahead.**

Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha



**During the freedom struggle, Vande Mataram awakened a sense of pride and sacrifice among Indians. It reminded people that the land of India was not merely a geography, but a divine mother—nurturing, sacred, and worthy of devotion.**

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

## Bihar Election Results: Role of Women

Before the exit polls, the Bihar election was being seen as a close contest between the NDA and Mahagathbandhan of Tejaswi Yadav led Rashtriya Janata Dal, Congress and few other political parties. There were speculations that the people of Bihar might, in the name of change, hand over power to Tejaswi Yadav instead of Nitish Kumar. Reasons like Nitish Kumar's age, anti-incumbency, Tejaswi Yadav's popularity etc. were being cited. But after the counting of votes, when the Mahagathbandhan suffered a crushing defeat and the Congress was virtually wiped out, election analysts are forced to rethink. Political analysts are attributing the NDA's victory largely to the overwhelming support of women. It is true also, that women voted in an unprecedented manner in this election. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, 59.4 percent of women casted their votes, compared to only 53.3 percent for men. In the 2019 general elections, these percentages were 59.9 and 53.3 percent respectively. But in the 2025 assembly elections, women voted significantly higher, at 71.8 percent, while men's turnout was 63 percent. That's a difference of nearly 9 percentage points. Analysis of various assembly constituencies shows that this difference ranged between 10 percent and 21 percent in many places. In the first phase, the percentage of women and men voting was 69 and 61.6 percent, respectively. However, in the second phase, women voted even more vigorously, with their voting turnout reaching 74.6 percent, while the male voter turnout reached only 64.4 percent.

Since women voted in larger numbers than before, it becomes important to understand the reasons behind this phenomenon. Opposition parties attribute this to the NDA government's transfer of Rs.10,000 to 7.5 million women under the Chief Minister's Women's Employment Scheme shortly before the election announcement. However, it cannot be ruled out that this scheme may have also led women to support the NDA, but the transfer of Rs. 10,000 alone cannot be the reason for women's support, as the Mahagathbandhan also promised Rs. 2,500 per year to women during the election campaign. The Mahagathbandhan also made several other promises. Perhaps the Mahagathbandhan failed to reassure women with its promises, and women placed more trust in the NDA.

Under Lalu Yadav's rule, the general public was plagued by poor law and order situation. Rapes, kidnapping, extortions, murder, and other crimes were common in Bihar. Women generally, bore the brunt of these crimes. Women feared that if Tejaswi Yadav wins the election and becomes the Chief Minister, this jungle raj could return. Women had tasted the improvements in women's safety and law and order under Nitish Kumar's rule. Therefore, they did not want a repeat of the jungle raj of Lalu's rule. The prohibition implemented during the Nitish Kumar government brought the utmost relief to women. Alcohol was the biggest cause of women's oppression in India's most backward state. Women also feared that the prohibition law could be repealed if another party came to power. Lack of development led to rampant migration, and the law and order situation was steadily deteriorating. Doctors, engineers, and businessmen were all leaving Bihar. In such a scenario, when the Nitish Kumar government came to power, it not only provided better governance to the people of Bihar but also initiated development and public welfare schemes. He earned the reputation of "Sushasan Babu," and his popularity has remained consistent ever since. Welfare schemes became systematic after the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power at the Centre in 2014. Measures such as the opening of Jan Dhan accounts, followed by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), construction of toilets, construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Rural and Urban Housing Schemes, 100 percent electricity access and uninterrupted power supply, universal access to drinking water, improved health coverage through the Ayushman Bharat scheme, improved Anganwadi facilities, and free distribution of gas cylinders under the Ujjwala Yojana have all brought about significant changes in the lives of ordinary Biharis. It has been observed that migration has stopped and native Biharis are returning to their villages, further improving the prospects for development in Bihar.

It is said that caste equations dominate Bihar politics. Votes are based on caste and community in elections. Politics is often judged by caste equations. It was being said that Tejaswi Yadav could win by polarizing Yadav and Muslim votes. However, this time, not only women but also male voters, regardless of caste considerations, voted for development and good governance, reinstating NDA to power. Although political experts are focusing on the increased female voter turnout for election results in favour of NDA, we must not forget that males also voted more than before. The increase in voting in the Bihar elections, voting based on issues rather than caste, and the growing participation of women in elections are all indicators of a strengthening of democracy in India. This is also a warning to opposition parties that if they do not shun politics based on caste equations, and ignore development and good governance they may continue to face defeat in future elections also.

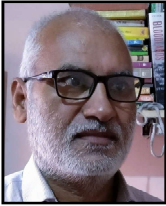
## 150 Years of Vande Mataram A Poem that became a movement

Whenever we think about the word "Vande Mataram", a sense of patriotism evokes in us, and we bow before the nation. It's the mantra by which the brave sons of the nation became immortal martyrs. They went to the gallows to liberate the country from British rule. It is not only a national song, but also the soul of the nation.

This year, November 7, 2025, marks the 150th anniversary of India's national song, Vande Mataram, which means "Mother, I salute you." This composition, as an immortal national anthem, has inspired countless generations of freedom fighters and nation-builders and is an enduring symbol of India's national identity and collective spirit. "Vande Mataram" was first published in the literary magazine Bangadarshan on November 7, 1875. Later, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee included it in his immortal novel Anandamath, published in 1882. Rabindranath Tagore composed it. It has become an integral part of the country's civilizational, political, and cultural consciousness. Celebrating this important occasion is an opportunity for all Indians to reaffirm the eternal message of unity, sacrifice, and devotion that Vande Mataram embodies.

To understand the significance of Vande Mataram, it is essential to understand its historical origins. It is a path that connects literature, nationalism, and India's freedom struggle. This hymn's journey from a poem to becoming a national song exemplifies India's collective awakening against colonial rule.

The song was first published in 1875. This fact is confirmed by an article by Sri Aurobindo in the English daily Vande Mataram on April 16, 1907, which states that Bankim had composed his famous song 32 years earlier. He said that at that time, very few people had heard it, but in a moment of awakening from long-standing delusion, the people of Bengal sought the truth, and at that very moment someone sang "Vande Mataram." Before being published as a book, Anandamath was serialized in the Bengali monthly magazine Bangadarshan, of which Bankim was the founding editor.



*This celebration of Vande Mataram's 150th anniversary highlights the song's profound historical and cultural significance in the development of India's national identity.*  
**Anil Tiwari**



The song "Vande Mataram" appeared in the first installment of the novel's serial publication, in the March-April 1881 issue. In 1907, Madame Bhikaji Cama hoisted the tricolor flag outside India for the first time in Stuttgart, Berlin, with Vande Mataram inscribed on it.

The basic plot of the novel "Anand Math" revolves around a group of monks called Santans, literally "children," who dedicate their lives to their motherland. They worship the motherland as a Mother Goddess; their devotion is solely for their birthplace. "Vande Mataram" is a song sung by the Santans of Anand Math.

It symbolized the "religion of patriotism," which was the central theme of Anand Math. "In his temple, he placed three statues of the Mother Motherland, representing her: the Mother, great and glorious in her grand glory; the Mother, now sad and lying in the dust; the Mother, who will be restored to her former glory in the future. In Sri Aurobindo's words, "The Mother of his imagination held not alms bowls but sharp swords in her 140 million hands." Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838-1894), the author of Vande Mataram, was one of the most renowned figures of 19th-century Bengal. His notable works, including Anandamath (1882), Durgesh Nandini (1865), Kapalkundala (1866), and Devi Chaudharani (1884), reflect the social, cultural, and moral concerns of a subjugated society struggling for its identity.

Vande Mataram is considered a milestone in nationalist thought, symbolizing the combination of devotion to the motherland and spiritual idealism. Through his writings, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee not only enriched Bengali literature but also

laid the foundational ideological principles for India's nascent nationalist movement. In Vande Mataram, he articulated a vision of the country, the motherland, as a mother.

In October 1905, a "Vande Mataram sect" was founded in North Calcutta to promote the motherland as a mission and a religious passion. Members of this sect would conduct morning processions every Sunday, singing "Vande Mataram" and collecting voluntary donations in support of the motherland. Rabindranath Tagore would sometimes participate in this sect's morning processions.

On May 20, 1906, an unprecedented Vande Mataram procession was held in Barisal (now in Bangladesh), with over ten thousand people participating. Both Hindus and Muslims marched through the city's main streets, carrying Vande Mataram flags.

In August 1906, an English daily called Vande Mataram was launched under the editorship of Bipin Chandra Pal, later joined by Sri Aurobindo as joint editor. Through its sharp and influential editorials, the newspaper became a powerful medium for awakening India, spreading the message of self-reliance, unity, and political consciousness to the people of India. Boldly propagating nationalism and inspiring young Indians to break free from the colonial yoke, Vande Mataram became a major platform for expressing nationalist thought and mobilizing public opinion.

Alarmed by the growing influence of Vande Mataram, both as a song and a slogan, the British government took drastic measures to curb its spread. The government of the newly formed East Bengal province issued circulars prohibit-

ing the singing or recitation of Vande Mataram in schools and colleges. Educational institutions were threatened with de-recognition, and students participating in political movements were threatened with dismissal from government jobs.

In November 1905, 200 students at a school in Rangpur, Bengal, were fined 5 rupees each for singing Vande Mataram. In Rangpur, prominent leaders opposing Partition were instructed to serve as special constables and prevent the singing of Vande Mataram. In November 1906, Vande Mataram was chanted at a large gathering in Dhuliya (Maharashtra). In 1908, in Belgaum (Karnataka), on the day Lokmanya Tilak was being deported to Mandalay, Burma, police beat several boys and arrested others for singing Vande Mataram despite a verbal order against it.

The song "Vande Mataram" became a symbol of India's freedom struggle, embodying the collective desire for self-rule and the emotional connection between the people and their motherland. The song initially gained popularity during the Swadeshi and anti-partition movements and soon transcended regional boundaries to become the anthem of national awakening. From the streets of Bengal to the heart of Bombay and the plains of Punjab, "Vande Mataram" resonated as a symbol of resistance against colonial rule. British attempts to ban its singing further enhanced its patriotic significance, transforming it into a moral force that united people regardless of caste, religion, or language. Leaders, students, and revolutionaries drew inspiration from its verses, and it began to be sung at political meetings, demonstrations, and before going to jail.

The composition not only inspired acts of resistance but also infused the movement with cultural pride and spiritual fervor, laying the emotional foundation for India's freedom struggle.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, "Vande Mataram" became the slogan of rising Indian nationalism. Rabindranath Tagore sang Vande Mataram at the 1896 Congress session. During the turbulent days of 1905, during the anti-partition and Swadeshi movements in Bengal, the appeal of the song and slogan Vande Mataram also became very powerful. At the Varanasi session of the Indian National Congress that same year, the song "Vande Mataram" was adopted for all-India occasions.

In April 1906, during the Bengal Provincial Conference in Barisal, in the newly formed East Bengal province, British rulers banned the public chanting of Vande Mataram and eventually banned the conference itself. Defying the order, the delegates continued to chant and faced heavy police repression.

In May 1907, in Lahore, a group of young protesters, defying colonial orders, marched and chanted Vande Mataram to condemn the arrest of Swadeshi leaders in Rawalpindi. This demonstration faced brutal police repression, yet the youth's fearless chanting reflected the growing spirit of resistance spreading across the country.

On February 27, 1908, nearly a thousand workers at the Coral Mills in Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu) went on strike in solidarity with the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company and against the repressive actions of the authorities. They marched through the streets late into the night, shouting "Vande Mataram" as a symbol

of protest and patriotism.

In June 1908, during Lokmanya Tilak's trial, thousands gathered outside the Bombay Police Court and sang Vande Mataram in solidarity. Later, on June 21, 1914, Tilak was given a rousing welcome in Pune upon his release, and the crowd continued to chant Vande Mataram long after he had taken his place.

On August 17, 1909, when Madan Lal Dhingra was hanged in England, his last words before his execution were "Vande Mataram." In 1909, Indian patriots in Paris began publishing a magazine called "Vande Mataram" from Geneva. In October 1912, when Gopal Krishna Gokhale arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, he was greeted with a large procession of people chanting "Vande Mataram."

There was complete consensus in the Constituent Assembly on adopting both Jana Gana Mana and Vande Mataram as national symbols, and there was no debate on the issue. On 24 January 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, while addressing the Constituent Assembly, said that due to its important role in the freedom movement, Vande Mataram should be given equal status and be equally respected as the national anthem Jana Gana Mana. He said, "One matter that remains to be discussed is the question of the national anthem. At one point, it was thought that this matter should be brought before the House and the House should pass a resolution to decide on it. However, it was felt that instead of making a formal decision through a resolution, it would be better to make a statement about the national anthem. Therefore, I am making this statement.

The composition consisting of words and music called Jana

Gana Mana is the national anthem of India, in which the government can make changes to the words if necessary, and the song Vande Mataram, which played a historic role in India's freedom struggle, will be given equal respect and status to Jana Gana Mana. (Applause). I hope this will satisfy the members."

His statement was adopted, and Rabindranath Tagore's Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the national anthem of independent India, and Bankim's Vande Mataram was adopted as the national song, giving it equal status to Jana Gana Mana.

As the country celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram, commemorative activities are being organized across India in an effort to honor the song's enduring legacy of unity, protest, and national pride. Institutions, cultural organizations, and educational centers are organizing seminars, exhibitions, musical performances, and public readings to revisit the song's historical and cultural significance.

### Conclusion

This celebration of Vande Mataram's 150th anniversary highlights the song's profound historical and cultural significance in the development of India's national identity. Emerging from the intellectual and literary milieu of the late nineteenth century, Vande Mataram transcended its literary roots to become a powerful symbol of anti-colonial resistance and collective aspiration. This event not only reaffirms the enduring relevance of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's vision but also inspires fresh reflection on the song's role in shaping discourses of nationalism, unity, and cultural self-awareness in modern India. self-awareness in modern India. □□

# Tantra Swadeshi, Mantra Vande Mataram

Swadeshi is Vande Mataram in action announced Surendra Nath Benarjee in 1904. Bankim Chattarjee wrote Vande Mataram in 1875. In 1882 Bankim published his novel *Ananda Math* incorporating Vande Mataram in it. According to Aurobindo Vande Mataram is a Mantra. Thus a Mantra cannot be amended nor changed in form. Even Bipin Chandra Pal a non-believer of idol or worshipping being a Brahma Samajist accepted Bande Mataram and termed it as idealty not idolatry. The following extract from *Bande Matram* periodical published in 1908 edited by Aurobindo reveals how Bande Mataram derived Mantra Shakti and inspired one and all.

Sri Aurobindo said that he was exceedingly pleased to know that the song had become so popular in all parts of India and that it was being so repeatedly sung. He said that he would make this national anthem the subject of his speech. The song, he said, was not only a national anthem to be looked on as the European nations look upon their own, but one replete with mighty power, being a sacred *mantra*, revealed to us by the author of *Ananda Math*, who might be called an inspired Rishi. He described the manner in which the *mantra* had been revealed to Bankim Chandra, probably by a Sannyasi under whose teaching he was. He said that the *mantra* was not an invention, but a revivification of the old *mantra* which had become extinct, so to speak, by the treachery of one Navakishan. The *mantra* of Bankim Chandra was not appreciated in his own day, and he predicted that there would come a time when the whole of India would resound with the singing of the song, and the word of the prophet was miraculously fulfilled. The meaning of the song was not understood then because there was no patriotism except such as consisted in making India the shadow of England and other countries which dazzled the sight of the sons of this our Motherland with their glory and opulence. The so-called patriots of that time might have been the well-wishers of India but not men who loved her. One who loved his mother never looked to her defects, never disregarded her as an ignorant, superstitious, degraded and decrepit woman. The speaker then unfolded the meaning of the song. As with the individual, so with the nation, there were three bodies or *kosas*, the *sthula*, *suksma* and *karana sariras*. In this way the speaker went on clearing up the hidden meaning of the song. The manner in which he treated of love and devotion was exceedingly touching and the audience sat before him like dumb statues, not knowing where they were or whether they were listening to a prophet revealing to them the higher mysteries of life. He then concluded with a most pathetic appeal to true patriotism and exhorted the audience to love the Motherland and sacrifice everything to bring about her salvation.

Now after 150 years complete Bande Mataram is recited which would be a step to words achieving Akhnd Bhrat since division does not exist in spiritual or Adhyatmik path. □□



Now after 150 years complete Bande Mataram is recited which would be a step to words achieving Akhnd Bhrat since division does not exist in spiritual or Adhyatmik path.

Saroj Kumar  
Mitra

# Global Turmoil and De-Dollarization



*India, positioned at the intersection of major geopolitical and economic currents, has the opportunity to emerge as a stabilising middle power—provided it invests in resilience, technological capability, strategic autonomy, and a balanced foreign policy.*

**Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal**

## Introduction

The global geopolitical environment has entered a phase of unprecedented turbulence. The post 1945 order—anchored in U.S. strategic leadership, multilateral institutions, and economic globalization is weakening. For nearly eight decades, the world operated under a relatively stable architecture shaped by institutions such as the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank, and later the WTO. The most significant driver of contemporary instability is the intensifying competition between the United States, China, and Russia. From 1991 to 2010, globalization was driven by free trade agreements, supply chain optimization, and financial liberalization. This era has decisively ended. The financial system has become a tool of geopolitical coercion. The freezing of sovereign reserves and SWIFT restrictions have accelerated search for alternatives to US Dollar as a reserve currency. The process of De-dollarization has begun, which means reducing dependence on the U.S. dollar. Mechanisms of de-dollarisation include local currency settlements, gold accumulation, and alternative payment networks.

Geopolitics and geo-economics have started changing the global landscape and the tools and the nuances of globalisation. The world currently faces major conflict theatres including Ukraine, Gaza, Red Sea, Sahel region of Africa, Sudan, Taiwan Strait, and the India–China border. Technology is the new foundation of national power. Semiconductors, AI, quantum computing, and cyberwarfare shape national capabilities. Demand for rare earth minerals, such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths, and uranium has exploded due to the energy transition and digital technologies. BRICS expansion reflects the shift toward multipolarity and demands



for institutional reform and financial diversification. India stands at the intersection of Western partnerships and Global South leadership, leveraging multi-alignment for national interest. India must navigate currency volatility, commodity disruptions, and technology access challenges through resilience-building measures. India faces a two-front security challenge along with maritime threats and cyber vulnerabilities. India must strengthen sovereignty across finance, technology, defence, and energy while leading Global South platforms.

The world today is undergoing one of the most turbulent periods since the end of the Second World War. The post-1945 international order—built on U.S. hegemony, multilateral institutions, the dollar-centric financial system, and expanding globalisation—is facing deep structural stress. Geopolitical rivalry has resurfaced, trade and technology are increasingly weaponised, supply chains are fragmenting into blocs, financial flows are becoming politicised, and technological dominance has emerged as the cornerstone of national power. These overlapping disruptions constitute a long-term transition toward an uncertain multipolarity, producing what may be called a phase of “global turmoil.”

### **The Structural Breakdown of the Old Order**

For nearly eight decades after WWII, the world operated under a U.S.-led security and economic architecture. The UN, IMF, World Bank, and later the WTO shaped global rules, while the United States acted as a guarantor of security and global trade remained deeply integrated. This model has steadily

weakened since the 2000s, accelerated by the 2008 financial crisis, the rise of China, the resurgence of Russia, domestic polarisation in the West, and post-COVID systemic shocks.

American hegemonic capability has been eroded by strategic overstretch, fiscal pressures, and internal political conflict. Meanwhile, global institutions created in the mid-20th century have failed to reform, leading to legitimacy deficits and the rise of parallel platforms such as the BRICS, SCO, and AIIB. The economic centre of gravity has decisively shifted to Asia, driven by China’s rise and India’s growing economic weight. Technological revolutions in AI, quantum computing, cyber capabilities, and digital finance have disrupted traditional power balances and introduced entirely new domains of contestation. The revival of territorial conflict—from Ukraine and Gaza to the Indo-Pacific—further indicates that assumptions of post-Cold War stability have collapsed.

### **Great-Power Rivalry as the Core Engine of Turbulence**

At the heart of global turmoil lies intensifying great-power rivalry. The U.S.–China relationship is now the defining contest of the century, spanning trade, technology, naval power, cyber operations, rare earths, semiconductors, and competing development models. Unlike earlier disputes, this competition is structural and long-term, rooted in incompatible strategic visions.

Separately, U.S.–Russia confrontation over Ukraine has revived bloc politics reminiscent of the Cold War, triggering NATO expansion, sweeping sanctions, and sharp geopolitical realignments in

***American hegemonic capability has been eroded by strategic overstretch, fiscal pressures, and internal political conflict. Meanwhile, global institutions created in the mid-20th century have failed to reform, leading to legitimacy deficits and the rise of parallel platforms such as the BRICS, SCO, and AIIB.***

Europe and energy markets. China and Russia, despite differing interests, have deepened their strategic partnership across Eurasia, UN platforms, energy markets, and financial networks, thereby accelerating the emergence of a non-Western sphere of influence.

### **Economic Fragmentation and the End of Hyper-Globalisation**

The era of hyper-globalisation (1990–2010) was marked by free trade, just-in-time supply chains, and financial liberalisation. This phase has ended. The world now moves toward “managed globalisation” or economic blocs defined by trust, security, and strategic alignment. Supply chains are being reorganised through friend-shoring, near-shoring, and “China+1” strategies. Countries prioritise resilience and national security over efficiency. Trade disputes and technology restrictions—especially in chips, AI accelerators, and telecom equipment—have become instruments of statecraft.

Regional trade blocs such as RCEP, USMCA, the India–Middle

***Dollarisation refers to the near-universal use of the U.S. dollar in global trade, commodity pricing, banking, and reserve holdings. Its dominance began with the Bretton Woods system (1944), which established fixed exchange rates anchored to the dollar—convertible into gold at \$35 per ounce.***

East–Europe corridor, IPEF, and renewed EU industrial policies reflect the emergence of fragmented economic ecosystems. Energy markets are similarly realigning due to sanctions, new shipping chokepoint risks, and the shift toward LNG and renewable technologies.

### **Weaponisation of Finance and the Push Toward De-Dollarisation**

Financial systems have become an active geopolitical battlefield. Over 20,000 Western sanctions are in force—targeting Russia, Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and major Chinese firms—turning compliance into a global enforcement tool. The freezing of Russia’s \$300 billion in reserves in 2022 marked a historic moment, signalling that even sovereign assets are not secure from geopolitical decisions. Restrictions from SWIFT and pressure on global banks have further exposed the vulnerability of countries dependent on dollar-denominated systems.

This environment has intensified global efforts toward de-dollarisation. While the dollar remains dominant, countries now seek in-

sulation from U.S. financial leverage. Local-currency settlements, China’s CIPS, BRICS financial cooperation, gold accumulation, and experiments with CBDCs indicate a gradual shift toward a more diversified monetary landscape.

### **De-Dollarisation: Meaning, Origins, and Limits**

Dollarisation refers to the near-universal use of the U.S. dollar in global trade, commodity pricing, banking, and reserve holdings. Its dominance began with the Bretton Woods system (1944), which established fixed exchange rates anchored to the dollar—convertible into gold at \$35 per ounce. This was supported by U.S. economic strength and gold reserves, which accounted for 70% of global holdings after WWII.

However, by the early 1970s, U.S. deficits and global imbalances made the gold peg unsustainable. The Nixon Shock of 1971 ended dollar–gold convertibility, effectively shifting the global system to fiat currencies. The U.S. then secured the petrodollar system through a 1974 pact with Saudi Arabia, ensuring that global oil was priced in dollars—a key factor sustaining dollar demand.

Today’s push for de-dollarisation arises from sanctions fear, geopolitical realignment, digital currency innovation, and rising global trade within Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Countries want monetary sovereignty, protection from financial coercion, and reduced exposure to U.S. fiscal instability.

However, full de-dollarisation faces major constraints: no currency matches the liquidity, rule-of-law environment, or depth of U.S. capital markets; the yuan is not fully

convertible; the euro suffers from structural fragility; and commodity markets remain dollar-priced. Therefore, the shift will be incremental and partial, not revolutionary.

### **Global Conflict Zones and Systemic Instability**

The world currently faces multiple, overlapping conflict theatres: the Ukraine war, Israel–Hamas and Middle East escalation, Red Sea shipping disruptions, Taiwan Strait tensions, Sahel region coups, Sudan’s civil war, and India–China border militarisation. These conflicts raise global energy prices, increase insurance and freight costs, destabilise food markets, and accelerate defence spending. They also reshape diplomatic equations and influence global supply chains.

### **Technology as the New Geopolitical Frontier**

Technological dominance—particularly in AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and cyber warfare—now defines national power. Control of chip supply chains determines military technology, AI capabilities, digital sovereignty, and economic competitiveness. Quantum breakthroughs promise to revolutionise cryptography, intelligence, and financial security. Cyberspace has become a constant battlefield, where attacks on critical infrastructure, finance, and communication systems pose multidimensional security risks.

### **Critical Minerals and Commodity Geopolitics**

The green transition and digital expansion have elevated the strategic relevance of lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths, graphite, and uranium. Control over mines, refining capacity, and processing nodes is now a major determinant of long-

term industrial and strategic security. Nations are racing to secure mineral supply chains, diversify sources, and reduce dependence on single-country monopolies, particularly China.

### BRICS+ and the Rise of the Global South

The expansion of BRICS into BRICS+ signifies one of the most important shifts in global governance. It includes major commodity producers and fast-growing economies across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. BRICS+ aims to reform global financial structures, promote non-dollar trade, create independent development financing mechanisms, and build strategic autonomy from Western-controlled institutions. More broadly, the Global South is reasserting agency after decades of under-representation in global decision-making.

### India's Strategic Position in a Turbulent World

India stands at a distinct advantage as a stabilising power in an increasingly multipolar landscape. Its multi-alignment strategy enables cooperation with diverse platforms—Quad, BRICS, G20, SCO, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and I2U2—without entanglement in exclusive blocs. India benefits from its demographic dividend, expanding digital infrastructure (UPI, Aadhaar, ONDC), favourable geography, growing defence industry, and its role as a bridge between the Global South and Western partners.

However, challenges remain: border tensions with China, energy import dependence, constraints in advanced technology access, and exposure to global financial volatility. India must strengthen its foreign exchange buffers, promote rupee trade settlement, secure critical min-

erals, and accelerate semiconductor, AI, and cyber capabilities. Defence modernisation—particularly in naval power, missile systems, drones, and integrated intelligence—is essential to managing a two-front security scenario and growing Indo-Pacific tensions.

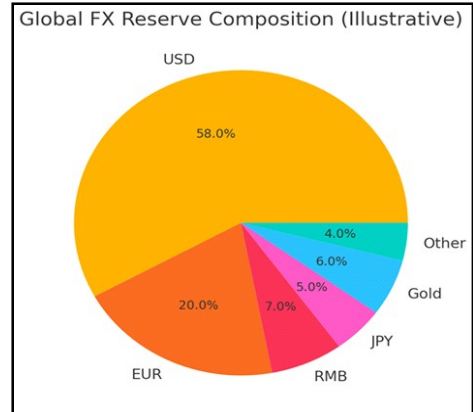
### Economic and Security Implications for India

Global turmoil affects India through currency volatility, commodity price shocks, disrupted supply chains, and tightening global financial conditions. To mitigate these risks, India must deepen economic resilience by strengthening reserves, diversifying energy sources, expanding strategic petroleum storage, building food security buffers, and developing next-generation infrastructure. Accelerated investment in AI, semiconductors, green energy, and quantum technologies will be crucial for long-term economic sovereignty.

### The Dollar's Future and the Risks of U.S. Debt

The dollar remains the world's primary reserve currency, but rising U.S. debt—over \$37.5 trillion—poses systemic risks. High debt-to-GDP ratios, fiscal deficits, political gridlock, inflation cycles, and interest-rate volatility undermine confidence in long-term dollar stability. Over-concentration of global reserves in USD exposes the world to U.S. domestic vulnerabilities. Sanctions-driven weaponisation of the dollar payment system further motivates nations to diversify reserves and build independent financial channels.

Nevertheless, a total shift away from the dollar is improbable in the near future due to the



absence of strong alternatives. The world is moving toward diversification—not replacement—through regional settlement mechanisms, multi-currency reserves, and digital financial architectures.

### Conclusion

Global turmoil today reflects a structural transition toward a competitive multipolar order. The forces reshaping the world—geopolitical rivalry, financial weaponisation, technological disruption, energy realignment, and the search for currency sovereignty—are long-term and irreversible. De-dollarisation will advance gradually, driven by geopolitical distrust, technological innovation, and the rise of non-Western economic centres. Yet the dollar will remain dominant until alternative currencies acquire comparable depth, trust, and global acceptance.

India, positioned at the intersection of major geopolitical and economic currents, has the opportunity to emerge as a stabilising middle power—provided it invests in resilience, technological capability, strategic autonomy, and a balanced foreign policy. The coming decade will demand agility, innovation, and sustained diplomatic leadership as the world navigates its most consequential transformation since 1945. □□

*Dr. (CA) Dhanpat Ram Agarwal, National Co-convener, Swadeshi Jagran Manch*

# Indigenous Apps and Platforms Add to the Definition of Swadeshi

These days, the entire leadership of the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is constantly urging citizens to adopt Swadeshi. The Prime Minister says that no country can develop as long as it remains dependent on other countries. To reduce this dependence, citizens must use indigenous products. However, we know that the general public uses not only indigenous products but also a variety of services. In recent years, due to new technologies, the use of various foreign apps has increased. WhatsApp for messaging, general calling and video calls; Facebook and Instagram for social networking; Google's Gmail for email; Google Maps for navigation; Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart for shopping; and a variety of other apps have seen a tremendous growth in usage. Google charges hefty fees for downloading many apps, while Facebook and many other platforms also offer advertising services, and enjoys near monopoly. The surprising thing is that the providers of these services are making huge profits, yet they are not even ready to pay taxes in India.



*We must not forget that by adopting these apps and platforms, we will not only save significant amounts of foreign exchange, but also benefit from better security features and the guarantee that user data will be stored in their respective regions and not sold for profit.*

**Dr. Ashwani Mahajan**

Advent of Swadeshi apps with huge support from the people, is fast changing the digital space in the country. Every country and its citizens have the right to choose what to use and what not to use. The call for Swadeshi can truly be seen as a means to increase employment within the country, reduce dependence on foreign countries, and keep the country's wealth within the boundaries of the country. It is not just a slogan, but a life vision that centers self-reliance, self-respect, and national interest.

Today, when the Indian economy has become heavily dependent on foreign countries, the consequences of which are being borne by the country's economy



and the common man, the call for Swadeshi has once again become important. It is noteworthy that in the era of globalization, it had been argued that to provide affordable goods to consumers worldwide, it is essential to eliminate barriers to the global value chain. Components for production can be efficiently manufactured and shipped to different locations in different countries, allowing for higher-quality products to be produced at lower costs. A similar argument was made regarding the movement of goods; that consumers can access the cheapest goods, only through free trade. Goods that can efficiently be produced in our country, and then be sold in global markets through free trade.

### **The logic of globalization has totally collapsed**

The logic of the global value chain was shattered when some countries, especially China, began weaponising their monopoly in global value chains. We haven't yet forgotten the US ban on vaccine supplies during COVID-19, when global production of many goods, including automobiles, came to a standstill due to China's deliberate blockade of semiconductor supplies. Similarly, recently, China began blackmailing other countries, including India, by disrupting the supply of products made from rare earths.

For more than seven months, the US President has imposed tariffs on almost all of its trading partners, flouting global agreements. The truth of globalization has been fully exposed. Consequently, not only India but other countries around the world are now talking about self-reliance.

***As the entire country rapidly embraces Swadeshi, and the general public understands that Swadeshi is not limited to indigenous goods but it also includes services; in this digital world, digital services in the form of apps, platforms, and e-products, among other services, have become increasingly important.***

### **Swadeshi Apps and Platforms**

As the entire country rapidly embraces Swadeshi, and the general public understands that Swadeshi is not limited to indigenous goods but it also includes services; in this digital world, digital services in the form of apps, platforms, and e-products, among other services, have become increasingly important. Zoho Corporation, an Indian software product company, has developed numerous products, including the messaging app Arattai, ZohoMail for emailing, and numerous other e-products developed by several Indian start-ups and companies, which are becoming increasingly popular among our citizens.

India and its leadership have now fully realized that if India's industries are to be revived and the Indian economy is to be put on fast growth trajectory, we must minimize our dependence on foreign countries, including China and the United States. Therefore, the age-old concept of Swadeshi is

being promoted by everyone in the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and this is encouraging people to adopt indigenous products. We need to understand that India is heavily dependent not only on foreign products, but also on digital services, platforms, and other e-products. Therefore, when we talk about swadeshi, we should not limit ourselves to indigenous products; it also includes electronic services, both social media and e-commerce platforms; and other services related to intellectual property rights (IPR).

Therefore, the scope of swadeshi is expanding. In this context, two new products have gained the most momentum: Arattai (a messaging app developed by India's Zoho Corporation, which is an alternative to WhatsApp) and ZohoMail, an alternative to Gmail. In addition to individuals and businesses, the Indian government is also rapidly shifting to ZohoMail for its email. Leading Indian apps, platforms, and e-products in the digital sector, such as social media, messaging, e-commerce, and other technological solutions, offer numerous advantages—especially in the context of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Swadeshi thought process. Indian apps often prioritize regional languages (over 15-20 Indian languages). User data is stored in India, ensuring privacy and compliance with Indian data laws. Indian apps also offer customized monetization options for Indian customers and small creators. Indigenous social media apps help build a self-reliant digital ecosystem instead of relying on global giants like Meta or Twitter.

[Continued on page no. 19]

# Farcical debate over the Age of Consent

In his essay, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, Karl Marx observed, “History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce”. Marx was discussing the 1799 coup that brought Napoleon Bonaparte to power and the 1851 coup by Louis Bonaparte (Napoleon III). The first incident is understood to be based on material circumstances of the time, the second is a pale imitation. The reverse, however, is true of the renewed debate over the Age of Consent issue, currently before the Supreme Court of India.

We may recall that in 1889, a child bride, Phoolmani, then 10-years-old, died on her wedding night after her husband, Hari Mohan Maiti, 30-years-old, consummated the marriage. He was charged for rape and murder, but was acquitted of the charge of rape because the law did not apply to the marital rape of a ten-year-old girl. This compelled the British government to pass the Age of Consent Act (1891), which raised the age of consent from ten to twelve years. It made sexual intercourse with any girl below the age of twelve, with or without her consent, an offence amounting to rape. The new law applied to all communities. Though initially resented by orthodox Hindus as an intrusion in their customs, it was soon accepted by large sections of society. Independent India raised the age of consent, which is currently 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys.

Now, 134 years after the original Act, a case filed in the Supreme Court after the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case of December 2012, seeking the safety of women and girls, has become an occasion to redefine childhood and consent. This is because Senior Advocate Indira Jaising, appointed as Amicus Curiae (friend of the court), has proposed lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 years.



*The author argues that the renewed debate on lowering the age of consent represents not progress but regression - a farcical replay of a tragic historical issue.*

**Sandhya Jain**



***Lowering the age of consent would enable predators to claim grooming, coercion, or abuse as “consensual” relationships, especially where there is a power imbalance involving adults or individuals in positions of trust (relatives, teachers). This would violate Articles 14, 21, and 39(f) of the Constitution, which mandate equal protection, dignity, and safeguards against exploitation for children.***

The role of Amicus Curiae is to assist the Court in the proper adjudication of the matter, and not introduce extraneous issues which suggest a covert agenda. At ages 16-18 years, children are still in school. This is the age to study and plan one's future career, and not to encourage children to engage in adult relationships.

Jaising suggests that a minor's "consent" is valid in cases of sexual activity. The case for diluting the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, rests on the argument that society has taboos around early sexual activity, that teenage sex is normal, and that teenagers' fundamental right to joy (gratification) must be safeguarded.

The argument is flawed. Individual teenagers have been known to experiment with sexual intimacy, but these 'affairs' generally blow over, and the concerned individuals remain within the safety of their parental homes, complete their education and go on to build their lives and careers. They are not saddled with the burden of immature promiscuity. More pertinently, teenagers as a social category are not indulging in sexual activity, and need not be nudged in that direction.

The age of consent debate encompasses legal, social, and ethi-

cal concerns. The POCSO Act is an attempt to safeguard minors from potential exploitation and abuse. Reducing this threshold could undermine these protections and expose vulnerable adolescents to grave risks, such as trafficking and coercion, and undermine the constitutional mandate to protect children from exploitation. The safety and well-being of minors must prevail above all. Child rights activists believe that maintaining the age of consent at 18 years is essential to prevent child marriage, grooming, coercion, and exploitation. The POCSO Act aligns with the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA), and India's obligations under the Constitution and international conventions like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Lowering the age of consent would enable predators to claim grooming, coercion, or abuse as "consensual" relationships, especially where there is a power imbalance involving adults or individuals in positions of trust (relatives, teachers). This would violate Articles 14, 21, and 39(f) of the Constitution, which mandate equal protection, dignity, and safeguards against exploitation for children.

India is still grappling with a pre-Independence legacy of child

marriage; as many as 23 per cent of women aged 20-24 were married before 18 years of age, according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21). Authorities assert that persistent gender inequalities make any reduction in the age of consent extremely dangerous. It could normalize early sexual activity, increase teenage pregnancies, undermine the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), health risks such as maternal mortality and compromised child development. Not to mention legitimacy issues for the children born from such unions. These dangers are universal, and the high teenage birth rates in Romania (34 per 1,000) and Bulgaria (37 per 1,000) where consent ages are lower, illustrate these perils.

There are genuine concerns that at times teenage boys are implicated in POCSO cases for a consensual relationship with fellow students. The solution is not to reduce the age of consent, but to review such cases with maturity via trained counsellors. Thereafter, if the act is deemed to be consensual, the matter should end without punitive action against either party. However, if it is concluded that the act was under duress, the under-18-year-old male partner(s) should be tried under the Juvenile Act and not under POCSO. Indeed, this provision already exists in law, but has not been implemented. It is time to fix these lacunas, rather than compound the problem by diluting the law.

From November 12, 2025, the Supreme Court will hold non-stop hearings on 11 counter-petitions on the proposed dilution of the POSCO Act. The intervenors include social activists Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Nevar of the Sewa Nyaya Utthan Foundation,

senior journalist Uday Mahurkar and advocate Vishnu Jain.

The sexualisation of minors threatens civilisational norms – our spiritual preceptors advocated celibacy throughout one’s educational years, no matter how long this may be – and India must protect the children in these formative years. Sewa Nyaya Utthan and Network 4Justice conducted a study titled, *Intrusion on Civilization: Lowering the Age of Consent – Analysing its Impact*, to emphasize that the protection of minors is non-negotiable.

Concerned citizens observe that the agenda to sexualise teenagers was promoted by UNICEF India and some foreign-funded NGOs. In 2022, an Indian child rights body, Enfold, received funds from UNICEF and UNFPA and published a study recommending that the (1) Legal age of sex for girls be lowered to 16 years, and (2) “Comprehensive sexuality education” be introduced in schools. However, after strong objections from Priyank Kanoongo, then chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the UNICEF withdrew the research from the public domain and publicly acknowledged that it needed “review”.

The question legitimately arises why global bodies like UNICEF and UNFPA are so keen to alter the sexual boundaries of Indian children. The obvious danger from sexualising minors in the name of “education” and “consent” is freeing predators from child protection laws. The ruse of “consent” will pave the way for grooming gangs (a danger plaguing some western societies), inflict serious psychological damage on youth in their tender years, and erode parental au-

thority (as in western societies where parents are not allowed to protect their children from being groomed to change their sexual identities).

The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 1.6 lakh crimes against children in 2022, many under POCSO, and a study by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2007, found that 53 per cent of the children in the survey had suffered sexual abuse. It is well-known that abuse is under-reported due to stigma and fear, and this is true all over the world. Weakening protections would only exacerbate these crimes and deny justice to vulnerable minors, especially those from marginalized communities.

To conclude on a note of caution, neither hormonal contraceptives nor abortions are the answer to unwanted teen pregnancies. A study in Denmark linked hormonal contraceptives with the increased use of antidepressants and depression diagnoses, especially among adolescents. Another study (475,802 females) found heightened risks of suicide attempts and suicides post-HC usage, particularly among adolescents. The use of adolescent oral contraceptives is linked to a higher risk of major depression in adulthood. Nor is abortion without risks. Unsafe abortions are a major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality globally.

<https://sandhyajainarchive.org/2025/11/10/farcical-debate-over-the-age-of-consent/>

[Continued from page no. 16]

## Indigenous Apps and Platforms Add to the Definition of Swadeshi ...

**Zoho's "Made-in-India" messaging app, Arattai, has several advantages over WhatsApp.**

First, Arattai, being an Indian app, stores user data on servers in India, and being developed by Zoho (an Indian company), it aligns with the government's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" goals. While foreign companies are subject to data being captured by companies under foreign jurisdiction, indigenous apps offer data security. They offer a unique ad-free experience, with the promise that user data will not be used for targeted advertising. Indian platforms have been developed for Indian conditions. For example,

Arattai is optimized for low-end devices and poor networks. Furthermore, Arattai includes several features that other apps don't have.

Arattai is gaining local support and endorsement being Indian, and is gaining visibility and endorsements from some public figures and celebrities, which helps drive trust and adoption.

We must not forget that by adopting these apps and platforms, we will not only save significant amounts of foreign exchange, but also benefit from better security features and the guarantee that user data will be stored in their respective regions and not sold for profit. □□

## From Chaos to Growth: The Case for Indian Street Vendors

Street vendors are a familiar part of everyday life in Indian cities. For some, they represent problems such as crowded sidewalks, traffic jams and questions of cleanliness. But for millions of others, they are a source of affordable goods, quick meals and even livelihood. Street vendors aren't just a problem to be dealt with; they're also an opportunity to be recognised. What often looks like chaos could be turned into a source of jobs, income and city life with the right policies and a little respect.

### Street Vendors as a Problem

Street vending is often associated with poor sanitation. Many food vendors lack access to clean water, toilets or waste-disposal facilities. As a result, customers sometimes face hygiene issues. This problem is real, but it is not entirely the fault of vendors. It reflects the lack of infrastructure and planning in cities. Vendors usually gather in busy areas such as outside railway stations, metro exits, bus stands, or near schools because that is where customers are. Since they lack designated vending spaces, they often block sidewalks and roads. This creates congestion, and pedestrians, commuters, and car drivers complain. However, this is less about vendors being careless and more about cities failing to provide organised vending zones. Besides, street vendors have historically been ignored in government policies. While other sectors receive tax benefits, subsidies and formal recognition, street vendors remain “informal”, which leads to backwardness. Firstly, from the government's side, street vending is treated as disorderly rather than a source of livelihood. Secondly, from the vendors' side, they remain economically backward because they earn less, lack bargaining power, and cannot access loans or training.

### Street Vendors as an Opportunity

Despite the challenges, street vending provides employment to millions of



*Singapore and China show that with planning, vision and support, street vending can create jobs, reduce poverty, and even become a source of pride. India has taken some steps in that direction, but much more needs to be done. The crisis is real but so is the opportunity.*  
**Annu Kumari**



people who may not have other opportunities. For rural migrants, women and less educated workers, vending is often the easiest way to earn a living by selling food, clothes, or household items. This way, street vendors not only sustain themselves but also support their families.

Another strength of street vending is affordability. Vendors sell products at lower prices than supermarkets or malls which makes them essential for low- and middle-income families. A plate of food on the street may cost only one-fourth of what a restaurant charges. This affordability keeps consumption high and strengthens the urban economy. Street vending is also a pathway to entrepreneurship. Many shopkeepers, restaurant owners, and retailers began their journey as street vendors. It is a low-cost entry point into business, and with training and support, vendors can expand, formalise, and grow into larger enterprises.

### **A New Challenge for Street Vendors**

A new challenge for street vendors is Q-commerce, or quick commerce, where apps like Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy deliver goods within minutes. Customers increasingly prefer ordering online rather than walking to a street stall, which threatens vendors' income. At present, these platforms mainly operate through their own warehouses or "dark stores." While businesses can register as sellers, the requirements, such as GST registration, bank details and formal paperwork, make it difficult for most small, informal vendors to join. Products are kept in fulfilment centres and shipped from there rather than having vendors deliver straight from their stalls. Street vendors are

not included in this model, but it works well for larger, registered sellers. Small indications of change are present, though. For instance, supply chains such as Hyperpure have expressed interest in helping home bakers, vendors, and small food businesses. Still, quick commerce today remains largely warehouse-driven, and the inclusion of informal sellers is more a possibility for the future than a reality.

If a street vendor wants to participate, registration is technically possible, but it comes with conditions: GST numbers, bank accounts, product lists and likely sending stock to a warehouse. The idea of a vendor delivering directly from their stall through a quick-commerce app is not yet mainstream. For policymakers, this gap highlights an opportunity to push for "micro-seller" integration. Thus, Q-commerce does not have to replace street vendors. With thoughtful planning, digital platforms could actually expand their reach, giving them access to new customers instead of shrinking their share.

### **Learning from Global Models**

Singapore offers the best-known example of organised street vending. In Singapore, all vendors are licensed and relocated into hawker centres. Each centre has dozens or even hundreds of stalls, standard furniture and fittings, dedicated staff for cleaning and maintenance, and locations close to residential areas for easy access. This system ensures hygiene, order, and customer convenience, while also providing vendors with fair earnings, dignity, and legal recognition.

China also provides valuable lessons. There, the government reintroduced street vending as a way to create jobs and reduce poverty.

A pilot project in Chengdu created 100,000 jobs and encouraged entrepreneurship. The model later spread across the country. Big companies such as Alibaba even supported vendors by offering them goods at cheaper prices. This showed how public policy and private companies can work together to strengthen vending.

From both Singapore and China, India can learn valuable lessons. Instead of treating vendors as disorderly, the country should:

- Create designated vending zones near busy areas,
- Organise vendors into collective centres with proper hygiene facilities,
- Provide support from companies, technology, and training, and
- Integrate street vending into urban development plans

If India implements these steps, street vending could become a major source of economic benefits, including job creation, consumer welfare, urban order, government revenue, and entrepreneurship.

### **Can India Turn the Street Vendor Crisis into an Opportunity?**

Street vendors are a visible part of every Indian city. From morning tea stalls to late-night food carts, they are the everyday entrepreneurs who keep urban life affordable and lively. Yet, instead of being celebrated, they are often seen as a nuisance — blamed for traffic jams, dirtiness and disorder. For decades, governments have treated them as informal and illegal, subject to eviction and harassment.

But there is another way to look at this. Street vending, if managed well, can create jobs, boost entrepreneurship, and keep cities vibrant. The question is: can India

follow the path of countries like Singapore and China, and turn this so-called “crisis” into a real economic opportunity?

**Where India Stands**

India has taken some steps to support street vendors, but it is not yet at the level of Singapore or China in turning the sector into a true opportunity. The Street Vendors Act, 2014 and the PM SVANidhi loan scheme are good beginnings. The Act gives vendors legal recognition and calls for vending zones, while PM SVANidhi offers loans and encourages digital payments. These measures show that the government sees vending as part of the economy, not just a problem. However, implementation has been slow and uneven. Many cities have not completed proper surveys or created well-managed vending zones. Vendors still face harassment,

eviction, and lack of basic facilities like water, toilets, and waste disposal. Unlike Singapore’s hawker centres, India does not yet have clean, organized vending hubs. And unlike China, where vending policies created jobs on a massive scale and even got support from big companies like Alibaba, India has not fully linked its private sector with vendor development.

This is a missed opportunity. India has over 10 million street vendors. If each vendor supports a family of four, that means nearly 40 million lives depend on this sector. Recognizing and empowering them could reduce unemployment, increase affordable goods for the poor, and create a culture of entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. So, while India’s policies are a step in the right direction, the transformation is incomplete. To truly turn the “street

vendor crisis” into an opportunity, India would need stronger implementation, better urban planning, and active partnerships with technology and private companies. In short, the intent exists, but the results are still far behind the Singapore or China models.

**Conclusion**

Street vendors are not going away. They are too important to our cities and too central to the survival of millions of families. The choice is simple: continue to treat them as a problem, or recognize them as an opportunity.

Singapore and China show that with planning, vision and support, street vending can create jobs, reduce poverty, and even become a source of pride. India has taken some steps in that direction, but much more needs to be done. The crisis is real but so is the opportunity. □□

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# Reviving Soft Power through Chhath Puja

Puja without a pujari is Chhath Puja. Chhath Puja, without any specific idols, is a Puja. Chhath Puja, without a particular location, is a Puja. Chhath Puja, without any permission, is a Puja. The four-day Chhath festival starts with bathing and eating rice and salted vegetables of bottle gourd in the evening. The second day of the festival permits the devotee to eat sweetened kheer and roti once in the evening, and after this, nothing is to be consumed, not even a drop of water, till the end of the festival. The third day of the festival is devoted to the setting sun, and the last day of the festival is dedicated to worshipping the rising sun.

The puja's glorification rises as communities gather on the riverside or at any waterbody. All the ingredients and efforts are homemade and/or directly derived from nature, such as raw fruits. It is a festival that depends on no imported products; we can say it's one even a Chinese company couldn't encroach on to monetize their products.

Anyone, anywhere can perform Chhath Puja on their own by maintaining the sanctity required for its performance.

It's easier said than done. So, the family and the society come together to perform their dharma. Every individual, whether fasting for the festival or not, has a self-imposed duty to maintain the sanctity of the festival. An individual can't maintain the sanctity or make other operational preparations on their own. It's tough to do alone.

The prowess of society, i.e., Samaj, is reflected in cleanliness. Everyone is responsible for consistently cleaning not only their house and campus, but also the roads and lanes in their neighbourhood. The cleanliness is better than that of the freshly cleaned work done by the local municipal bodies on any other day. The cleanliness during Chhath Puja by the Samaj is much better than that of government agencies. Statutory laws do not have a role in this cleanliness. All the cleanli-



*Chhath Puja reflects the bonding between humans and nature; it reflects concern for climate; it is an iconic ambassador of sustainability; it bridges the inequality gap;...*

**Alok Singh**



***Our government is working to have the Chath Puja recognized as cultural heritage by the United Nations. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) can also be understood as a gatekeeper of soft power.***

ness efforts are voluntary and spontaneous and not imposed out of fear of monetary penalties or concern about being ostracized in the community. This is because of our soft power. Chhath Puja is a reflection of our soft power.

Soft power is more important than hard power. We got our Ram Mandir in Ayodhya after a struggle lasting almost 500 years. It was soft power that kept enlightening the belief that we will have the Ram Mandir again someday. The worship continued, the devotee never stopped visiting; the only difference is that today we are worshipping again in the sanctum sanctorum. There were times when worshipping was performed from afar, how far doesn't matter, whether it's a kilometre or more or less. But there was always someone who kept the light of soft power burning. And that someone was not the ruler, not the politicians, not the judiciary, that someone was the local general public and the holy sadhus and sanyasis. A consistent struggle and hope for a mandir for five hundred years, that's the supremacy of soft power. Our belief is our soft power. Our culture is our soft power. Soft power shapes what we think, what we eat, what we read, and what we preach, and preaching is not limited to religious matters. Soft power is our music, our

cinema, our paintings, our architectural designs, our ancient structures, and much more.

Unfortunately, the soft power of our country needs to be safeguarded, as we are the victims of attacks that allow others to demean and degrade it. The Chinese, the Japanese, and others could preserve their soft power while we failed. Much of the blame for the degradation of our soft power lies with Macaulay's education system. This happened as we participate in the English education system, and today we are more butchered in our soft power in foreign universities.

Today, the Americans earn a lot of foreign exchange from us by selling their degrees. The Western world is struggling with demographic disadvantage; American universities do not have enough domestic students, so they are allowing international students to enrol. Last year, more than 365,000 Bharatiya students took admission in American universities. And our students in American universities are easy prey to the Western soft power.

The American accounting firm Grant Thornton, operating in Bharat, has rebranded as Grant Thornton Bharat. Earlier, it was known as Grant Thornton India. During the 2023 G20 summit, the host country printed the invitation as 'Bharat' instead of 'India'. This

was a demonstration of our soft power. And it was well understood by an American company that, if it saw an opportunity to get more business than its peers, it had to rebrand itself from Grant Thornton India to Grant Thornton Bharat. The American companies are responding one step ahead and take soft power very seriously.

The weakened soft power of our students in foreign university campuses is a concern. Indologists Sri. Rajiv Malhotra has flagged this attitude and behaviour for decades. He is located at Princeton. He earlier worked as a scientist and businessperson, recognized the dangers, and devoted his life to firewalling Bharatiya soft power across history, literature, philosophy, language, culture, and more. Soft power has many dimensions, including music, cinema, and paintings and the arts. We realized very late that soft power needs the attention of our policymakers.

Our government is working to have the Chath Puja recognized as cultural heritage by the United Nations. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) can also be understood as a gatekeeper of soft power.

Chhath Puja reflects the bonding between humans and nature; it reflects concern for climate; it is an iconic ambassador of sustainability; it bridges the inequality gap; it demonstrates community ownership; it acknowledges the sun god as the universal source of energy; it also kindles the idea of the existence of life on many other galaxies, and many more elaborations can be universalized. □□

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

# US Tariff : Sam–Dam–Dand–Bhed

Chanakya seems to have inspired US President Donald Trump by Arthshastra Niti of Sam, Dam, Dand, Bhed while taking on the world by his tariff policy having several dimensions of imposing retaliatory taxes on imports, sanctions targeting his main rivals and emerging economies, banning individuals and companies of several countries competing with the US corporates. In this article, an effort has been made to discuss the US tariff fallout in the US economy and the briefly, recent crude oil import hurdles for Bharat.

Chanakya’s “Saam, Daam, Dand, Bhed” is an ancient Bharatiya strategic concept for achieving goals, outlining four approaches: Saam (conciliation/ negotiation), Daam (bribery/incentives), Dand (punishment/force), and Bhed (creating division). These are used in sequence, starting with the most peaceful and escalating to the most forceful means to achieve a desired outcome.

US discriminatory tariff policy has already created worldwide disorder resulting in global trade targeting mainly China, Russia and Bharat. Sometimes, European Union seems toeing US diktats. Some claim that it has helped US economy and the steering MAGA while many economists have pointed to over 50 days shutdown in the US as a result of faltering on tariff policy and domestic upheaval within US evidenced by loss of Governor posts in three states and loss of New York to Zohran Mamdani as Mayor, strong opponent of Donald Trump. What the world perceived Donald Trump’s decisions in putting on hold the imposition of tariffs for certain time, was guided by the compelling economic conditions and immediate fall out on the US trade. Trump’s actions are not berserk as he is sometimes criticised, but are well calculated with far-fetched outcomes. Though, it is all



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**Vinod Johri**



about his calculations and strategies, but it seems absolutely clear that the US is facing severe disengagement and rebalancing the global trade. His indulgence in West Asia has also imbalanced the security concerns for Bharat which is far beyond the tariff fallout.

US tariff is facing legal battle at home before the Supreme Court. U.S. investors returning from Labor Day break were hit with fresh uncertainty in trade policy after a federal appeals court ruled most of President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs illegal.

Act of 1930, which allows the President to impose tariffs of up to 50% for five months against imports from countries that are found to discriminate against U.S. commerce.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday the administration has a backup plan if the Supreme Court does not uphold Trump's use of emergency powers to impose tariffs. Trump's steep levies on trading partners triggered market volatility in early April, 2025, but increasing clarity on tariff levels and hopes of interest rate

its way through the Supreme Court now? Lots of questions, not a lot of answers. "On a more intermediate term basis, we think corporate uncertainty around tariffs will remain elevated, though lower than late spring levels," RBC's Head of U.S. Equity Strategy Lori Calvasina said.

Raymond James Washington Policy Analyst Ed Mill said there are multiple other tariff authorities available to the Trump administration, supporting the view that "the process might change, but the outcome on tariffs will largely stay the same." However, several investors fear that if the current ruling is upheld, the U.S. may have to issue tariff refunds to its trading partners - a move that could deepen fiscal concerns. "The big question will be whether the courts deem that all tariffs collected under emergency powers must be refunded, which at this point could be a (nearly) \$200 billion decision," strategists at Glenmede said in a note.

The US economy shrank at the start of the year, restrained by weaker consumer spending and an even bigger impact from trade than initially reported. Gross domestic product decreased at a 0.2 per cent annualized pace in the first quarter, the second estimate from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. That compared with an initially reported 0.3 per cent decline. The economy's primary growth engine — consumer spending — advanced 1.2 per cent, down from an initial estimate of 1.8 per cent and the weakest pace in almost two years. Meantime, net exports subtracted nearly 5 percentage points from the GDP calculation, slightly more than the first projection and the largest on record. In separate data, con-

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The court allowed the tariffs to remain in place through October 14, 2025 to give the Trump administration a chance to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. But the verdict did not affect tariffs slapped on steel and aluminum. Several market participants said they were in a wait-and-watch mode for now, as the case is expected to head to the Supreme Court, but the brewing uncertainty is adding to markets' list of worries, including concerns around the Federal Reserve's independence and increasing risks of U.S. stagflation. One of the tariff authorities the administration can use, he added, could be Section 338 of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff

cuts have since helped stocks rebound toward record highs.

While the investors and corporates are worried in the United States, there are mixed results in the short-term. Wall Street's main indexes fell about 1% on Tuesday, while longer-dated U.S. Treasury yields jumped, amid a global bonds selloff on fiscal worries. "Whether it's the level (of the tariffs) or the timing or now questions about their validity, we've just got to let it play out," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer at Plante Moran Financial Advisors about the latest court ruling. What it will mean in the near term remains to be seen. How will US trade partners react to that? How quickly will this make

tinuing jobless claims, a proxy for the number of people receiving unemployment benefits, rose to the highest level since November 2021. Initial claims also increased, according to Labor Department figures released Thursday.

Forecasters largely expect GDP to rebound in the second quarter as higher duties discourage imports, and the goods already brought in will accumulate in larger inventories that add to growth. Beyond that, economists and policymakers will be paying close attention to how Trump's policies — including trade, but also immigration and taxation — will impact consumer and business spending going forward. While recent reports have pointed toward tamer inflation, Fed officials are still wary of price pressures rearing back up again, and, combined with heightened uncertainty, are keeping interest rates on hold for now.

Initially, economic growth was dragged down at the start of the year by a surge in imports as US businesses tried to get ahead of President Donald Trump's tariffs. More moderate consumer spending, as well as a decline in federal government spending, also weighed on the figure. Since then, the White House has walked back or delayed some of the more punitive levies, and most of the tariffs have been blocked by a US trade court. While the pauses have helped calm Americans' concerns about the economy and prompted many economists to scrap their recession calls, tariff rates are still substantially higher than before Trump took office.

Donald Trump has refused trade talks with Bharat until tariff issues are settled. This follows the

US raising tariffs on Bharatiya imports to 50%. The US trade negotiators are still expected to visit New Delhi later this month for trade agreement talks. A Bharatiya official confirmed that the visit is still on schedule. US President Donald Trump has ruled out the possibility of trade negotiations with Bharat until the issue of tariffs is resolved. "No, not until we get it resolved," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on in first week of August, 2025, replying to a question on whether he expects increased trade negotiations with

consumption and refining industry must be appreciated despite the severe sanctioning action by the US. Bharat's resilience in the global trade is exemplary. October crude oil imports from US have sustained in November 2025. Flows expected at 4,50,000–5,00,000 b/d in November, 2025 compared with a year-to-date average of around 3,00,000 b/d, say experts as New Delhi balances energy economics and geopolitical strategy. Our November 2025 crude oil imports from the US, which dislodged the UAE as fourth largest crude oil sup-

***Bharat's efforts in maintaining crude supplies for domestic consumption and refining industry must be appreciated despite the severe sanctioning action by the US. Bharat's resilience in the global trade is exemplary. October crude oil imports from US have sustained in November 2025.***

Bharat after raising the tariffs on the country to 50%. His statement comes ahead of the scheduled visit of US trade negotiators to New Delhi later this month for the sixth round of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) talks. "There is no fresh communication from the US. The visit stands as of now," said a Bharatiya official. Though, Trump may visit Bharat in early 2026, yet nothing seems to have moved which may relax the tariff on Bharat and slashing of sanctions which may ease purchase of crude oil from Russia. In the meantime, buying of crude oil from the US has picked up substantially.

Bharat's efforts in maintaining crude supplies for domestic

plier in October, are expected to remain at last month's level as the world's third largest energy consumer balances market economics and trade considerations. According to the global real time data and analytics provider Kpler, Bharat imported a record 5,68,000 barrels per day (b/d) from the US in October 2025 — the highest since March 2021.

In the next article, an effort will be made to further elaborate the global impacts of US tariffs as the reports and data from several sources and countries keep coming up and the geopolitical consequences are manifested.

Sources: Reports, news and editorials in the Economic Times, Times of India, The BusinessLine, The Financial Express, The Pioneer, The Business Standard, Renter and The Guardian.

# US sanctions on Russian oil are not about Ukraine, but its own shale industry

On October 22, Washington cut off one of the world's biggest oil flows by sanctioning Rosneft and Lukoil, which produce 57 per cent of Russia's crude. Global oil prices reacted instantly. Within a week of the announcement, crude rose 7.5 per cent — from \$61 to \$65.6 a barrel — and may climb further as supplies tighten. Officially framed as a step toward peace in Ukraine, the US action was really about rescuing its struggling shale industry, regardless of the hit to global oil supplies.

Unlike UN sanctions that target specific entities, US sanctions are far broader. They punish not only the sanctioned firms but also anyone dealing with them. Non-compliance can land countries or companies on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List, enforced by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), and cut them off from SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) — the global network that enables cross-border payments. Losing access can freeze a nation's trade overnight. The same risks extend to insurance, shipping, and technology systems, forcing refineries, shipping lines, and software vendors to quickly fall in line. Once Washington blacklists a company, few dare to engage with it.

India learned this the hard way in July 2025, when Microsoft's suspension of services to the Gujarat-based Nayara Energy — a refinery with Russian shareholding — froze digital operations for weeks. The episode showed how quickly sanctions can leap from oil barrels to software systems and shut all operations. It also proved that America doesn't need warships to choke an economy — it can do so through software, servers and payment codes.

Almost every major buyer, except China, is backing away from Russian oil. The US says the goal of sanctions is to starve Moscow of money and bring



*The uncomfortable truth is that war has become good business for US defence contracts; their logistics and energy exports are all booming.*

**Ajay Srivastava**



peace to Ukraine. But if peace were truly the aim, Washington could achieve it without blocking a single barrel of Russian oil. It would only need to stop the flow of weapons and Starlink internet support sustaining Kyiv's war effort. American arms sales to Ukraine have already topped \$150 billion since the start of the war.

The uncomfortable truth is that war has become good business for US defence contracts; their logistics and energy exports are all booming. As economist Jeffrey Sachs has noted, the roots of the Russia-Ukraine conflict lie not in 2022 but in years of NATO's eastward expansion — a policy driven mainly by Washington and long opposed by Moscow. The sanctions are less about moral principle and more about power and price.

Strip away the rhetoric and Washington's real goal comes into focus — keeping global oil prices high enough to save America's fragile shale oil industry. Most US crude comes from light, sweet shale oil, produced through fracking — blasting rock with high-pressure water, sand, and chemicals — and horizontal drilling, rather than traditional wells. Unlike traditional wells, shale oil fields decline fast, losing up to 70 per cent of output in the first year. They need prices above \$55 a barrel to survive.

The maths is simple. Russian Urals crude sells for about \$55 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) hovers near \$60. Washington has removed a significant share of global output by targeting Rosneft and Lukoil, which pump roughly 60 per cent of Russia's oil. Sanctioning Russian firms that supply a tenth of the world's crude tightens global supply and lifts prices

by \$15–\$20 a barrel — just enough to keep US shale profitable.

So the strategy is straightforward: Make Russian oil untouchable, tighten supply, and let scarcity prop up prices. But there's a significant weakness in this plan. America wants the world to buy its oil and petroleum products instead of Russia's — yet it doesn't have enough to sell.

In 2024, the US exported \$298 billion in petroleum and imported \$246 billion, but the numbers hide a \$60 billion crude oil deficit. The US still imports far more crude oil — about \$174 billion worth — than it exports, around \$115 billion. The mismatch can't be wished away.

There's another problem. The US mainly produces light, sweet shale oil, while many refineries — at home and abroad — are configured for heavier grades. America thus exports its lighter crude to Europe and Asia even as it imports heavier feedstock to keep domestic refineries running.

And with no spare refining capacity, America can't easily turn more of its oil into finished products. Even if every rig in Texas worked overtime, America couldn't replace the 7 million barrels per day of Russian oil being pushed off world markets. The lack of refining and production capacity hasn't stopped Washington from selling a dream. The US has secured commitments from allies to replace Russian oil with American supply and LNG under the threat of high tariffs.

The EU has pledged \$750 billion in US oil, gas, and nuclear imports over three years. Japan will buy about \$7 billion in LNG annually. The UK has locked in a 10-year LNG deal starting in 2028.

***Most Indian refiners have begun cutting Russian crude purchases, fearing US sanctions. India could resist US tariffs, but sanctions are harder to ignore for two reasons. ...***

Vietnam and Thailand have contracts through 2040.

All these promises exceed America's actual export capacity. Inventories are at decade lows, OPEC+ is capping output, and Red Sea disruptions add weeks to shipping times. The irony is apparent — in trying to revive its shale oil industry by punishing Moscow, Washington may end up enriching other producers, from Saudi Arabia to Venezuela, and plunging the world into a US-made energy crisis.

Most Indian refiners have begun cutting Russian crude purchases, fearing US sanctions. India could resist US tariffs, but sanctions are harder to ignore for two reasons. First, its refineries and banks now rely on American software, leaving it vulnerable to pressure — as the Nayara Energy case showed — unlike the 1990s when open-source systems like Linux were common. Second, in 1985 India produced 85 per cent of the oil it consumed; today it imports 85 per cent, after years of neglecting exploration. The path forward lies in reviving domestic oil exploration and building sovereign digital infrastructure independent of US control. □□

The writer is founder, Global Trade Research Initiative  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/us-sanctions-on-russian-oil-are-not-about-ukraine-but-its-own-shale-industry-10346551/>

# Congress (Indira), wearing the mask of a Pre Independence Indian National Congress



*Are the claims of today's (Indira) Congress that they are the same Congress which led the freedom struggle really valid? When we remove the veil that hides the history of today's (Indira) Congress, the truth comes to light, and the difference between the old Indian National Congress and today's Indira Congress becomes crystal clear.*  
**Mahadevyya Karadalli**

## Preface

Having abandoned Dharma (righteousness) and ethics, the present-day Congress (Indira Congress) shamelessly claims to be the legal heir of the Congress that once fought for India's freedom. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, they keep chanting 24x7 the name "Congress". Today's (Indira) Congress leaders boast that they are the inheritors of the Congress that led the freedom struggle. One can recall the famous dasaru (saint-poet) song Enta Lokavayya, noduvantillavayya, jan-ara manasugalu badala guttivelyya, dharma neeti bitdu durâse hididavayya, satya-sullu gottâgada kâlavayya, enta lokavayya? ("Oh, what a world this has become! People's hearts have changed, righteousness is gone, greed has taken over, truth and falsehood are indistinguishable... what a world, indeed!") When we listen to the words of present-day Congress leaders. The song becomes a live example. So, what is the truth? Are the claims of today's (Indira) Congress that they are the same Congress which led the freedom struggle really valid? When we remove the veil that hides the history of today's (Indira) Congress, the truth comes to light, and the difference between the old Indian National Congress and today's Indira Congress becomes crystal clear.

*History of the Indian National Congress under Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership:*

The Indian National Congress was founded on December 28, 1885, in the hall of Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay (Mumbai) by a retired British civil servant A.O. Hume. The purpose was to create a national platform where Indian leaders could communicate with the British government and resolve grievances peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.



The Britishers through this “Congress,” created a safety valve to release the growing pressure of nationalist sentiment. And to prevent an explosion of revolution. The first president of the Congress was Womesh Chander Bannerjee.

However, within a short time, the Congress transformed from a mere political forum into a national movement of patriots determined to end British rule and win India’s independence. Leaders like C.R. Das, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, and Syama Prasad Mukherjee took leadership and steered the Congress toward the goal of freedom.

Over time, the Congress underwent several splits and transformations (A, B, C, D Congress groups), ultimately merging into history as the original Congress that fought for India’s independence. What exists today, however, is a Congress of self-seeking politician’s dynastic rulers and corruption-fed opportunists the so-called Indira Congress, sustained by the Nehru family’s political monopoly.

*The Present Congress is Indira Congress:*

The present-day Congressmen both senior and junior ministers and MLAs shamelessly claim to be descendants of the great freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India’s independence. The Leaders of Congress both at Central and State are from Original Congress. For example, Central Leaders with surname as Gandhi are not from Gandhi family and Chief Minister of Karnataka are from Janata Dal (S). While branding true patriots and nationalist organizations as “anti-national,” they

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conveniently ignore the truth. To understand this hypocrisy, one must first revisit the history of the Congress splits and the corruption and dynastic politics that emerged, especially during the Indira Congress era which inherited the British policy of “divide and rule.” Reminding present-day Congress leaders of this history has become a national necessity.

**First Split – 1907:** Two decades Congress journey was afflicted by the split as child suffers from a “childhood disease.” The Partition of Bengal (1905) ignited strong protests, leading to the rise of two ideological factions within the Congress Moderates and Revolutionaries. The Moderates, led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Ferozeshah Mehta, believed in gradual reform and peaceful negotiation. The Revolutionaries led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal, demanded direct and revolutionary action for freedom. The growing rift culminated in the Surat Session of 1907, where the Congress formally split into two groups. However, reconciliation was achieved later at the Lucknow Pact of 1916

**Second Split – 1939:** When Subhas Chandra Bose was re-elect-

ed as Congress President in 1939, Mahatma Gandhi’s faction opposed his policies and methods. Gandhi insisted on continuing the non-violent approach, while Bose believed in revolutionary struggle to achieve independence. As a result, Bose resigned from the Congress presidency and in 1939 founded the Forward Bloc.

**Post-Independence Changes (1947–1960).** After India attained independence, selfish motives for power began to divide and distance true patriots. As a result, the Indian National Congress, once led by nationalist and patriotic leaders, began to lose its original identity. Many stalwarts such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, C. Rajagopalachari, and Syama Prasad Mukherjee distanced themselves from Nehru’s leadership some even formed their own political parties.

**According to references found in B.R. Nanda’s Nehru: A Political Biography (1962), Paul R. Brass’s Factional Politics in an Indian State: The Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh (1965) and Shashi Tharoor’s Nehru: The Invention of India\* (2003),** it is mentioned that Nehru, though an unquestioned leader, often instructed chief ministers in Uttar Pradesh to replace,

support, or ensure the victory of certain Congress candidates. Similarly, Dr. S. Gopal's Jawaharlal Nehru: A Biography, Vol. 2 (Oxford University Press) records that Nehru had personally issued instructions that "certain candidates must not lose" during assembly elections.

Thus, the seeds of power centralization were sown during Nehru's era. Like the "matriarchal authority" of a household, this "high-command culture" spread not only within the Congress but also infected other political parties. Even today, it is irony that All India President of the Congress Party often refers publicly that obey the High Command."

### 1969 – The Third Split and the Second Major Post-Independence Division

When Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister, senior leaders such as K. Kamaraj, Morarji Desai, and S. Nijalingappa opposed her policies. Disagreements over issues such as the nationalization policy, support for V.V. Giri in the Presidential election, and Indira's growing authoritarian tendencies caused the Congress to split into two factions: Congress (Organisation) and Congress (Indira). With the split, the historical Congress that once led India's freedom struggle effectively became obsolete. The Congress became the private property of the Indira Gandhi family.

After the Emergency (1975–77), massive public resentment led to the rise of the Janata Party government. Yet dissatisfaction with Indira's rule continued to grow.

In 1978 under Devaraj Urs's leadership Sharad Pawar split from the Congress but later rejoined it.

In 1999, over the issue of

***Today, Indira Gandhi's children, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren shamelessly exploit the "Gandhi" name for political benefit. The dynastic politics of the (Indira) Congress ensures that only members of Gandhi family either directly or indirectly lead control the party's govt.***

Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin Sharad Pawar, P.A. Sangma, and Tariq Anwar broke away and formed the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

### 2000–2025: Continued Decline

Within the Congress, lack of internal democracy led to the rise of the G-23 group and protests by senior leaders. Factional divisions emerged in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra in 2023, the Congress joined hands with regional parties to form the INDI Alliance (INDIA bloc).

The Indian National Congress, once a platform for freedom fighters before Independence, has now completely deviated from its original form. Aware that public memory is short, Today's Congress leaders loyal to the Indira family have gradually dropped the "Indira" prefix and simply call themselves as "Congress." Under Indira Gandhi's leadership, the party completely severed its roots from the freedom movement. Although Indira Gandhi's family had no blood relation to Mahatma Gandhi, she retained the "Gandhi" surname

(through marriage and public blessing) to capitalize on the Nehru-Gandhi connection for political gain. Using this symbolic association, the Nehru-Gandhi family consolidated its power. The Prime Minister became more powerful than the party president, and over time, the family itself became synonymous with party leadership.

Today, Indira Gandhi's children, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren shamelessly exploit the "Gandhi" name for political benefit. The dynastic politics of the (Indira) Congress ensures that only members of Gandhi family either directly or indirectly lead control the party's government. Those who serve under them often act as mere puppets in positions such as Prime Minister or Chief Minister.

With this back ground It is ironic that today's leaders, ministers, and members of this dynastic (Indira) Congress claim to be part of the same Congress that fought for India's freedom. Impact of Repeated Congress Splits The successive splits within the Indian National Congress were not merely party divisions. Since Congress was in power, during most of these periods, each split had a significant impact on India's political and administrative systems

An examination of these events shows that the real causes were not ideological differences but self-interest, personal loyalty, and lust for power.

It also reveals a hard truth that Indian democracy has prioritized individual and family politics over ideology and principles. Sadly, this trend persists even today across most political parties, including opposition ones.

(to be continued ... )

## Whither India's FTAs?

With President Donald Trump indicating that the US is “pretty close” to reaching a trade deal with India and the India-European Union (EU) trade agreement seemingly in sight, India could soon be implementing 12 bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs). This marks a complete turnaround in India's trade policies, from an FTA-sceptic before negotiations of the first of its major agreements with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members were initiated in 2003, to one that is among the most active in signing bilateral trade deals.

India is now either implementing an FTA with each of the G7 countries or is engaged in negotiations to conclude one. It has FTA engagements with every East Asian country, barring China, and is engaged in at least a preferential trade agreement with countries in every region, except in Africa.

The recent series of FTAs, either being implemented or nearing completion, has been significant. Since 2022, agreements have been signed with the UAE, the UK, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and Mauritius, and an early harvest deal was completed with Australia, with the expectation that a comprehensive deal would be signed in the near future.

While negotiations are ongoing with Canada, Israel, and New Zealand, those with the two major economies, the US, and the EU have attracted most attention. India's FTAs, including the ones being implemented or under negotiations, accounted for nearly 57% of its total trade in 2024-25, and almost 71% of exports.

Exports to the UK, the EU, the US, and Australia have grown impressively, driven by two industries, namely mobile phones and petroleum products; pharmaceuticals were also instrumental in increasing exports to the US. Mobile phone exports to the US grew spectacularly over the past five years.



*Trade surpluses with US, EU could be dented; export prospects in East Asia a silver lining.*

**Biswajit Dhar**



***Secondly, trade surpluses with the US and the EU, in particular, could be dented to a significant extent as India prepares to open its market at the end of the ongoing FTA negotiations. Of course, this could change if India can leverage the market openings offered by its partner countries well enough to maintain its exports, something it could not do with its FTA partners in East Asia.***

The share of this product in India's exports to the US increased from less than 5% in 2019-20 to over 18% in 2024-25. As much as 42% of India's mobile phone exports went to the US last fiscal, increasing further to 67% during April-August of 2025-26.

Petroleum product exports to the EU, the UK, and the US have increased since India upped its reliance on cheap Russian crude, showing that the Western alliance continued to "indirectly" import Russian oil. The EU, which accounted for 13% of India's petroleum product exports in 2021-22, increased its share to almost 24% in 2024-25.

The US was India's third-largest market for petroleum products in 2022-23, pulling back its imports only in 2024-25.

While exports to the UK, the EU, and the US remained quite buoyant, imports from these countries were not quite so, resulting in a trade surplus with each of these partners.

The surplus with the UK trebled since the end of the previous decade, while the surplus increased by almost 2.5 times with the US. With the EU, India was able to turn a small deficit into a surplus that grew to \$15 billion in 2024-25. However, FTAs with the ASEAN members, South Korea, and Ja-

pan—with whom India finalised its first three major FTAs—did not produce the expected benefits, namely helping India to substantially expand its presence in these markets.

In fact, exports to these countries remained sluggish during the decade and a half of the implementation of the three FTAs, while imports increased consistently. Thus, India's trade deficit with these countries increased from \$15 billion in 2010-11, or less than 13% of the overall deficit, to \$73 billion, or 26% of the overall deficit.

Not surprisingly, the present government had prioritised a review of these FTAs to identify the reasons for the widening of India's trade deficit. Reviews of the agreements with ASEAN and Korea are ongoing.

What does the future portend for India's FTAs with major trade partners, especially from its market access perspective? India's exports to the UK, the EU, and the US must respond to two sets of challenges if it has to maintain even moderate levels of trade surpluses with these partners.

First, President Trump's policies could be disruptive, particularly for mobile phone and petroleum exports. In response to Trump's pressure on American companies to

invest domestically, Apple has promised investments of \$600 billion over four years so "that iPhones sold in the United States of America are also made in America".

Apple's move to establish manufacturing facilities in the US to serve its domestic market could jeopardise a sizeable share of India's mobile exports. India's exports of petroleum products could also be affected if India yields to President Trump's pressure to stop importing crude oil from Russia.

Secondly, trade surpluses with the US and the EU, in particular, could be dented to a significant extent as India prepares to open its market at the end of the ongoing FTA negotiations. Of course, this could change if India can leverage the market openings offered by its partner countries well enough to maintain its exports, something it could not do with its FTA partners in East Asia.

The silver lining is that there are indications that exports to India's FTA partner countries in East Asia could improve significantly. Automobile exports to Japan increased almost three-fold in 2024-25 as compared to the previous year, as Japanese companies are using India as a production base for several vehicles, which are exported to the Asian nation.

Moreover, each of these countries has seen progressively higher levels of mobile phone exports in recent years, which is a positive augury. India must leverage these developments while reviewing the FTAs with its East Asian partners to push for substantially improved market access in these countries.

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<https://www.financialpress.com/opinion/whither-india-ftas/4047716/>

## Protecting India's farms from cheap imports

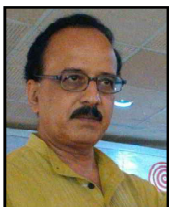
At a time when cereal crops - wheat and paddy - are still holding steady, almost all other major crops have lost lustre. The prices of pulses, oilseeds (including soybean), cotton and maize are in sharp decline. The alarm bells have never sounded so loudly.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal rightly put up a brave front at the Berlin Global Dialogue recently. He said that India doesn't sign deals with "guns to the head." These courageous words, coming at a difficult time internationally, take me back to the days when a visibly irate Agriculture Minister, Jagjivan Ram, had reportedly walked out in a huff from a meeting at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters in Rome.

If I can paraphrase correctly what Dr MS Swaminathan, the then Agriculture Secretary, had shared with me: "Hell with you and your intent of pushing agricultural exports to us," Ram had told a senior US official, adding: "India will never import food from America."

This was Swaminathan's reply when I asked him who he thought was the best Agriculture Minister since he had the privilege of working with almost all of them in various capacities since Independence. Jagjivan Ram was the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation from 1974 to 1977.

Let us, therefore, remember that the US had always wanted to get a foothold into the vast Indian agricultural market. No wonder, securing market access for agricultural commodities into India was essentially a major US foreign policy desire. It didn't happen.



*Nothing is more important than ensuring freedom from hunger, no matter what it costs.*

**Devinder Sharma**



More recently, while Trump's authoritative and whimsical tossing of tariffs is driving countries to adjust to the New World Order, India has so far put up a valiant fight in the ongoing US-India trade negotiations to protect its agriculture, dairy and fisheries turf. But strong domestic lobbies, which have always stood with multinational interests, are once again getting restive, and that too in the name of atmanirbharta.

The domestic realities cannot be wished away in what is being projected as a win-win 'strategic' trade deal with the US when it comes to opening up for cotton, soybean, maize, dairy, and apples and other stone fruits.

The next target would obviously be rice, followed by wheat, where the real US interest lies. While the Niti Aayog has already withdrawn a working paper that sought the entry of the contentious genetically modified (GM) apples, maize and soybean, there are other mainline economists, who find it appropriate to open the market for milk and milk products in line with the zero-duty imports of cotton.

Not realising that in the US there are about 8,000 cotton growers and with an average farm size of 600 hectares, they still get an annual subsidy of over \$1,00,000. This lowers the international prices as a result of which farmers in developing countries suffer.

On the other hand, in India there are 98 lakh cotton growers, with an average landholding size of 1 to 3 acres. Cheaper, subsidised imports throttle their already meagre livelihoods. If the domestic cotton industry had instead stood with our farmers that would have truly

been a 'win-win' situation. By removing import tariffs on cotton to zero, India has willingly thrown its farmers to face the wolves.

When it comes to pulses, the supply-demand equation fails to work. In the past five years, the area under pulses has significantly declined from 30.7 million hectares to 27.6 million hectares.

Yet, given the high demand, the farm gate prices haven't shot up. In fact, the prevailing prices are about 30 per cent lower than the minimum support price (MSP) announced. That is because the shortfall in production has been met by cheaper imports; in reality, it is double the quantity that is required, duty-free for many legumes. In 2024-25 alone, 7.6 million tonnes of pulses were imported. News reports say that in the past five years, against the expenditure of Rs 12,153 crore on the import of pulses in 2020-21, the value of imports has already crossed Rs 47,000 crore in 2024-25.

Justifying the import of GM soy in the name of attaining self-sufficiency in edible oils is again a misdirected attempt. Although the soy belts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are crying for an assured price, with numerous tractor protests at the panchayat level being held, the prevailing market price for soybean hovers between Rs 3,500 and Rs 4,000 per quintal against the declared MSP of Rs 5,328.

While area and productivity are on the decline for want of an assured price (and also climate vulnerability), the news of possible GM soybean import is being met with stiff resistance.

A recent Rajasthan High Court order stopping the import and sale

of GM foods till the Centre frames regulations will pose another hurdle.

This reminds me of the time when the US had earlier exerted pressure to open up for GM soybean imports. To a campaign led by New Delhi-based Forum for Biotechnology and Food Security, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had finally called for splitting the soybeans on arrival at the Indian ports. This was resisted by the US suppliers (backed by senior USDA officials), but India refused to buckle bypassing the domestic GM regulatory mechanism.

The same approach needs to be followed now for GM soy imports, if at all imports become inevitable.

Similarly, in the case of maize, domestic prices have already nosedived amid media reports that import duties may be reduced from the existing 50 per cent to 15-16 per cent. Against the MSP of Rs 2,400 per quintal, market prices have dipped to as low as Rs 1,100 to Rs 1,200 per quintal at some places.

In the case of milk also, India should never experiment with 'strategic trade advantages' because in the US also, 93 per cent of the small dairy farms have pulled down their shutters in the past 15 years. In France, a strong consumer movement has sprung up to pay a relatively higher price for milk to save the economic viability of dairy farms.

India cannot be allowed to slip back to the days when food would come from the ships to feed the nation. Nothing is more important than ensuring freedom from hunger, no matter what it costs. □□

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/premium/protecting-indias-farms-from-cheap-imports/>

## Swadeshi Sankalp Rath Yatra



The Swadeshi Sankalp Rath Yatra received a grand and dignified welcome on Saturday as it arrived at Sitabuldi Main Road, where the Sitabuldi Merchants Association (SMA) showcased exemplary organisation and discipline - reaffirming its status as one of Nagpur's most active and influential trade bodies. Chief Guest Praveen Khandelwal, New Delhi MP and CAIT Rashtriya Mahamantri, along with CAIT National President CA B. C. Bharatiya and Satish Kumar, appealed to citizens to embrace the Swadeshi movement wholeheartedly. They urged traders and consumers alike to prefer Swadeshi goods, avoid foreign products, and inspire others to take the same pledge.

The Yatra began from Gaorakshan, Dhantoli under the leadership of CA B.C. Bharatiya and reached Sitabuldi around noon. SMA office-bearers warmly received the procession at the Heritage Gate, where dignitaries highlighted the movement's role in strengthening India's self-reliance and economic independence.

Distinguished leaders present on the dais included: Praveen Khandelwal; CA B.C. Bharatiya; Satish Kumar, Rashtriya Sah-Sanyojak, Swadeshi Jagran Manch; Vipul Tyagi, CAIT Rashtriya Mantri; Rajeev Khandelwal, CAIT Mahamantri (MP); Ajay Patki, Rashtriya Sah-Sanyojak, Swadeshi Jagran Manch; Rajkumar Gupta, CAIT President (Nagpur); CA Girish Mundada, President, BJP Vyapari Aghadi (Nagpur); Ashwin Mehadia, Past President, NVCC; Kisan Agrawal, President, SMA; and Vinod Gupta, CAIT Secretary (Nagpur).

Addressing the gathering, Ajani asserted that the Sitabuldi Merchants Association has evolved into a reliable and versatile organisation - a vital part of NVCC, working in close coordination with Nagpur NCCL and Vidarbha trade bodies. He affirmed SMA's readiness to collaborate with state-level organisations like CAMIT and national bodies for initiatives such as the Swadeshi movement.

He added that through active engagement with

CAIT at the national level, SMA has extended its influence beyond regional boundaries, gaining recognition on national forums. Emphasising SMA's neutrality and independent functioning, he said the Association remains committed to collective growth, unity in trade, and ensuring that the voices of local traders reach top policymakers without dilution.

The event drew praise for SMA's ability to bring together prominent leaders from city, regional, state and national trade ecosystems on one platform - a testament to its growing stature. The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Hussain N. Ajani on behalf of SMA. The programme not only amplified the call for Swadeshi and economic self-reliance but also underscored SMA's rising influence as a key organisation with deep connect across India's commerce, policy and leadership networks.

<https://www.nagpurtoday.in/cait-national-trade-leaders-applaud-sitabuldi-merchants-associations-remarkable-leadership/>  
11171429

## Instilling the Values of Swadeshi in Children Is Essential: Sh. Patel

Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel stated, "Ham din chaar rahein na rahein, Maa Bhaarti Tera Vaibhav Amar Rahe." It is with this sentiment and spirit that we are striving for public welfare and national development. He emphasised that for a self-reliant India, everyone's trust, cooperation & efforts are needed, and all must advance the cause of swadeshi (indigenous products). We should not only use swadeshi ourselves, but we must also inspire others to do so. Children should be instilled with the values of swadeshi.

Governor Shri Patel addressed buyers and sellers at the Swadeshi Fair held on Friday at the Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya campus.

Governor Shri Patel remarked that bringing the swadeshi spirit to everyone involves delivering new, high-quality products directly to consumers and providing a common platform for buyers and sellers. The concept of the fair is commendable and praiseworthy. Former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to say that India can only become strong when it trusts its resources, skills and abilities. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch initiative, the Swadeshi Fair, is an important step toward realising Vajpayee's dream. There are ample swadeshi products available for daily use; it just requires a mindset of choosing swadeshi. He urged everyone to remember the slogan, "Whenever you go to the market, buy swadeshi" 365 days a year.

Governor Shri Patel paid tributes to the portraits of late Deendayal Upadhyay and Dattopant Thengadi. Guests were welcomed by being presented with replicas of the BrahMos missile. The program was also addressed by Swadeshi Jagran Manch officials Shri Satish Kumar and Shri Deepak Verma, with the Bhopal fair coordinator Shri Satish Vishwakarma delivering the vote of thanks.

<https://www.mpinfo.org/Home/>

### Swadeshi is foundation of self-reliant India: BMC Chairman

Kishan Suryavanshi, Chairman of the Municipal Corporation, speaking as the Chief Guest at the 'Swadeshi Mela' held at Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya, declared that Swadeshi is the solid foundation of a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). He emphasised that reviving the culture of local production and consumption is essential for the country to become an economic superpower. In his address, he referenced the historical era when India was known as the 'Golden Bird' (Sone ki Chidiya), noting that the country then had a strong tradition of barter system and its economy was not dependent on foreign goods. Suryavanshi stressed that excessive reliance on foreign imports today poses the greatest threat to India's economic stability. Suryavanshi paid tribute to the ideological and organizational contributions of Dattopant Thengadi, the founder of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, stating that his movement symbolized cultural and intellectual freedom. The Municipal Corporation Chairman expressed deep concern over the rampant use of foreign materials during Indian festivals, calling it 'fatal' for the country's micro and cottage economy. He pointed out that buying Swadeshi directly empowers poor artisans and small craftsmen. He urged citizens to transform every festival into a 'Festival of Self-Reliance' (Aatmanirbharta ka Parv).

<https://www.thebharada.com/Encyc/2025/11/10/swadeshi-is-foundation-of-self-reliant-india-bmc-chairman-kishan-suryavanshi.html>

### TU Honors Visionary Economist Dattopant Thengadi

Tripura University (TU) marked the birth anniversary of eminent thinker Dattopant Thengadi with an event filled with scholarly fervor and respect. The ceremony was graced by Vice-Chancellor (In-Charge) Prof. Shyamal Das, alongside dignitaries, faculty, and numerous students, honoring the architect of India's



Swadeshi economic philosophy. In an address to ANI, Dr. Dipak Sharma, Registrar of Tripura Central University, discussed the lasting significance of Thengadi's economic ideas at a time when global challenges include trade wars and a polarized economic order. Sharma's speech, titled 'Reimagining the Global Economy,' highlighted Thengadi's relevance in offering frameworks for rethinking the global economic system.

Thengadi's vision promoted self-reliance and a 'Third Way' between capitalism and socialism, providing a sustainable development model. Founder of movements like Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Thengadi envisioned an economic model reflecting India's cultural ethos. His work 'The Third Way' critiqued both capitalism and socialism for a model combining market efficiency with social welfare and environmental balance.

<https://www.dcrdisource.com/article/headlines/3691820-tripura-university-honors-visionary-economist-dattopant-thengadi.html>

### CM Mohan Yadav Launches Swadeshi Fair

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav emphasized the importance of Swadeshi (indigenous) products in boosting India's economy and cultural heritage during the inauguration of the Swadeshi Fair organized by Swadeshi Jagran Manch at Motilal Vigyan Adarsh College campus on Friday.

Dr. Yadav highlighted that under Prime Minister



Narendra Modi's leadership, India is achieving new milestones in the economic sector. Amidst global economic competition, the country has embraced Swadeshi as a powerful tool. The CM said, "The Prime Minister has entrusted citizens, businesses, and entrepreneurs with a 'Swadeshi Brahmastra' to strengthen India's position in the global economic landscape." He added that India is progressing on the path of development by integrating its ancient culture and heritage with modern economic strategies. The CM clarified that Swadeshi does not mean cutting off from the world but promoting locally made goods wherever possible. "We should prefer products made in our country rather than importing them from abroad," he said.

The Swadeshi Fair began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the CM. Dr. Yadav also unveiled a statue of Lord Shri Ram installed at the fair and witnessed a devotional performance dedicated to the deity. He was warmly welcomed with a traditional angavastram and a replica of the BrahMos missile.

The Chief Minister underlined Swadeshi's role in India's freedom struggle. "Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Dayanand, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak inspired citizens to boycott foreign goods and adopt indigenous products. Movements like the Bengal Partition agitation demonstrated the power of Swadeshi in uniting people against oppression," he said.

Saket Rathore, All-India Head of Swadeshi Fair, emphasized that the Swadeshi Fair is not just an exhibition but a movement. "Swadeshi connects society with its roots. By embracing local products, we create a unique identity and strengthen our economy. Over 150 Swadeshi fairs will be organized nationwide this year to promote local entrepreneurship," he said.

MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani called the Swadeshi Fair a historic moment, coinciding with Vande Mataram celebrations, urging citizens to adopt and promote local products. Satish Vishwakarma, coordinator of the Bhopal fair, thanked participants and organizers. Prominent figures associated with the Swadeshi movement, including Ramanveer Singh Arora, Sudhir Date, and Sushil Agrawal, were also present.

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/mohan-yadav-swadeshi-fair-bhopal-promotes-indigenous-products-158263/>

## Srinath University wins quiz at Swadeshi Mela Jamshedpur

A quiz competition was organized at the auditorium of the ongoing Swadeshi Mela in Gopal Maidan, Jamshedpur. The event was graced by Dr. Amar Ku-



mar Singh, Principal of Jamshedpur Cooperative College, as the chief guest. The special guests included Ajay Bhagarke, Director of Spardha Prakashan; Shriman Trigun, Founder of Shriman Classes; Amitabh Senapati, Co-convener of Swadeshi Mela; and Rajpati Devi, District Convener of Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Amar Kumar Singh said that the Swadeshi Mela is not merely a celebration of Indian culture, tradition, and indigenous spirit, but also a strong step toward realizing the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). He added that Swadeshi is not confined to products or clothing; it is a way of thinking, a value, and a national sentiment.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Bhagarke remarked that a quiz competition is not just a game of questions and answers but a test of knowledge, speed, and patriotism. He emphasized that true patriotism comes from understanding one's nation and promoting indigenous values.

Co-convener Amitabh Senapati said the main objective of organizing the quiz competition was to foster knowledge, awareness, and interest in the Swadeshi philosophy among students and youth. The competition was held in three rounds—General Knowledge and Current Affairs, Swadeshi Bharat Special, and Audience Participation.

Quizmaster Shriman Trigun conducted the competition, encouraging participants to showcase their knowledge with enthusiasm and discipline and to play their part in the mission of building a self-reliant India.

The event was presided over by Mrs. Rajpati Devi, with the welcome address delivered by Pratibha Rani Mishra. The programme was anchored by Navneet Singh, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Akhil Kumar. Hundreds of students from various universities, colleges, and technical institutes across Kolhan Division took part in the competition. □□

<https://avememai.in/srinath-university-wins-quiz-at-swadeshi-mela-jamshedpur/>

# Swadeshi Activities

## Swadeshi Seminar, Telangana

Pictorial Glimpses



## Swadeshi Sanklap Yatra



Tripura



Assam



Gauraksh



Palwal

Swadeshi Activities

# Swadeshi Sanklap Yatra

Pictorial Glimpses



Bhilwara



Sitapur



South Bang



Bijnor



Hapur



Lakhimpur Khiri



Noida



Uttrakhand