

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

August 2025

Prime Minister's speech dedicated to Swadeshi security and self-reliance

Swadeshi Products mean Low Prices, More Power

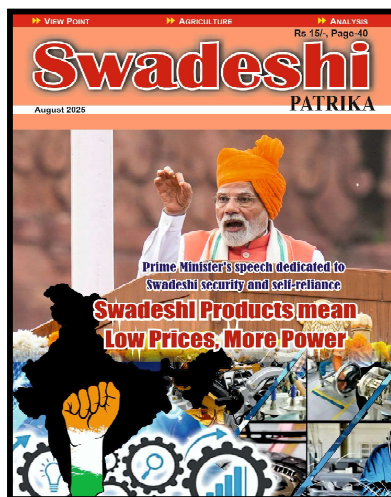


**Swadeshi Patrika wishes its readers,
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Happy

79th

INDEPENDENCE DAY



Vol-30, No. 8
Shravan-Bhadrapad 2082 August-2025

EDITOR
Ajey Bharti

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR
Dr. Phool Chand

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY:
Dr. Ashwani Mahajan on behalf of **Swadeshi Jagaran Samiti**, 'Dharmakshetra', Sector-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-22,

COVER & PAGE DESIGNING
Sudama Dixit

EDITORIAL OFFICE
'Dharmakshetra' Sector-8, Babu Genu Marg, R.K. Puram, N. D.-22
E-MAIL : swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com
WEBSITE : www.swadeshionline.in

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Trump Tariffs, Swadeshi Suraksha Campaign and the Drive for Economic Self-Reliance

Amid the imposition of 50% US tariffs on Indian goods—linked to India’s sustained Russian oil imports—\$86.5 billion in exports, especially in labor-intensive sectors like textiles and gems, face serious challenges. This threatens jobs and economic growth, underscoring the need for a resilient domestic strategy.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an RSS-affiliated nationalist economic group, has vigorously responded with the "Swadeshi Suraksha Evam Swavlamban Abhiyan" (Swadeshi Security and Self-Reliance Campaign). Launched in June 2025 with broad support from traders, industry bodies, and social organizations, this campaign urges all citizens to boycott foreign goods and champion Indian-made products.

SJM’s messaging blends economic patriotism with grounded symbolism—highlighting farmers, small industries, and local workers as the backbone of national strength. The campaign stresses reducing dependence on global markets and advancing bilateral trade deals that protect India’s farmers and small businesses. Through rallies, symbolic protests, and targeted public appeals, the movement seeks to embed self-reliance as a national priority.

India stands at a crucial crossroads: yield to external pressures for short-term gains or embrace short-term pain for lasting economic sovereignty. For the Swadeshi movement, the path is clear—strengthening economic independence through collective self-reliance is key to enduring global uncertainties.

— Vijeet Kumar, *Delhi*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

‘Dharmakshetra’, Sector-8, Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi-22

■Tel. : 26184595, E-Mail: swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com

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Deposit the subscription amount in Bank of India A/C No. 602510110002740,

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

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Quote-Unquote



India is committed to structural, regulatory, policy, process and procedural reforms, building a nation where governance works for the people ... Instead of focusing on others' limitations, India must extend its own line of progress.

Narednra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



Even today, every Indian feels empathy for those affected families. We are fully committed to further strengthening social harmony in the country.

Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, Bharat



The present moment offers a unique opportunity to emphasise on the need for achieving self-reliance, ignite collective action for driving national priorities, and fulfilling the vision of Samridhh Bharat by 2047.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Education Minister, Bharat

India Must Lead With Swadeshi, Not Dependence on China

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from ramparts of Red Fort spoke with unmistakable clarity: the time has come to embrace Swadeshi. What began as “Make in India,” evolved into the call for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance), is now moving to the deeper and more holistic idea of Swadeshi. This is not a mere slogan. It is a civilizational imperative. India cannot ignore China, but neither can we trust it. Our trade deficit with Beijing crosses \$100 billion every year. Presently, more than two-thirds of our solar modules, over 70% of our pharmaceutical ingredients, and billions worth of electronics come from across the border. These are not just numbers—they are vulnerabilities. Every container ship arriving from Chinese ports is also a reminder of our dependence. It is in this context that Prime Minister Modi’s upcoming visit to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit must be seen. His presence there is not a concession; it is a statement. India will engage, but from a position of clarity and confidence. Engagement does not mean dependence. Dialogue does not mean dilution of national interest. The message is straightforward: India seeks cooperation where possible, but it will never compromise on its economic sovereignty.

Recent studies, including the Strategic Imperative for China Studies in India’s Goeconomic Framework prepared by the Council for International Economic Understanding (CIEU), underline the stakes. They highlight how China’s state-led model—industrial overcapacity, dumping, subsidisation, and financial engineering—distorts markets and threatens India’s manufacturing base. They also point to our dangerous dependence on Chinese inputs in pharmaceuticals, electronics, and clean energy, warning that access to such critical goods could easily be weaponised in a crisis. These insights make one thing very clear: India cannot afford a reactive posture; it must adopt a proactive doctrine grounded in Swadeshi. Unlike China’s approach, Swadeshi is not imperialistic. It does not seek to dominate others through debt or coercion. Our Swadeshi is rooted in the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family. The vision is of self-reliance at home and fair, cooperative partnerships abroad. It is about producing in India not merely for ourselves but also for the world, on terms that strengthen resilience and dignity. Globally, the tide is shifting. The weaponisation of tariffs—first made visible under the Trump administration and now a fixture of global trade—has forced governments and businesses to rethink their supply chains. Across sectors, companies are searching for alternatives to China. While many call this “China+1,” India must advance a bigger idea: India+Many.

India has the scale, the talent, and the civilizational ethos to become a trusted hub for manufacturing, technology, and services. To seize this opportunity, we must deepen domestic capabilities. The government has already taken important steps—the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the newly launched National Manufacturing Mission, and revisions to CAROTAR 2020 rules to curb trade circumvention. These measures, along with India’s renegotiations within ASEAN FTAs and new engagements with the EU, show a willingness to align trade policy with national interest. But more needs to be done. Studies rightly recommend that India should double public investment in research and development to 2% of GDP—an essential step if we are to bridge the innovation gap in semiconductors, clean energy, and next-generation technologies. It also calls for a dedicated China Economic Risk Monitoring Unit within government—an institutional mechanism to anticipate risks, track Chinese practices, and inform proactive policymaking. Both are urgent and necessary.

At the same time, Swadeshi calls for principled partnerships. Whether through the Quad, ASEAN, Africa, or Latin America, India must work with like-minded nations to build a truly multipolar economic order. This is how India can move from the periphery of “+1” to the center of “Many.” As Prime Minister Modi travels to China for the SCO summit, he carries more than India’s negotiating brief. He carries India’s message: our Swadeshi is not insular, it is expansive. It strengthens our economy, empowers our people, and contributes to a fairer world order. In an era when trade is weaponised and supply chains are battlefields, India’s position must be firm—we will engage, but always on our own terms. The world does not need another China. The world needs India—an India rooted in Swadeshi and guided by ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’.

Prime Minister's speech dedicated to Swadeshi security and self-reliance Swadeshi Products mean Low Prices, More Power



Although the major part of the Prime Minister's speech was dedicated to Swadeshi, internal and external security and self-reliance in the field of industry, agriculture and technology amid global uncertainties, in his nearly 110-minute speech, the Prime Minister did not leave the commitment to give direct benefits to the common man.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan

On the occasion of the 79th anniversary of independence, today, while addressing the countrymen from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister has reiterated his resolve for Swadeshi and security, and presented country's roadmap to make the country a developed nation by 2047. Just 13 days before 15th August, on 2 August 2025, the Prime Minister, in his speech in Varanasi, made a strong appeal for Swadeshi, saying that if India has to protect its interests, then every party, every leader and every citizen will have to promote Swadeshi. He not only called upon the traders and shopkeepers that the sale of these Swadeshi goods would be the true service to the country, he also appealed to the countrymen to buy only those goods in which the sweat of the people of the country has been shed. In the current context, when other countries including United States of America, are trying to curb the independent economic and foreign policy and growing economic and strategic power of our country, this call of the Prime Minister holds a special significance. It is worth noting that US President Donald Trump had announced to impose 25 percent additional import duty (total 50 percent) on many goods coming from the US; and also to impose a penalty on it by saying that India is buying oil from Russia. Trump had said that by buying oil from Russia, India is helping Russia in its war with Ukraine, although India had made it clear that US is adopting double standards in this regard because it is still maintaining trade relations with Russia for its own needs. In his Varanasi speech, the Prime Minister had underlined the importance of Swadeshi in the context of uncertain global conditions. It has to be understood that this speech of the Prime Minister on 15 August is not just an emotional appeal for Swadeshi, but is also a clear direction of policies by his government to take India forward and make it a developed nation by 2047.

Although after assuming power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly talked about Make in India, Start Up India, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship Development etc. to make the country economically strong, but he



never had such a clear insistence on Swadeshi in it. He always expressed faith in the role of the youth, scientists, women and entrepreneurs of the country in strengthening the country and its pleasant results were also seen, but the country realized the power of Swadeshi during Covid-19, when the whole world had seen itself kneeling in front of pandemic. The countries calling themselves developed were not confident of protecting themselves, let alone helping developing countries. In such a situation, the Indian society not only served and protected the environment around it, nation was also able to protect the entire population by making vaccines for itself in India, and surprised the world by making medicines and health equipment, due to which the impact of Covid-19 in India was much less than the rest of the world. Taking forward the Prime Minister's call for the use of indigenous products and reiterating his resolve to move forward in every field on the basis of indigenous products, he said that we will not only make fertilizers for farmers but will also make engines for our fighter planes.

The time is reaching for us to move forward with our quality products in the global markets. Today, in the uncertain global environment, this has become even more important. Underlining in his own style that products are produced cheaply in India, he said that we will have to work on the mantra of 'Daam Kam Aur Dam Jyaada' (less price and better quality). This declaration of the Prime Minister holds a special significance in the context of the deadlock in trade talks between the US and India and the unfortunate hostile stance being

adopted by the US administration. While supporters of globalization have been arguing for mutual dependence among countries, the Prime Minister's statement that dependence on other countries is dangerous and we have to be self-reliant to protect our interests, directly seems to reject the idea of globalization altogether.

The Prime Minister said that by the end of this year, we will be able to produce the first batch of semiconductors. With the US insisting on access to India's dairy and agricultural markets, PM Modi said he would stand like a "wall" to protect the interests of India's farmers, fishermen and those involved in the dairy industry. He said India's agricultural exports are worth Rs 4 lakh crore.

The Prime Minister urged all small and big shopkeepers to have signs stating that they sell swadeshi goods. He said that swadeshi will not be a sign of India's weakness but of its strength and if needed, it will be used to weaken others. It is important to note that Swadeshi Jagran Manch has been making such a request for years.

Meanwhile, during Operation Sindoor, with the aim of destroying Pakistan's terrorists and its military capability, India's demonstration of its defense capability to the world not only destroyed Pakistan's defense system but also succeeded in breaking the arrogance of developed countries like the US and Europe and China. Till now these countries were proud of considering themselves as big military powers. However, USA and Europe, which have been fuelling the war between Russia and Ukraine due to their selfish interests, got disturbed by just four days of Operation Sin-

door, and started appealing for ceasefire, citing dangers to global peace. The reason for this was that these countries started seeing their military goods market in danger. It is important to understand here that in the last few years, India's military goods exports have increased 6 times to Rs 23622 crore. Our production of defense goods has now increased to Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

On the security front, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to build next generation indigenous fighter aircraft. The Prime Minister said that all places of national importance, defense establishments as well as hospitals, railway stations and places of worship will be provided security cover. He said that Lord Krishna's 'Sudarshan Chakra' has inspired the government's 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra', which will not only neutralises the enemy's attack using technology, but will also "counter-attack" with many times more power.

Although the major part of the Prime Minister's speech was dedicated to Swadeshi, internal and external security and self-reliance in the field of industry, agriculture and technology amid global uncertainties, in his nearly 110-minute speech, the Prime Minister did not leave the commitment to give direct benefits to the common man. Promising a 'double Diwali' for the people, he said that the government will soon announce next generation reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, aimed at reducing the tax burden on the common man, making the items of daily needs cheaper. It is worth noting that this move will not only reduce inflation but will also make Indian products more competitive in the international market. □□

Trump Tariff and Trade War: Challenges and Opportunities for India

The global trade landscape is once again in flux. With the resurgence of tariff wars, particularly involving the United States, China, and the European Union, the world is witnessing renewed economic fragmentation. U.S. President Donald Trump has unilaterally imposed horrendous tariffs on a new two tiered tariff system with a baseline 10% on all US imports starting April 5 with additional reciprocal tariffs varying from countries to countries effective August 7. April 2, was declared “A Liberation Day” to make America Great Again or (MAGA) with several restrictions on Government Expenditure under a separate Ministry Department of Government Expenditure (DOGE).

His decision to impose such draconian and coercive tariffs have been challenged in US Courts and on 29th August US Federal Court of Appeals has given its judgment with 7/4 majority by holding the imposition of the Tariff under the pretext of National Emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of the 1977 (IEEPA) without obtaining the approval from US Congress as illegal. Trump has decided to move to the Supreme Court on the grounds that if this tariff is to be refunded and the US Administration is barred from exercising the power of imposing such horrendous tariffs, it will be disastrous for the US treasury. However the Court of Appeals also stayed its ruling to October 15 to give time to the Trump administration to seek review in the United States Supreme Court.

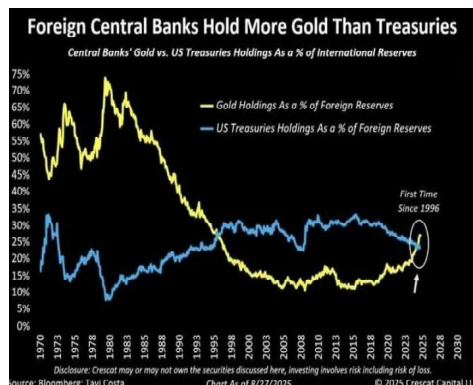
Key Drivers of the Current Tariff War

Some countries including European Union has signed bilateral trade and comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with US succumbing to the US pressures even at the cost of their national interest in order to avoid conflicts with US. “Some countries including China have been given concessions for few more days as moratorium as US feared that imposing draconian duties as announced earlier to the extent of 145% on all imports from China have been restricted at 30% or so till a fresh negotiations as China threatened retaliatory measures including stopping supply of rare earth materials which is essential for semiconductors and for chip manufacturing apart from reciprocal tariffs on imports from US at



The current tariff war represents both a test and an opportunity for India.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal



Holders of Treasury Securities (\$ billion)

Country	Jun-25	Jun-24
Japan	1,147.6	1,091.4
United Kingdom	858.1	746.5
China, Mainland	756.4	780.2
Belgium	433.4	318
France	374.9	305.4
India	227.4	241.9
Brazil	215.3	227
Saudi Arabia	130.6	140.2
Israel	101.7	69.7
Germany	100.7	90.8
Grand Total	9,127.7	8,299.3



Source: US department of Treasury

more than 100% tariffs and restrictions on agricultural imports from US. However average tariffs on Chinese exports now stand at 57.6 percent and cover 100% of all goods and China's average tariffs on US exports are at 32.6 percent and cover 100% of all goods.

However in case of India, US initially imposed 26% and later compromised for 25% tariffs on all imports from India except Pharmaceutical, Electronics and few Auto Parts with nominal or nil tariffs. However some negotiations were on the table between the two countries for signing a Free Trade Agreement. There were two major issues on which India refused to sign the FTA, namely, first that India will not allow free trade on Agriculture including Dairy and Fisheries and second that India will continue buying crude oil and defence equipment's and weapons from Russia. Trump Administration became very furious and started using unscrupulous language against India and issued threats that as long as India would be importing crude oil from Russia, US would impose additional penalties of 25% on all imports from India and this additional tariff will be effective from August 27 and has implemented 50% tariffs on Indian imports. India has blatantly refused to accept the coercive conditions and our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has declared that our national interest and our economic sovereignty cannot be compromised and particularly We are pledged to safeguard the interests of our farmers, fishermen and our animal husbandry group for their livelihood. Prime Minister has given a clarion call for adopting Swadeshi and for emphasis on Make in India initiatives and

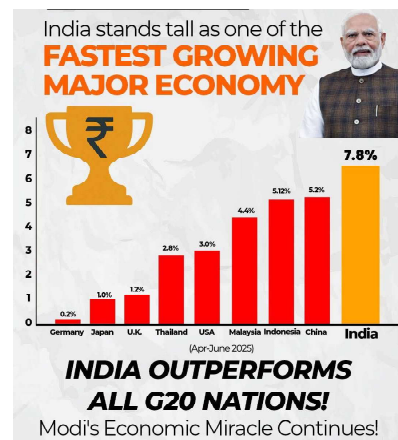
has confidently proclaimed in his 15th August speech to the nation that we will convert the Challenge into opportunity. It may be noted that the frivolous threat of US in the past for imposition of Economic Sanctions post Pokharan in May 1998 was also answered boldly by our Indian diaspora by subscribing to India Resurgent Bond to the tune of US\$6.5 Billion which was a big blow to the US hegemony and it came down on foot with President Clinton's visit to India and surrendered by signing Indo-US nuclear deal and withdrawal of all economic sanctions in their own interests. India had performed very well in its exports in those two years and also had current account surplus in the financial year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

Implications and Challenges for India:

Export Vulnerability: The department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics has prepared a detailed research paper and Global Trade Research Institute has also compiled the sector wise study on the adverse impact on the India's exports to US in the coming financial year 2025-26 and 2026-27. It is heartening to note that the first quarter results show that our GDP during April- June 2025 has increased 7.8 percent which indicates that the adverse impact on GDP will be very minimal or may be 6 percent as against the original pre- Tariff impact of 6.5%.

A brief analysis is given below in simple manner.

1. The study says that U S Tariffs will hit 66% of India's exports to US which was US\$ 86.5 Billion in 2024-25 or in other words exports worth US\$ 60.2 B of goods will be subject to



50% Tariff which includes Textiles, Gems- Jewellery, Shrimp, carpets, Steel, Aluminium and Machineries.

2. 30% of the US bound exports I.e., US\$ 27.6B remains duty free being Pharmaceutical, APIs, Electronics including Smart phones.
3. US tariffs will slash India's exports to US\$ 49.6 billion in 2025-26, down by 43% from US\$ 86.5 billion.
4. India's overall global exports including goods and services will still rise to \$ 839.5 Billion with increased services exports by nearly 10% to US\$ 421.9 Billion. It is for clarity that in F/Y India's exports in goods plus services was US\$ 820.93 Billion of which goods exports was US\$ 437.42 and Services exports was US\$ 383.5 Billion.
5. There will be impact on the labour intensive MSME sectors in textile, diamond jewellery, carpets, agro processed food and certain other sectors for which Government of India is planning certain action plans which are narrated in brief as below:

Amongst several measures include Tax Reforms in GST, interest equalisation scheme to shield MSMEs to the tune of Rs 15000

crores. Government push for market diversification to EU, Gulf, East Asia Trade Missions as well as to Latin American countries and to Africa. India is trying to strengthen and rejuvenate its economic relationship with Japan and with its allies in BRICS, SCO and other countries in its Look East or Act East policies.

We are also looking for balancing ties between QUAD allies and BRICS+ partners becomes harder amid tariff polarization.

Opportunities:

1. Global Supply Chain Rebalancing:

- Companies seeking China+1 or China+2 strategies are evaluating India as a key alternative.
- Sectors like electronics (Apple, Foxconn), semiconductors (Micron, AMD), renewable energy, & defence manufacturing are seeing growing investment interest.

2. Strengthened Strategic Autonomy:

- India's non-aligned position in tariff wars enhances its value as a trusted neutral trade partner.
- As countries seek diversified markets, India's demographic dividend, political stability, and domestic consumption base become attractive.

3. New Bilateral Trade Partnerships:

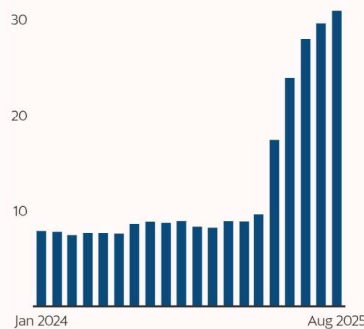
- India has signed or is negotiating comprehensive trade agreements with the UAE, Australia, UK, and Canada. ASEAN, Africa, and Latin America are also emerging targets for expansion.
- The focus is shifting from tariff-based trade to investment-led trade integration.

4. Atmanirbhar Bharat Push:

- The global trend of protectionism aligns with India's push for self-reliance, particularly in critical sectors like defence, electronics,

US customs duty collections have surged since tariffs came into effect

US customs duty and excise collections (\$ billion), monthly



Source: US Treasury Department • Get the data



semiconductors, and AI chips.

All nationalist organisations like Swadeshi Jagaran Manch have undertaken several campaigns and initiatives for an All India Awakening programme upto village level by organising Traders meet for boycotting Americans goods and for substituting their daily household requirements with Local Products. Swawalambi Suraksha Abhiyan is organised in all districts and hopefully India will be able to overcome this temporary hurdles and re-emerge as a powerful nation.

The R.C. I factor, the TIANJIN TROIKA

The SCO meet at Tianjin during 31st August and 1st September particularly the bilateral meeting between Xi Jinping and our PM Modi and in a separate meeting between Mr Putin and Mr Modi and few informal meetings between the three leaders have given a very strong message to Trump about the strength of Eurasian countries. SCO have many members who are common in BRICS and this together makes Global South. Together they represent more than 50% of glo-

bal GDP and also more than 50% of the global population. The combined leadership of Russia, India and China can definitely create strong ground for a New World Order and the shift in the global power. USA is the largest economy but if one looks at the quantum of increasing debt which is now US\$ 37.5 trillion and is likely to cross US\$ 45 Trillion in another 4-5 years, US economy is really in great trouble. The US Federal Court of Appeals has already given its judgment on 29th August about the illegal application of IEEPA by ignoring the legitimacy of the US congress and thus transgressing the rules of checks and balance, the withdrawal of the powers of illegitimate tariff would be disastrous to the US Treasury. Trump Administration is wary and afraid of the consequences and therefore likely to change its negotiating approach on draconian tariffs.

Conclusion

The current tariff war represents both a test and an opportunity for India. As global powers engage in protectionist battles, India must walk a strategic middle path—leveraging trade diplomacy, investing in domestic capacity, and positioning itself as the anchor of stability and supply chain resilience in a fragmented world. However the present crisis can be turned into an opportunity only if We Indian follow the path of Swadeshi and also realise the growing importance of technology and innovation for which we need to build a robust education system for promoting new ideas by spending maximum resources for a very strong Research for Science and technological development. □□

The writer is National Co-convenor of SJM.

Biofuels – The potential source of Energy: Introduction and overview

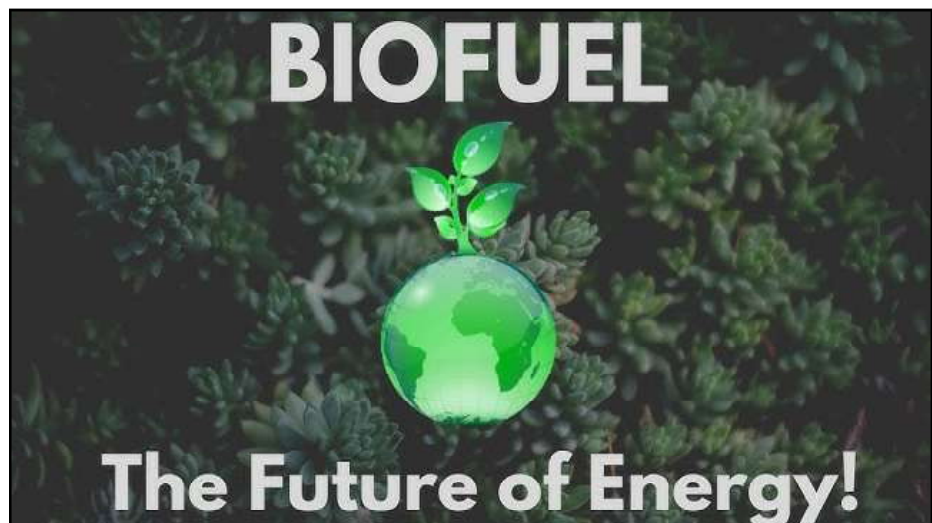
The 20th century witnessed the emergence of climate change as one of the most critical problems in the world. There is plenty of proof that human civilization is the primary cause of this climate change and that its effects are having an impact on global food and energy supply, economic and political stability, and migratory patterns. As they emit less carbon than other conventional fuels, biofuels are a more environmentally friendly substitute for traditional, non-renewable fossil fuels. Before embarking on the studies on its economic impact on the country and its commercial production and usage, we need to understand the biofuels in its majorly two forms i.e. ethanol and biomass. Otherwise, we will be lost in the statistics without even knowing the abundance of our biofuel sources with us. Honestly, we have not only ignored the biofuels but also wasted our resources so far.

Ever-increasing population growth, predicted to reach over 9 billion by 2050, that demands more energy produces tremendous pressure on natural energy reserves such as coal and petroleum, causing their depletion. Climate prediction models predict that drought events will be more intense during the 21st century affecting agricultural productivity. The renewable energy needs in the global energy supply must stabilize surface temperature rise to 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial values. To address the global climate issue and higher energy demand without depleting fossil reserves, growing bioenergy feedstock as the potential resource for biodiesel production could be a viable alternative. The interest in growing biofuels for biodiesel production has increased due to its potential benefits over fossil fuels and the flexibility of feedstocks. The use of fossil fuels as the primary source of energy generation is already causing various effects on natural resources, the environment and human health. Even though the production of biofuels emits Green House Gases (GHG) at several stages of the process, Environmental Protection Agency's



We need to understand the biofuels in its majorly two forms i.e. ethanol and biomass.

Vinod Johri



(EPA) analysis of the year 2010 of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) revealed that several types of bio-fuels could yield lower lifecycle GHG emissions than gasoline over a 30-year time horizon, this emission scale decreases as we move from the first to second and then Biofuel and bioenergy types.

The fossil fuel industry leases vast lands for infrastructure, devastating landscapes, habitats and ecosystems—strip mining razes forests and mountaintops that can never regenerate. Fragmentation destroys critical wildlife breeding and migration habitats, displacing animals into inferior areas to compete with existing wildlife. The extraction and transport of coal, oil and gas also threatens water systems through toxic runoff, spills, fracking fluids or wastewater overflows contaminating rivers, lakes, aquifers and oceans, with pollutants linked to cancer, birth defects and neurological damage. Vast volumes of drilling and mining toxic wastewater are stored in leakage pits and wells. Additionally, fossil fuel-powered transport releases smog-forming pollutants, causing respiratory illness from sustained exposure.

Recently, a number of researches and articles have appeared in the newspapers, magazines and social media. It has grabbed the attention of the policy makers, energy sector experts and researchers to explore its dimensions for supplementing the energy needs of the country with dual aims of clean energy and self-reliance.

The primary cause of this issue is the heavy reliance that has impact on fossil fuels, which account for nearly 80 % of all energy consumption worldwide. Fossil fuels have traditionally been the main

Biofuels are grouped by categories – first generation, second generation, and third generation – based on the type of feedstock, the input material, used to produce them.

source of energy. However, the supply of fossil fuels will inevitably decline as fuel consumption rises. To combat the extraordinary rate of climate change brought on by the increase of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, there is a clear need to shift energy dependency from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources. The main elements driving the need to convert to an alternative solution are the reduced potential for pollution and the reduced impact on global warming. Most likely, to meet the world's energy demands, interest is growing in biofuels that can be produced from organic material, diverse biomass feedstock both terrestrial plants and aquatic algae, have been found to provide sustainable fuels to replace fossil fuels.

Biofuels are combustible fuels created from biomass, fuels created from recently living plant matter as opposed to ancient plant matter in hydrocarbons. The term biofuel is usually used to reference liquid fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel that are used as replacements for transportation fuels like petroleum, diesel and jet fuel. Bio-

fuels can also include solid fuels like wood pellets and biogas or syngas. While ethanol is an alcohol and biodiesel is an oil. Ethanol is an alcohol formed by fermentation and can be used as a replacement for, or additive to, gasoline whereas biodiesel is produced by extracting naturally occurring oils from plants and seeds in a process called transesterification. Biodiesel can be combusted in diesel engines. Biofuel production has emerged as a leading contender in the quest for renewable energy solutions, offering a promising path toward a greener future.

Biofuels are grouped by categories – first generation, second generation, and third generation – based on the type of feedstock, the input material, used to produce them.

First-generation biofuels are produced from edible biomass, but even in highly efficient processes, their yield isn't enough to cast them as a better alternative to conventional fuels. The second-generation biofuels are produced from non-edible biomass, where the substrate is eco-friendly and provides a sustainable use of solid waste, but the pretreatment is overpriced and sophisticated technology is needed to carry out the process. Third-generation biofuels are produced from substrates like seaweed or microalgae for which no specific area or separate cultivation process is required. Biofuels such as biohydrogen produced through microbial dark fermentation, bio-syngas generated via gasification, and biodiesel obtained through transesterification, have emerged as promising and environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional fuels. These biofuels have the potential to pave the way for a



bioeconomic system of fuel production, offering economic viability and efficiency. However, extensive research conducted in the field of bioenergy, several challenges persist, hindering their commercialization prospects. To overcome the problems of first, second and third-generation biofuels, fourth-generation biofuels are under development using techniques like co-culturing, nanotechnology, and genetically modified organisms. Future generations of biofuels would set a system for a circular bioeconomic pathway for sustainable development in the fuel industry.

The energy density of the biofuels is lesser than that of the conventional transportation fuels. One gallon of biodiesel has 93% of the energy of one gallon of diesel and one gallon of ethanol has 73% of the energy of one gallon of gasoline.

The biochemical approach uses enzymes and microbes to break down biomass into precursors (amino acids, sugar and fatty acids) that are transformed into liquid biofuels like biodiesel, and crude oil by transesterification of fatty acids, bioethanol by fermentation of starch, methanol, and butanol by distillation of dry woods and biogas by aerobic sludge through biological, biochemical, and thermo-

The energy density of the biofuels is lesser than that of the conventional transportation fuels. One gallon of biodiesel has 93% of the energy of one gallon of diesel and one gallon of ethanol has 73% of the energy of one gallon of gasoline.

chemical.

Whereas in the production of solid waste agricultural feedstocks play a significant role in which crop residue, agro-industrial waste, livestock waste and algal matter and the organic fraction of municipal solid waste (OFMSW) are the examples of biomass that have ultimate biochemical and lignocellulosic analysis. Bharat alone makes 350 million tonnes of organic waste from agriculture.

Economic impact of the biofuels is the cost factor though similar to traditional fuels yet has a smaller carbon footprint. In the long run, they tend to be more efficient with a reduced effect on the

environment, with lesser emissions and fewer bioproducts they have an overall better economic value for a similar product. The biofuels facilitate easy adaptability with current engine designs. They are less flammable, more lubricated and have higher cetane, a hydrocarbon (specifically, n-hexadecane or C₁₆H₃₄) used as a reference fuel for diesel fuel quality.

The promising advancements in the production of biofuels through eco-friendly approaches have led to the development of multiple processes to utilize the abundantly available agricultural waste. Production of biofuels through agricultural waste has been examined to have an increase in the capital cost of the pretreatment stage. The additional costs and high energy requirements for the production of biofuel should be minimized to produce a carbon-neutral product.

An increased share of renewable energy in the global energy supply will help to stabilize surface temperature rise to 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial levels. The temperature increase could be as much as 3–5 °C depending on certain regions. Further, a shift in rainfall was found, ranging from 19.2 to 37.2 mm over different growing seasons. With the inadequate pool of sources, particularly water, and an ever-increasing need for global energy, alternative fuels are the most practical way to meet the rising demand.

In the next article, we will discuss Government policy issues, initiatives and economic aspects of the Biofuels. □□

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US-EU trade deal

A massive storm is brewing over one sentence on patents contained in the recently concluded India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Many health advocacy groups working on access to affordable medicine and development-minded experts on intellectual property rights (IPR) are of the view that this provision in the CETA undermines access to affordable medicines. What is this provision, what are the underlying issues, what can be said in its defence, and what could be its implications?

What does the provision say?

In Article 13.6 of the CETA, the parties have recognised that “the preferable and optimal route to promote and ensure access to medicines is through voluntary mechanisms, such as voluntary licensing which may include technology transfer on mutually agreed terms”. As a background to this provision, it is relevant to note that a patent holder can grant a voluntary licence to any entity for manufacturing, importing, or selling the patented medicine. Most of the voluntary licensing agreements are shrouded in secrecy and very little information exists in the public domain regarding the terms of the agreement, duration, volume, and countries that will be supplied under the agreement. A concern with respect to voluntary agreements is that by artificially limiting production and supply, the patent holders are able to charge high prices and profiteer from multiple health crisis.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, commonly referred to as the TRIPS Agreement, allows certain policy flexibilities for public health as alternatives to voluntary licensing. These include instruments such as compulsory licensing. If the price of a patented medicine is very high, a government can issue a compulsory licence to an entity to manufacture or import its generic version. The generic drug can thereafter be made available to patients cheaply, often at a fraction of the price of the patent-



After leading fight for developing nations, India has now bent in favour of voluntary licensing.
Abhijit Das



The voluntary licensing provision in the CETA has another dimension. So far, India has been perceived as a strong voice of developing countries on issues linked to public health and access to affordable medicines.

ed medicine. The patent holder is required to be paid adequate remuneration in lieu of compulsory licensing.

On the surface, the controversial provision in the CETA may appear rather innocuous. Further, it could be argued that since India has resorted to compulsory licensing in just one instance over the past 20 years, this provision merely states the obvious. In addition, as very few countries have granted compulsory licence for pharmaceuticals, it could be contended that voluntary licensing is the global best practice.

Concerns about India's shifting stance

Why are health advocacy groups upset with the provision in the CETA favouring voluntary licensing? This is grounded in history, as well as in contemporary developments. When the AIDS crisis was ravaging parts of the world, in 2001 some of the largest pharmaceutical companies legally challenged the attempts of the South African government to invoke TRIPS flexibilities for making available low-priced generic versions of the exorbitant patented antiretroviral medicines. Attempts were also made

in other parts of the world by pharmaceutical companies producing patented medicines ("big pharma") to actively dissuade developing countries from resorting to TRIPS flexibilities, including compulsory licensing. At the WTO, in May 2000, the US challenged a Brazilian law on compulsory licensing.

In this battle of patents over patients, collective efforts by health advocacy groups and governments in developing countries resulted in the WTO adopting the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in 2001. After days of hard bargaining, this declaration reaffirmed the rights of WTO members to resort to TRIPS flexibilities, including compulsory licensing. Brazil, India, and South Africa were at the forefront of this struggle at the WTO. This empowered many developing countries to counter the strong opposition of big pharma to their efforts at invoking TRIPS flexibilities. Consequently, many developing countries, including India, resorted to compulsory licensing for making medicines accessible to patients at affordable prices.

Over the years, in its endeavour to promote its commercial interests, big pharma has lobbied hard for more stringent standards on IPR protection in free trade agreement negotiations. In parallel, any policy intervention which can even remotely have an adverse impact on its windfall profits is quickly on the radar screen of big pharma.

The controversial provision on patents and voluntary licensing in the CETA should be viewed in the context of the persistent, untiring efforts of big pharma to prevent developing countries from resorting to compulsory licensing. After having been at the forefront

of the fight to get a reaffirmation of compulsory licence and other TRIPS flexibilities in 2001, through the CETA India has bent decisively in favour of voluntary licensing. Consequently, health advocacy groups may, with some justification, harbour doubts about whether the country will have the ability and resolve to resist pressure from big pharma and invoke compulsory licensing, even if a health crisis may demand this action.

The voluntary licensing provision in the CETA has another dimension. So far, India has been perceived as a strong voice of developing countries on issues linked to public health and access to affordable medicines. There is a grave risk of India losing its standing and leadership among developing countries when these issues are discussed at various inter-governmental organisations, such as the WTO, World Health Organization, and World Intellectual Property Organization.

In conclusion, the government must do an honest soul-searching of what it has gained from the controversial provision on patents in the CETA. While it retains the legal right to resort to compulsory licensing, in light of this provision the government would have to be extremely resolute in resisting the opposition of big pharma towards compulsory licensing. Considering compulsory licensing may also expose the government to consultations and dispute settlement proceedings involving the UK. Viewing voluntary licensing as a global best practice plays into the hands of big pharma. Instead of trying to defend this provision, the government must explore ways to minimise the damage arising from it. □□

The writer is an expert on international trade.
<https://www.financialpress.com/opinion/us-en-trade-deal/3930657/>

Agriculture and Trump Tariff

Food security, energy security, and defense security are the core for a nation's sustainable development. The sustainability itself incorporates constraint-free and self-reliant decisions that formulate the public policy. The post-independence public policy of our nation, which the planning commissions dissipated, focused more on the non-agriculture sector, while that of China focused more on agriculture. We overlooked the fact that technology has a limited shelf life during those days. Meanwhile, the Chinese worked to strengthen their agriculture sector, and they understood the cascading effect of the agriculture sector on the non-agriculture sector. The difference between Bharat and China during the 1950s was the same as the difference between the top-down and bottom-up approaches.

Bhartiya philosophy believes that in daily life, monetary wealth is just one among many forms of wealth. The Trump Tariff is the result of many short-term, mid-term, and long-term narratives that are built around the vision of Making America Great Again (MAGA). The MAGA itself reflects that they are not so great today. Their greatness is in danger. The macroeconomic parameters and the composition of American debt vis-a-vis the American GDP speak loudly. Their debt is almost 124 percent of their nominal GDP. The evergreening nature of debt for consumption has created fault lines in American life. The monetary design of wealth creation and credit-based consumption is unsustainable. This lukewarm tendency has become quite hot to burn the Americans.

There were proponents of a policy that polluting industries should be located outside the United States to ensure the world's superpower maintains its air quality, water quality, and environmental standards, thereby providing its citizens with the best possible environment. They believed and encouraged the location of their industries in the so-called underdeveloped countries, or the third world countries, or the countries that supplied cheap labour. It was all well planned. The assumptions of their plans are failing them today.

Moreover, the owners of American companies located outside America, apart from policy support in their domestic countries, saw business sense in locating their polluting factories closer to their customers, i.e., China and Bharat. Americans retained their power plants not because of hedging the energy sector but because of the absence of a power grid to transport electricity from China or Bharat to the American mainland. The affordable electricity storage technology is still in the nascent phase. The electricity production technology is such that once produced, it has either to be consumed or discarded. It is one of the few products with an instant shelf life, as its storage and preservation are very costly.

Apart from the troubling trade deficit with China and Bharat, the Americans are accepting that the distance of the polluting units alone does not dictate environmental and climate change. The speed of the ecological damage can be reduced, but the damage itself can't be killed. Its magnitude can vary. The technology con-



We have to safeguard our ideology, and the world trusts us. The blunt reply to Trump that Bharat will not do an iota of compromise on the agriculture sector needs equal celebration as that of Operation Sindoor. It's time to chant again: Jai Jawan Jai Kisan.
Alok Singh



trol, like the factory control, is also failing the Americans.

The survival of the Russians, despite being isolated from SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), and the emergence of alternatives like the BRICS currency led the Americans to realize that the American Dollar, as the universal transaction currency, cannot sustain them for long.

The alternatives for Americans are to be self-reliant, as other countries are achieving. The dollar as an international transaction currency is an unsustainable model for survival. MAGA is an American compulsion, and it's not just President Trump's sloganeering. America wants control over its consumer goods. They know that the shelf life of technology is diminishing.

One more invention and the semiconductors can be outdated. One more finding, and the classification of rare earth minerals can change. One more idea, and social media can vanish. With one more fundamental piece of knowledge, the world order of the knowledge economy can be rearranged. The world knows that we are the goldmine of the next revolution.

The Bharat is offering the world the idea of One Earth One Grid, i.e., from an energy importer, we are projecting the plan towards

becoming an energy exporter. From the dependency on Public Law 480 (PL 480) of the United States, we have attained self-sufficiency in food. We have left the ship-to-mouth label decades ago. The nuclear test in Bharat in the final years of the last century was possible because our granaries had been consistently full for a few years, and we had to worry about space for the upcoming surplus outputs from our flourishing green agricultural fields. The nuclear test of 1998 at Pokhran was conducted on the shoulders of our farm outputs. We didn't bother with sanctions then, and today we are also in the process of attaining energy sufficiency. The recent demonstration of our nation on the battlefield, including damaging the nuclear war assets supposedly under American control at Kirana Hills in Pakistan, is a reflection of our national security. We have announced to the world that "Operation Sindoor" is our permanent strategy.

The weaponization of non-war tools, such as trade and tariffs, technology development and sharing, food and energy, is ineffective in manipulating us. We have food security, energy security, and defence security. Our technological advancements are reflected in the Unified Payments System (UPI), Covid-19 vaccines, the acceptance of Elec-

tric Vehicles, and our strengths in fundamental research, placing our growth prospects ahead of others.

Quantum computing and space science are more fundamental research areas than practical application research. Our information technology sector is thriving, a success story of use case research. The rising global capability centres in our nation are a reflection of the world's trust in our demographic talents in terms of volume as well as value. We are equally focused on fundamental as well as usage case research, while China's inclination is more towards application-based research.

The declining fertility rate in the developed countries has left their academic institutions, from primary schools to higher education universities, empty. And to run their universities, they need our students, and this is a source of foreign exchange earnings for the developed countries, including the Americans. Self-reliance in the education sector is an immediate challenge that needs urgent attention. It needs to be concerned about the rising forex outflow from our country.

On this global chessboard, we are a player with many horses. The geopolitics has such a short shelf life that it resembles a television entertainment show. We must also remember that the Communist Russian ideology is far from our ideology relative to that of the Capitalist Americans. We have to safeguard our ideology, and the world trusts us. The blunt reply to Trump that Bharat will not do an iota of compromise on the agriculture sector needs equal celebration as that of Operation Sindoor. It's time to chant again: Jai Jawan Jai Kisan. □□

(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.)

ONDC: A Great Innovation That Needs Better Marketing to Succeed

India has become known worldwide for its digital revolutions. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) changed how Indians pay. Aadhaar gave us a new way to prove identity. These are not just technologies—they are part of everyday life for millions. Now, India has another ambitious project: the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

ONDC is a powerful idea. It aims to break the dominance of a few e-commerce giants and give small sellers and local businesses a fair chance to sell online. It can be the “UPI of e-commerce.” But there is a catch—most Indians have not even heard of it. Forget Gen Z, even millennials, who live on food delivery apps and online shopping, barely know what ONDC is. This lack of awareness is not about quality or usefulness. It is about poor marketing management. If India wants ONDC to succeed, it must invest as much in communication and branding as it did in building the technology.

What Exactly is ONDC?

Most people assume ONDC is just another app. It is not. It is a digital “network,” like UPI. Just as UPI connects many banks and apps for payments, ONDC connects many apps, sellers, and logistics partners for shopping. For example, if you open Paytm or Magicpin, you can shop through ONDC. A small shopkeeper in Jaipur can sell to a customer in Bengaluru without needing Amazon or Flipkart. Prices may be lower because sellers do not have to pay high commissions to big platforms. Consumers get more choices, and small sellers get fairer access.

This is a remarkable idea. But the problem is—how many people know about it? Very few.

The Awareness Gap

At present, ONDC is like a shop hidden in a corner with no signboard. Some businesses and traders know, but the common customer does not. Why? Because:

- There has been no big public campaign.
- ONDC has not created a cultural identity like UPI.
- Sellers do not know how much it can help them.
- Globally, ONDC is still invisible.

India risks losing a golden chance. We have built something powerful but failed to explain it to the people who need it most.

Why Marketing Matters?

Some people argue that good products sell themselves. That is not true. In today’s world, the best product does not always win—the best marketed one does.

Marketing is not just about advertising. It is about managing the image, aware-



ONDC, as a powerful tool, could be the UPI of E-Commerce in India.

Annu Kumari

ness, and understanding of a product. It ensures people know what it is, why they need it, and how to use it. In classic marketing terms, ONDC needs to get its 4 Ps right:

1. Product: ONDC must be explained clearly. It is not “another app” but a network. This confusion must end.

2. Price: Communicate its cost benefits. For example, food delivery through ONDC can often be cheaper than Swiggy or Zomato.

3. Place: Tell people where they can use it—inside apps like Paytm, Meesho, or Magicpin.

4. Promotion: Launch big campaigns via TV, social media, and offline to spread the word.

Without strong promotion, ONDC risks becoming a government project that remains on paper rather than in people’s hands.

Lessons from UPI

UPI succeeded because of three things:

- Simple benefit: “Send money instantly for free.”
- Joint push: Banks, fintech companies, and the government all promoted it together.
- Cultural presence: Ads, cricket matches, celebrity endorsements, and even Bollywood references made it popular.

Today, even a rickshaw driver or street vendor says, “Google Pay kar do.” That is the level of penetration ONDC needs. People should casually say, “Order it on ONDC.”

Connecting with Gen Z and Millennials

ONDC must connect with the two groups that drive India’s digital economy: millennials and Gen Z. Millennials, who are the largest online shoppers, care about convenience and value. ONDC must

show them that it can provide the same variety and speed as the established giants, while often being cheaper. Gen Z, on the other hand, is drawn to fairness, inclusivity, and local pride. ONDC is perfectly positioned to appeal to these values because it empowers small sellers, supports “Vocal for Local,” and reduces monopoly control. But these messages have to be communicated through the channels Gen Z actually uses—social media, influencers, and cause-driven campaigns.

Global Recognition: A Missed Opportunity

The lack of global recognition is an even bigger missed opportunity. Just as UPI is now making waves abroad, ONDC could be promoted as a model for open, inclusive commerce. It could inspire other countries to reduce their dependence on global monopolies and empower local sellers. For that, India must showcase ONDC at international conferences, build partnerships with organizations that support small businesses and ensure its story is told in influential global media outlets. At the moment, this international branding effort is almost non-existent.

A Blueprint for Marketing ONDC

ONDC needs a proper marketing management plan. First, it must define its identity in simple terms as people are confused about what it represents. A clear and catchy phrase like “India’s Open Online Market” could go a long way in creating recognition. Second, it must run targeted campaigns. Urban customers must hear about the convenience and lower prices. Small



sellers must hear about how ONDC expands their reach. International audiences must hear about India’s leadership in fair digital commerce. Third, partnerships with popular apps are crucial. Every ONDC-powered transaction should clearly display that it is happening “through ONDC,” so the brand itself gains visibility. Fourth, the network must tell human stories. A farmer who earns more, a weaver who reaches new buyers, a small restaurant that survives thanks to ONDC—these are the stories that touch people more than policy documents ever will. And finally, ONDC must go where the people are—malls, festivals, and colleges—with live demos and events where consumers can experience the difference firsthand.

If India does not act now, ONDC could become just another ambitious project that never reaches its potential. Private e-commerce companies will only grow stronger. Small sellers will remain dependent on them. And India will lose the chance to lead the world in digital commerce innovation.

Marketing is not decoration. It is survival. Without it, ONDC may fade into obscurity. With it, ONDC could become as famous and useful as UPI. □□

*Designation: Research Scholar, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.
E-mail id: channukumari06@gmail.com*

Why Slander against Dharmakshetra - Dharmasthala?

(They dug the hill but did not find even a mouse.)

Dharmasthala is the abode of Shri Manjunatha Swamy, the living embodiment of Lord Shiva. It is also the sacred seat of the guardian deity of this region, Shri Annappa Swamy. Dharmasthala is a holy Shaiva center where the temple Priests are Vaishnavas, while the religious head is the Dharmadhikari, is a Jain. This unique blend makes Dharmasthala a rare confluence of Shaiva, Vaishnava, and Jain traditions—a living symbol of social harmony.

Dharmasthala is equally renowned as the ‘Temple of Justice’, with a long-standing reputation as a divine court that resolves personal, family, and social disputes. Devotees from across the state, regardless of religion, sect, or region, visit Dharmasthala throughout the year to seek the blessings of Shri Manjunatha Swamy.

The Dharmadhikari has declared that education should be accessible to all, and no student should be deprived of learning. Accordingly, the institution runs numerous schools and colleges—from nursery to postgraduate and professional levels—along with vocational institutions and hospitals across the region. Self-employment training centers function in collaboration with nationalized banks. Thousands of women’s self-help groups, comprising members from Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities, are actively engaged, empowering lakhs of families. Dharmasthala has thus provided education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities to millions.

Through its members, Dharmasthala Sanstha also conducts hundreds of service activities, such as tree plantation drives for environmental protection, water conservation movements, and the provision of free drinking water. Irrespective of the political party in power in Karnataka, Dharmasthala has consistently worked for the welfare of citizens, particularly women. In this light, every government, regardless of ideology, ought to support such an institution that tirelessly promotes religious and social harmony as well as community welfare.

Why was an anonymous complaint given priority?

After decades of peace, an anonymous individual calling himself “Bheema (Maskman)” suddenly emerged with a complaint, attempting to portray falsehood as truth. He has not disclosed his real name, his village or town, or his past life details, raising serious doubts about his intentions. His claim about decades-old buried bodies prompted the Karnataka government to immediately form an SIT (Special Investigation Team), despite earlier statements that no such body would be constituted.

Shockingly, the state administration has extended hospitality, livelihood support, and protection to this unnamed person. The public is puzzled by this preferential treatment and suspects pressure from unseen quarters. The government’s surrender to an anonymous complainant has triggered mass resentment, as many view this as state support for false propaganda against a holy place.



India must change course: invest in future-ready sectors, remove barriers to input access, unleash MSMEs by reducing GST burden, and put product design and development at the heart of its export strategy.

Mahadevayya Karadalli

For 13 consecutive days, despite repeated digging and the use of rented Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) devices, no evidence has been found. Yet, the SIT continues to allow new digs at the behest of this complainant. Meanwhile, in the absence of transparent updates from the SIT or the government, several You Tubers are spreading anti-

Hindu, anti-religious, and anti-traditional propaganda on social media. The government must act firmly against such elements.

Government's Faulty Decisions

Even after extensive digging, including at "Point No. 13," nothing was discovered. Still, the government authorized digging up to 20 feet deep in a sensitive dam catchment area—thankfully without incident. It is common sense that a single person could not secretly dig massive pits of 4–6 feet decades ago without anyone noticing. Yet, now machines are being used for excavations of 20 feet. The SIT's unusual "over-activeness" for 17 continuous days raises serious questions.

This GPR-based inquiry has, in fact, opened a "Pandora's Box." Following the anonymous complainant's directions has only dragged Dharmasthala into unwarranted controversies. Similar demands for SIT probes at other religious sites, including dargahs in Chikkamagaluru, using the same GPR technology. Now local leader Raghu Sakaleshpur has called for a separate SIT probe—with GPR into 27 graves, including the ancient Audumbara tree and surrounding tombs at Dattatreya Babubudan Swami Darga in Chikkamagaluru



using GPR technology, as was done in Dharmasthala and demanding the same level of scrutiny.

Media and Social Media Misuse

A photo widely circulated on Facebook under the hashtag #Dharmasthala allegedly showed skeletal remains. However, reverse image search revealed it originated from *Le Monde*, a French newspaper dated May 5, 2021, depicting soldiers' graves in Rennes—not Dharmasthala. This exposes deliberate misinformation. Such propaganda, reminiscent of earlier attempts to defame Hindu shrines like Shani Shingnapur and Sabarimala, suggests an orchestrated campaign by vested interests such as SDPI and left-leaning groups.

Offense Against Devotees

It is disheartening that more sympathy appears to be extended to Muslims and Christians, while Jains—who are also a minority—are completely ignored. Selective empathy by vested groups and international media with dubious sources only strengthens conspiracy theories.

Shockingly, even a 39-year-old murder case was suddenly linked to Dharmasthala, despite successive governments remaining silent for decades. Even more startling a stranger "sister" Indravati along

with CPM leader B. M. Bhat submitted a complaint related to Padmalatha's murder, which occurred 39 years ago in this same area, now to enforce an SIT probe in Dharmasthala seems to be a malicious and politically motivated.

The claim that hundreds of bodies were buried secretly over decades in an area that daily hosts thousands of devotees, farmers, and workers is absurd. If such graves truly existed, why has no one seen anything all these years?

Voices of Outrage

Both Congress and BJP leaders have condemned the government's actions. Senior Congress leader B. Janardhana Poojari asked that whether the Chief Minister not even understands Hindu cremation traditions, questioning why only temples are targeted while burials in mosques and churches are not questioned. BJP leaders/legislators like C.T. Ravi Sunil Kumar and Suresh kumar have demanded an end to false propaganda. Ruling party Congress MLA Shivaganga Basavaraj said that Dharmasthala's Dharmadhikari, Rajya Sabha member Shri Virendra Hegde has been working continuously for several decades to create jobs for farmers, the poor, women by providing training and self-employment, especially girls, in the way the government works. He said that Dharmasthala Sri Kshetra is a place of pride for all Hindus including Jains.

Jain communities across Karnataka have also staged silent protests. Devotees in Shivamogga, Mandya, and Dharwad marched

[Continued on page no. 23]

How to tackle Trump tariffs



Thursday (31 July) onwards, nearly all Indian exports to US will face a 25% tariff on top of standard US duties, plus an additional penalty. As such, India now faces one of the highest US tariff rates among Asian exporters, second only to China (30%), and far above Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (18%), Indonesia (19%), and Japan and S Korea (15% each).

With US our largest market – accounting for \$86.5bn, or 20% of India's goods exports last fiscal – the impact is severe. If these high tariffs stay in place, India's exports to US could fall by 30% to

\$60.6bn in the current financial year. Labour intensive sectors will be hit the hardest as shrimp exports (\$2bn) now face a 25% duty, garments and home textiles (\$8.4bn) are taxed at 34-39%, and jewellery (\$10bn) at 27.1%. Duties on metal exports (\$4.7bn) can go up to 51.7%, while engineering goods like machinery and auto parts (\$9.3bn) face over 26%. Petroleum, pharma and smartphones are currently exempt but could be targeted later.

Increasing exports to other countries to reduce losses won't be easy as the world is shifting from open to managed trade, driven by politics, security, and environmental rules. For example, EU, which bought \$75.7bn worth of Indian goods, will impose a carbon tax in Jan, hurting steel and aluminium exports. These are already down 24.4% this year due to new reporting requirements. Indian farm products will soon face taxes under EU's deforestation law, and similar measures will likely apply to most agricultural and industrial goods. As US and EU tighten access to their markets, more countries may follow.

With global markets becoming harder to access, India's current export basket needs diversification. It's time to stop overvaluing trade policy and start prioritising product strength. China's export boom in the 1990s happened not because of trade deals, but because it offered the right product at the right price across traditional and modern sectors.

We can start by modernising traditional sectors and parallelly work on high-tech sectors. For example, many handicrafts have outdated designs and century-old production methods, even as global tastes evolve. In apparel, we miss out on 70% of the world market-winter-wear, fashionwear and sportswear-mainly because we make it difficult to import the input materials.

Rising input and production costs have made deep manufacturing unviable in many sectors, so we remain stuck in low-value activities like assembling imported components. At the same time, policy choices that protect a few large players in textiles, chemicals and steel hurt thousands of MSMEs and hold back entire industries from reaching their full potential.

While we look back at the 1990s as a turning point where India opened up its economy, we often ignore what China was doing then - securing lithium and co-



High US import duty will hurt, but there's much India can do to mitigate the impact.

Diversifying the products basket, making small producers nimble & smartly promoting tourism will all go a long way.

Ajay Srivastava

balt mines in Chile and Congo, and investing heavily in future industries - solar, electric vehicles, electro-nics, toys, pharmaceuticals, apparel, machinery and chemicals. India, by contrast, did little and is paying the price for that inaction.

India must change course: invest in future-ready sectors, remove barriers to input access, unleash MSMEs by reducing GST burden, and put product design and development at the heart of its export strategy. Here are three suggestions for quick results on exports and forex earnings.

First, bring back the interest equalisation scheme, which was discontinued last year despite costing just ¹ 2,500cr annually. It offered up to 5% interest relief on loans for export orders, helping MSMEs especially get cheaper, globally competitive finance. Reviving it with a higher annual budget of 15,000cr and a five-year commitment - not just short-term renewals - will cut production costs and give exports an immediate boost.

Second, implement the UK FTA and fast-track talks with EU and other partners, keeping expectations realistic. These deals are unlikely to boost exports significantly, as average tariffs in these markets are already low-around 3-4%-and over half of Indian goods already enter duty-free. Further tariff cuts may offer only modest gains. Past FTAs show that imports from partner countries tend to rise much faster than exports, which will likely continue.

Third, India must act to unlock the full potential of its tourism sector - an area where gains could far outweigh losses from declining exports to US. In 2023, India earned just \$17bn from foreign tourists, as against Spain (\$92bn),

Dubai (\$31bn) and Amsterdam (\$31bn). This gap exists not for lack of heritage or attractions, but because of preventable issues: high hotel taxes, harassment of foreign women near tourist sites, and taxi unions exploiting visitors under political protection. India must overhaul the tourist experience-lower costs, ensure safety, and make the country more welcoming. If we fix

this, tourism could become one of India's most significant growth and job creation engines.

It's time for an honest conversation. A good start would be to list our self-inflicted wounds, and fix them. By doing this we can boost not just exports, but also jobs and growth across the economy. □□

*The writer is an expert on trade & tech issues.
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toi-plus/business-economy/how-to-tackle-trump-tariffs/articleshow/123077221.cms*

[Continued from page no. 21]

Why Slander against Dharmakshetra - Dharmasthala?

on the streets. Cases have been filed against individuals spreading derogatory remarks against Jains on YouTube. Daily protest rallies were going on to protest against pious place Dharmasthala and attempting to portray falsehood as truth

Double Standards

Ironically, a case was filed against Andola Sri Siddalinga Swamiji of Bajrang Dal for demanding removal of illegally constructed graves in the vicinity of Central University of Karnaaka Kalaburagi. Yet no action has been taken against those spreading false propaganda /claims about Dharmasthala. Why this double standard? People are rightly questioning the government's policies. If the government continues this unwise course, it risks sparking similar demands across the state for GPR investigations into various disputed sites.

A Warning to the Government

This entire episode appears to be an attempt to tarnish the reputation of Dharmasthala, to appease minorities, and to reap electoral

gains. But people's patience should not be mistaken for weakness. Beneficiaries of Dharmasthala's service activities, especially women's self-help groups, are angered. Continued injustice may erode the ruling party's support base and even jeopardize its political future.

Even the British refrained from interfering in Hindu religious practices. Any attempt now to repeat such misadventures will only backfire. If any party, group, or individual conspires against the Dharmasthala shrine, it will be nothing less than driving nails into their own coffin.

Call for Justice

To restore faith in governance, the state must act fairly and transparently. Let the truth emerge quickly, and let the honor of Shri Manjunatha Swamy be restored. Those who make false allegations must face fitting punishment. May Shri Manjunatha Swamy grant justice and expose, punish the conspirators behind this malicious campaign. □□

How weaker sections are ensuring diversity of fresh vegetables in their daily food

Vegetables are one of the best sources for ensuring the presence of essential vitamins and minerals in food, apart from being a very good source of fiber. In addition vegetables provide the antioxidants that can be a valuable means of protection from infections and illness. More specifically several vegetables have also been found to provide protection from certain diseases and ailments, including chronic and serious ones too. Carrots and green leafy vegetables, to give one example, can be a very healthy source for maintaining good vision and eyes health, while giving many other benefits as well.

The numerous health benefits of vegetables are realized best when vegetables are eaten fresh, and above all when these are grown using natural methods, avoiding chemical fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides. While all these facts are increasingly better-known, what keeps the poor from following this health and nutrition advice is that they simply do not have the means for affording a diversity of vegetables in their daily food. However in rural areas there is a good alternative—if you cannot buy vegetables, grow them. Even you have very limited farmland, you can still grow a lot of vegetables in very small plots of land in multi-layer vegetable gardens. If you do not have any farmland at all, perhaps you can still grow at least some vegetables in a kitchen garden. This is the model that SRIJAN voluntary organization has tried to follow in its work relating to improving sustainable livelihoods which has focused more and more on working with weaker sections and with women from these communities.



The numerous health benefits of vegetables are realized best when vegetables are eaten fresh, and above all when these are grown using natural methods, avoiding chemical fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides.
Bharat Dogra

Beautiful and highly productive multi-layer vegetable gardens, cultivated in very creative ways, are a very integral parts of this effort. As I visited several such vegetable gardens in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states, I was impressed by what appeared to be intricate art-work of farmers using poles and wires to support a diversity of vegetables growing together in a small area. This is certainly not haphazard growth, but follows careful planning based on factors like which tender and smaller plants will need the shade and protection of bigger and sturdier plants and which plants can grow well with each other. A mix of vegetables including those which grow beneath the ground level, which grow on small plants, which grow on bigger plants and those which grow on creepers are planted together, making good use of limited space. Bamboos, poles and wires are used to provide conducive conditions for creepers to climb and provide healthier produce compared to creepers which remain close to soil and land.

Apart from providing know-how and often also seeds and other materials needed for a multi-layer vegetable garden grown using natural methods, SRIJAN has made perhaps an even more important contribution by improving soil and water conservation which also help to provide the base for improved vegetable cultivation.

An effort in Mau block of Chitrakut district (Uttar Pradesh), for example, has emphasized taking vegetable cultivation to some of the poorest households

such as those from the Kol tribal community. SRIJAN's intervention here includes helping marginal farmers with water conservation and sustainable farming efforts which reduce costs while maintaining (or even increasing) productivity. At the time of my visit at a group meeting of women from weakest sections of GuiyanKhurd and GuiyanKalaan villages there was a keen discussion on various initiatives that had already been taken by SRIJAN, utilizing a grant from HDFC Bank, within a short span of time and which have been much appreciated as being helpful by the poorest households.

The water conservation work involving cleaning of water tank, digging of 'doha' pits in water channels and repair of check dam was taken up at a cost of less than a million rupees and brought benefits to nearly 100 households, many of them in the category of poorest. What is more, nearly 70% of the cost incurred reached these marginalized families in the wages paid to them for this work.

Such cost-effective work was possible because of the close involvement of the community. Village development committees have been constituted which meet at regular intervals and help to take forward various initiatives. This was followed by trainings for natural farming.

With low costs as well as water conservation and improved recharge, it also becomes viable to cultivate very low productivity land which may otherwise be left uncultivated or neglected. Due to the ability to reduce costs, marginal farmers are willing to try new initiatives like multi-layer vegetable gardens and small orchards, while even more of them have taken up kitchen gardens.

Shyam toiled as laborer in a

nearby town on exploitative wages, but he has now decided to concentrate more on his farm. His wife Savita has also emerged as a lead farmer in adopting natural farming including growing vegetables. To encourage them, SRIJAN has donated a solar pump to them.

Initiatives based on natural farming to cultivate multi-layer vegetable gardens and small orchards are making waves in another village of this block named Lapaanv. Kiran shows us around her small but highly productive vegetable garden proudly. Here her family has now taken to growing a wide diversity of vegetable, with the help of a green protective net donated by SRIJAN. Her entire family has worked hard to create this garden, as they not only have to cultivate but must also protect the crop from aggressive monkeys. The various vegetables are grown in a mixed farming system in such a way that these can co-exist in a mutually protective sort of way, with the more fragile plants being sheltered by stronger ones.

The quality of vegetables grown here using natural farming methods is so reputed already, Kiran says with pride, that shopkeepers come right up to her home or her garden to purchase these. Her father-in-law, BrajBehari, says that till a few weeks back his eyesight had become so dim that he was arranging to go for surgery (there is a charitable eye hospital in the area), but after eating organically grown chaulai green leafy vegetable daily (from amaranth plant) for several days his eyesight improved so dramatically that he sees no need for any treatment now. In other villages also some farm family members stated that organically grown vegetables had a good impact on im-

proving eyesight. This family also has a kitchen garden and small orchard located close to their home.

In the same village another enthusiastic woman gardener Asha has a kitchen garden which may be small but it has helped to improve her family's year-round nutrition significantly. In addition, her friends said that Asha also generously gives them vegetables from time to time. A part of the garden is a circle where different vegetables are irrigated by a water channel so designed as to take water to all of them. Asha also preserves her own seeds of various vegetables.

Pushpa, a dalit woman, has just started growing her small kitchen garden and is very enthusiastic about it. Hence in the very first year of this program coming to this village, several poorer families started joining with much hope, and these hopes were mostly being fulfilled, encouraging yet more farmer households to link up.

In other areas SRIJAN has teamed up with partner voluntary organizations like the ABSSS, Arunodaya and YuvaKaushalVikasMandal to take forward vegetable gardens. In Hamirpur district and other places, several of these gardeners said that their year-round nutrition has improved, and in addition they can continue to get some cash income round the year from the sale of vegetables. In Manikpur block, even cultivators from the community which has an old tradition of vegetable growing said that even they with all their experience have benefited from the model of vegetable cultivation spread by SRIJAN with its emphasis on natural cultivation methods and multi-layer gardens. □□

The writer is Honorary Convener, Campaign to Save Earth Now. His recent books include India's Quest for Sustainable Farming and Healthy Food, Man over Machine, Saving Earth for Children and Protecting Earth for Children.

BRICS 2025: Irreversible trend towards national currencies

US President Donald Trump's threat of punitive tariffs against members of the BRICS grouping for their alleged moves against the US dollar (de-dollarization) overlooks the fact that while no formal mechanism has been launched to create a rival currency, the group is increasingly trading in national currencies. Russian deputy foreign minister, Sergei Ryabkov, clarified that there are no moves to replace the dollar, and "anyone who says so only wants to 'exert political and psychological pressure on BRICS members'". (July 19, 2025) However, he pointed out that Moscow makes over 90% of all payments with BRICS partners in national currencies.

In fairness, it may be pointed out that the Brazilian President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, had mooted a separate BRICS currency in 2023, but the idea never took off. However, as BRICS officially surpasses the G-7 in the size of its economy, the use of national currencies, ignoring the dollar, is unlikely to be reversed.

The US, however, irked at the rise of BRICS, announced several deterrent and protectionist measures including strict tariffs on the member countries. All the member states denounced "the rise of unjustified unilateral protectionist measures" and Washington's raising of "indiscriminate" tariffs.

The 17th BRICS summit at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 06-07, 2025) aimed at enhancing the autonomy of the Global South – "Strengthening cooperation among the countries of the South for more inclusive and sustainable governance" – amidst growing rivalry between the United States and China. As a multipolar world replaces Washington's brief unipolar moment, the once formidable NATO is losing



As a multipolar world replaces Washington's brief unipolar moment, the once formidable NATO is losing steam.... The Global South is ready to break the shackles of Western hegemony.
Sandhya Jain



steam as the Western economies struggle to meet Ukraine's demands for weaponry in its war with Russia.

At Rio, the BRICS expanded to eleven nations and nine partners, who together represent nearly half of the world's population, contribute approximately 40% of global GDP (G7 less than 29%) and more than 50% of global economic growth, surpassing the G7 in purchasing power parity. It seeks to reform global governance and supports economic integration through the New Development Bank and the cross-border payment system

International Economic Forum eclipsed the G7, thus pushing the geopolitical centre of gravity to the Global South.

At Rio, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused on politics and security, economics and finance, cultural and humanitarian affairs, and elaborated New Delhi's position on global and regional issues with emphasis on the fight against international terrorism. He drew attention to the recent terrorist attack in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. This condemnation was included in the summit's

bal East cooperation and coordination. Russia is set to host Intervention, a famous international television singing contest that BRICS member and partner states are keen to participate, to promote their shared cultural, spiritual, and family values.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang mooted greater cooperation in sectors such as green economy, digital economy, aerospace, and sci-tech innovation. He emphasized BRICS cooperation on other multilateral forums like the G20, the Eurasian Economic Union, the United Nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the African Union.

Political analyst Abbas Hashemite noted that the inclusion of Indonesia as the new member state and Bolivia, Belarus, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, and Uzbekistan as partner states is evidence of the increasing popularity of the BRICS. It suggests that the Global South is ready to break the shackles of Western hegemony. □□

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dominated by the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who addressed the summit via videoconference, observed that the "unipolar system of international relations... is being replaced by a more just, multipolar world," and added that the global economic order was also being transformed. Putin said the liberal globalization model is losing its heft and the epicentre of economic activity is shifting to emerging markets.

Brazil President Lula pointed out the groups economic heft, stating that BRICS countries hold 84% of the world's rare earths, 65% of manganese, and 63% of graphite". It is pertinent that around the time of the summit, the St. Petersburg

final declaration.

Emphasising commitment to the multipolar world order, Modi assumed the presidency for the BRICS 2026 summit and proposed cooperation and collaboration in critical sectors, including digital education access and agriculture, through the establishment of the BRICS Science and Research Repository. The group was urged to embrace a demand-driven policy to guarantee the long-term financial sustainability of the BRICS projects.

Russia proposed the creation of a new BRICS investment platform to give the member states an opportunity for mutual development. This laid the foundation for a potential Global South and Glo-

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Decoding Trump's fury

Coinciding with the 25% reciprocal tariffs imposed on India that became effective on August 7, President Donald Trump announced that the current impasse over the India-US bilateral trade negotiations is here to stay. He indicated that the negotiations would remain suspended “until the issue of tariffs is resolved”, the cryptic remark indicating that he would wait and watch until the August 21 deadline for the imposition of the additional ad valorem tariffs of 25% on account of India’s oil imports from Russia. President Trump gave legal effect to these “secondary tariffs” through his executive order issued on August 6, which draws upon his predecessor President Joe Biden’s executive order 14066 of March 22, 2022, expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in 2021.

President Biden’s March 2022 executive order, issued after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, disallowed “certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”, “prohibiting, among other things, the importation into the United States of certain products of Russian Federation origin, including crude oil; petroleum; and petroleum fuels, oils, and products of their distillation”. In addition, the executive order 14066 prohibited “new investment in the energy sector in the Russian Federation by a United States person, wherever located”.

President Trump invoked his predecessor’s executive order three days back since he deemed that the actions and policies of the Russian Federation “continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States”. Further, to deal with this situation, he determined “that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an additional ad valorem duty on imports of articles of India, which is directly or indirectly importing Russian Fed-



There's no doubt US President feels grossly undone as he was unable to clinch trade deal with India.

Biswajit Dhar



eration oil” and the additional duty would become effective from August 27. The US President instructed his secretary of commerce to determine whether any other country is directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil. If a country was indeed importing Russian Federation oil, “directly or indirectly”, his administration “shall recommend whether and to what extent [he] should take action as to that country, including whether [he] should impose an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 percent on imports of articles of that country”.

Why is only India being targeted?

The language of President Trump’s executive order unambiguously indicates that he is targeting India for importing Russian oil. While several countries have been “directly or indirectly” importing Russian oil, India is the only country that faced secondary ad valorem tariffs, over and above the reciprocal tariff of 25%. The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air has, in its analysis of Russian fossil fuel exports and sanctions for June published earlier in the month, showed that since the European Union (EU) imposed a ban on imports of Russian crude oil starting early December 2022, several countries, including China, Türkiye, Brazil, and of course, the EU, have been buying oil and oil products from the Russian Federation (bit.ly/4osWrBU). In fact, the EU has been the largest importer of liquified natural gas (LNG) and pipeline gas from Russia since it imposed an import ban on liquified petroleum gas, a ban on the use of EU ports for the transshipment of Russian LNG, and a ban on the import of Russian

It is important for India to continue to strongly counter President Trump’s “unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable” tariffs. While the larger importer of Russian oil, China, has been spared, India has been targeted. There is no doubt that the US President feels grossly undone as he was unable to clinch a coveted trophy, a bilateral trade agreement with India

LNG into specific terminals which are not connected to the EU gas pipeline network. In other words, the bans imposed by Brussels were extensive, but yet its members continued to import energy products from the Russian Federation.

The Trump administration’s targeting of India for importing oil from the Russian Federation, “directly or indirectly”, becomes apparent from the trends in India’s exports of petroleum products to the EU. During fiscal 2021-22, which ended just after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Netherlands, which hosts the EU’s oil terminals, imported petroleum products valued at \$5.2 billion, which was less than 8% of India’s total exports of these products. Within the next two years, Dutch exports of petroleum products had shot up nearly three times to over \$14 billion or 17% of India’s exports of petroleum products. On the back of this trend, the Netherlands emerged as India’s third-largest export destination, after the US and the UAE. Though India’s exports of petroleum products to the Netherlands declined in value terms during the previous fiscal year to over \$13 billion, its share in India’s exports in-

creased to 21%. It is, therefore, a strange augury that while India’s exports of petroleum products to the EU was substantially higher than those prior to 2022, President Trump has chosen to target India for “directly and indirectly” importing Russian oil.

A deal that never came

It is important for India to continue to strongly counter President Trump’s “unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable” tariffs. While the larger importer of Russian oil, China, has been spared, India has been targeted. There is no doubt that the US President feels grossly undone as he was unable to clinch a coveted trophy, a bilateral trade agreement with India, which would have strengthened his claims of significant achievements during his second term—which he described as “200 days of winning”. The reciprocal tariff and the secondary tariff imposed on India for importing Russian oil is undoubtedly a reflection of his frustration of having failed to clinch possibly the most important among the trade deals he has negotiated during the past few weeks. □□

The writer is distinguished professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/decoding-trumps-fury/3941016/>

Only inclusive growth can cut subsidy burden

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

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

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

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



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

Rathin Roy



states in fostering growth is precisely why they need to pay the most urgent attention to reducing inequality, not inequality of consumption through redistributive subsidies, but inequality of participation in delivering growth and enjoying the income rewards that come with it.

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

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

So, manufacturing has not been the engine of inclusive prosperity in Tamil Nadu. The state continues to subsidise these workers and their families with meals, education, and transportation, despite their employment in high-quality manufacturing jobs. It also spends a significant amount of public money offering incentives to foreign investors, but the resultant investments do not deliver a quantum increase in inclusive prosperity—the

Two important corollary features of inequality cause further roadblocks to investing in future prosperity. Much of the concentrated wealth and income is stowed “under the hood” to avoid taxation and accountability.

rich continue to disproportionately enjoy the income and wealth benefits of the manufacturing boom, leaving the government with the task of compensatory redistribution.

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

Two important corollary fea-

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

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

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

Rathin Roy- Distinguished professor at Kantiya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad; visiting senior fellow, Overseas Development Institute, London
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2025/jul/20/only-inclusive-growth-can-cut-subsidy-burden/>

Tariffs, Tesla & Trump - India keeps its distance

As the U.S. President Donald Trump intensifies his verbal offensive-threatening tariffs, boasting about ceasefires, and demanding trade concessions-New Delhi has chosen quiet resistance over rhetorical retaliation. Despite provocative statements and overt pressure from Washington, India has neither bent nor barked. Behind this silence lies a calculated, policy-firm, patient, and quietly disruptive.

India is displaying remarkable patience in the face of repeated insinuations, threats, and provocations from Trump. While trade negotiations continue-some stuck, others strained-Trump has taken to public outbursts, claiming credit for ceasefires, slapping tariffs, and even proposing a 25 percent universal import duty alongside a 100 percent penalty for Russian oil purchases.

Adding fuel to the fire, The New York Times recently headlined: “Modi’s ‘True Friend’ Trump Deals India Another Blow With Tariff Threats.” Yet India refuses to react. Talks continue, and Delhi has not yielded to the US demands to open up its agricultural and dairy sectors, despite sustained pressure. Trump’s latest jibe compares India to Indonesia, praising Jakarta for allowing free U.S. imports and slashing tariffs on its own exports, urging India to “learn from a good boy.” India’s response? Silence.

This silence has confused many and frustrated Trump even more. His impatience boiled over in an August 1 tweet: “So hard to believe that PM Modi still hasn’t responded to my tweets, statements, or tariff concerns. We gave India so much-great deals, defence support, big crowds-and total silence. Not even thank you. Don’t forget I’m the one who got India the ceasefire.”

But India’s silence is not weakness-it is strategy. Foreign reports suggest that Trump pushed for the ceasefire not for India’s sake, but to protect U.S. nuclear arsenals in Pakistan. India’s missile strike on Pakistan’s Kinari Hills reportedly exposed sensitive locations. In return, Pakistan’s Gen. Asim Munir was granted an unprecedented lunch at the White House, well beyond diplomatic norms.

India has quietly exposed U.S. duplicity-without naming names or issuing threats. Even as domestic critics like Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi challenge Modi to “name Trump,” the government stays composed. The diplomatic cost of reacting in a polarised world may be higher than staying silent.

Why is Trump so unnerved? Possibly because he senses India’s quiet resistance. Despite claiming 30 times that he brokered peace, he now says: “I understand India is no longer buying Russian oil. That’s what I heard. Not sure if it’s true. That’s a good step.” This is based on a speculative Reuters report about Indian state-run refiners scaling back Russian oil purchases. But what Trump doesn’t mention that these refiners account for only 10 percent of India’s Russian oil imports.

Trump should be told that there are an estimated 150,000 Americans working in India across various sectors. Nearly 30,000 US citizens find employment in India each year. Many of these jobs are with the over 1,000 US companies that



India’s strength today lies not in shouting matches but in measured, confident restraint. Its silence is not submission-it’s an emerging strategy -built on economic self-respect, global realism, and domestic strength.

Shivaji Sarkar



have established operations in India, employing approximately one million people, according to U.S. News & World Report.

India, now the world's third-largest oil importer, has become Russia's biggest customer since 2022-buying up to 2 million barrels per day, nearly 2 percent of global supply. Other top buyers are China and Turkey. Russia's dependence on India is such that if the India route is disrupted, the Kremlin could retaliate by shutting down the CPC pipeline from Kazakhstan, jeopardizing U.S. stakes held by Chevron and Exxon, as JP Morgan analysts recently warned.

India is now 35 percent reliant on Russian oil, importing goods worth \$50.2 billion in 2024-25. Even a minor shift in India's buying pattern could send diesel prices skyrocketing globally. Ironically, while India's clean diesel saves Europe during winter, it is discouraged domestically for arbitrary environmental reasons.

Meanwhile, India has graciously opened doors for Elon Musk's Tesla EVs-despite deep scepticism. Most Indians, barring Maharashtra's Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, are cautious. Trump himself disparages battery vehicles, calling them unreliable and more polluting. Battery cars have stalled in

many global markets. He wants ICE engines. India has every right to be wary. The Tesla entry risks devastating India's domestic auto industry, much like parthenium destroyed crops post-PL-480 food imports in 1960s. Add to this Trump's push to force India to slash agricultural tariffs to just 5 percent -a direct threat to millions of Indian farmers.

India must hold both Trump and Musk at arm's length if it is serious about safeguarding manufacturing and agriculture. India can feed the world-it doesn't need imported food diktats from a partner who rarely plays fair. The U.S. has never supported Indian manufacturing. It systematically worked to dismantle indigenous industrial ecosystem, popularly called Ludhiana technology, since the 1970s, flooding the market with high-priced American goods. It succeeded in installing Manmohanomics, which opened Indian doors to jobless growth.

India can initiate tough steps on many American companies selling the unessential cold drinks, potato burgers and fried chicken. One closure would render millions jobless in America. Jobs are eluding them and a poor, in Trump's words "dead" economy, sustains the mighty, but sinking, topmost "live economy". US companies are among the

insensitive employers. Now, the IT sector, once India's pride, is also facing mass layoffs and uncertain futures-often tied to decisions made in American boardrooms.

Indians want these be severely prosecuted for flouting working norms and wage norms. With strong macroeconomic fundamentals, robust domestic demand, fiscal discipline, high saving rates and demographic trends, India is now the fifth-largest economy in the world. Today, India's leading economic contributors are traditional and modern agriculture, technology services, the handicraft industry, and business outsourcing. Succumbing to any foreign power even continuing a friendly relationship is not in the interest of the country.

Together, the offshore business centres in India earned about \$65 billion last year, more than the value of American imports to India. By 2030, they are expected to earn \$100 billion or more. India would not mind being slapped with tariff. Indians do not share the official views of their government of trade ties with an economy that is at war with 69 countries. India would happily be the 70th. Talks can't be one-sided. If Trump wants it, he has to listen to India.

India's strength today lies not in shouting matches but in measured, confident restraint. Its silence is not submission-it's an emerging strategy -built on economic self-respect, global realism, and domestic strength. If Trump thinks silence is weakness, he may soon realise it's the loudest warning India has ever issued-without speaking a word. □□

Shivaji Sarkar was Sr Editor with Financial Express, Prof, IIMC Delhi and writes on India and world socio-political-economic issues.

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/dailyex:3420112896948-spaper-did0447881ad47452fafc17a2653b5293e/tariffs+tesla+trump+india+keeps+is+distance-newsid:676391370/>

SJM demands elimination of animal studies, more clarity on Biosimilar Guidelines

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), a public interest platform committed to self-sufficiency and equitable access to medical treatments, has requested the central drug regulator to eliminate animal studies entirely when comprehensive laboratory tests demonstrate high similarity between a biosimilar and its reference product and ensure that biosimilars are priced affordably for all patients.

In a letter to the head of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the SJM has demanded enhancement to the draft guidelines on Similar Biologics, released by the drug regulator recently for finalisation.

“Biosimilars hold immense promise for transforming healthcare in India by offering cost-effective alternatives to expensive biologic medicines. In a country where many patients face significant financial barriers to accessing basic healthcare, these guidelines are a beacon of hope. However, to maximize their impact and ensure that biosimilars reach all who need them, we strongly urge the CDSCO to consider the following enhancements to the Draft Guidelines,” it said.

The Manch applauded the draft guidelines for embracing the 3Rs principle (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement), reflecting India’s commitment to ethical scientific practices and alignment with global standards for animal welfare. Modern technologies, including in-vitro assays, organ-on-chip models, and computational simulations, provide robust, accurate, and humane alternatives to confirm the safety and biosimilarity of these drugs. These methods are often faster and more precise than animal studies, reducing both ethical concerns and development costs.

However, it added, the Draft Guidelines the waiving of animal studies is at the discretion of the CDSCO. The Draft Guideline reads: “On the basis of the totality of quality and nonclinical in vitro data available and the extent to which there is residual uncertainty about the similarity of a similar biologic and its RBP, it is at the discretion of Licensing Authority to waive or not to waive a requirement for additional nonclinical in vivo animal studies”. As a result, the waiver is at the discretion of the CDSCO.

“This provision not only risks increasing biosim-

ilar development cost but also goes against the practices of the leading regulatory authorities,” said, SJM. Prominent regulatory authorities like the UK MHRA, European Medicine Agency (EMA), Health Canada, and USFDA have either eliminated or phased out mandatory animal testing for biosimilars.

“Waiving animal studies entirely when comprehensive laboratory tests demonstrate high similarity between a biosimilar and its reference product,” demanded SJM.

<https://www.pharmabiz.com/NewsDetails.aspx?aid=180440&sid=1>

Rally On Boycotting Foreign Products Conducted SJM



With the initiative of the **Swadeshi Jagran Manch** organized rally on boycotting foreign products and increasing the use of domestic products at temple premises, Banakumari Bazar, Agartala, Tripura on 10th August, 2025. Activists of Swadeshi Jagran Manch a list of domestic and foreign products was distributed among all the traders and the public through a well-organized procession in the market.

Amidst the distinguished dignitaries participants there were Dr. Dharmendra Dubey, Regional Coordinator Shivaji Bose, Judicial Coordinator Subrata Gope, Bijoy Kanti Banik, Chittaranjan Deb, Sushmita Das, Abhishek Das and many other remained present in the programme.

<https://www.tripurastarnews.com/rally-on-boycotting-foreign-products-conducted-swadeshi-jagran-manch/>

‘Farmers, agri sector should be kept in mind for trade deals’: SJM reacts to 25% US tariff on India

India’s food security and interest of agriculture sector and dairy farmers should be kept in mind in



negotiating trade deal with the US in a multi-polar world where every country seeks to protect its interest, Swadeshi Jagran Manch said on Wednesday reacting to tariffs imposed by US President on India goods and services.

SJM said that the WTO Rules should govern trade deals and any government getting into a trade deal with a country should not affect trade deals with another. US president Donald Trump in his social media post mentioned that India buys its weapon from Russia.

“We are all sovereigns and we are free to do trade with any country. Russian oil is cheap and that helps us check our inflation. This is no longer a unipolar world. Every country looks out for its own interest,” SJM said.

The SJM has asked the government to keep agriculture and dairy out of the ambit of the trade deal. “Agriculture is the lifeline of India, and we will have to keep in mind food security issues. We will also have to look out for the interests of our dairy farmers,” SJM added.

BJP spokesperson Gopal Agarwal said that the government is taking care of India’s interests.

“The final decisions are yet to be taken and we will have a clearer picture then. The government only works in national interest, and we are also looking at FTAs with other countries. These negotiations are not final; this is a work in progress,” Agarwal said.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/farmers-agri-sector-should-be-kept-in-mind-for-trade-deals-rss-affiliate-union-reacts-to-25-us-tariff-on-india-3657163>

RSS takes up cudgels for Modi, SJM slams Trump’s ‘coercive tactics’

Swadeshi Jagran Manch censured US President Donald Trump for his “coercive tactics” of threatening penalties against India for trade ties with Russia,

appearing to launch a counter-attack on behalf of the Narendra Modi government.

“If Washington believes that such coercive tactics can sway India’s decisions, it must recognise that today’s India is not the India of a decade ago,” SJM said in a statement, seeking to obliquely credit Modi with bold leadership.

SJM said the Manch “expresses deep concern over US President Donald Trump’s recent statement threatening ‘unspecified penalties’ against India’s trade ties with Russia, in addition to the already announced 25 per cent tariff hike.”

The statement comes at a time when the Modi government has been cagey about directly criticising Trump’s threatened tariffs and penalties on India, or his repeated claims about having mediated an India-Pakistan “ceasefire” and forced a halt on Operation Sindoor.

“We are an emerging global power, (as we) demonstrated decisively during Operation Sindoor, and committed to building robust indigenous capabilities in arms production,” the Manch, said.

“The US, too, needs to move beyond the inertia of a unipolar worldview and embrace the reality of a multipolar, cooperative order.”



The statement’s belligerence marked a contrast with the government’s studied silence on Trump’s description of the Indian economy as a “dead” one and his barely concealed celebration of deeper ties with Pakistan.

All that has emanated from the Indian government by way of a reply has been commerce minister Piyush Goyal’s oblique rebuttal of Trump in Parliament, when he stressed that India was a “bright spot” in the global economy.

Appearing to do what the government has shied away from, the Manch asserted India’s sovereign right

to trade with Russia. New Delhi's procurement of oil and military hardware from Moscow is what has angered Trump.

"India's sovereign right to procure defence equipment to strengthen self-reliance in defence production and to secure crude oil at the most competitive prices — essential to keeping domestic inflation under check — cannot be subjected to external pressure," the Manch said.

It urged the US to respond to the greater challenge posed by China instead of resorting to punitive measures against "strategic partner" India.

"It's unfortunate that the US has chosen to adopt punitive measures against a strategic partner at a time when the world must collectively respond to the far greater challenge posed by China's weaponisation of trade and global value chains," the Manch said.

"Rather than resorting to pressure, the US and India should strengthen cooperation to build resilient, diversified, and equitable global supply chains."

The Manch underlined that Beijing's restrictions on rare earth exports was causing immense harm to manufacturing capacities worldwide.

It lauded the Modi government for standing firm against US pressure and urged it to resist any attempts to force open India's markets to US farm products.

"We have rightly resisted attempts to force open our markets to genetically modified agricultural products, dairy imports and other sensitive sectors," the Manch, which says it promotes Indian self-reliance, said.

The Modi government can't afford to let in GM agricultural products or dairy imports given the possible political repercussions. Ruling party leaders said such a move could trigger a fierce farmers' agitation, something the government can't afford, having already been forced by the 2020-21 protest to withdraw three new farm laws.

"Whether or not a trade agreement is reached, Indian exports to the US will continue on the basis of mutual economic benefit. We must avoid concessions that undermine our farmers, small-scale industries, or long-term economic self-reliance," the Manch said.

It suggested that the government accelerate the diversification of trade "beyond traditional partners, deepening ties with Latin America, Africa, the expanded BRICS bloc, and the Global South".

"While the US remains India's largest trading partner, trade must always serve mutual benefit —

not be used as an instrument of pressure," the statement said.

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/rss-takes-up-modi-cudgels-swadeshi-jagran-manch-slams-trump-coercive-tactics-against-india-print/cid/2116024>

'India's Trade Cannot Be Dictated By Foreign Nation': SJM Criticises Trump's Tariff Punch



Days after United States President Donald Trump imposed a 25 per cent tariff on India, Swadeshi Jagran Manch lashed out at the US President's move, threatening "unspecified penalties" over India's growing trade and defence ties.

In a statement released by the organisation, the SJM described the US President's decision as coercive tactics, stating India must firmly resist.

It reaffirmed India's right to independently procure defence equipment and secure affordable crude oil, highlighting its essential role in ensuring national security and containing inflation.

The Manch asserted that India's strategic choices cannot be dictated by foreign pressure, especially in the context of its emergence as a global power — a status it says was "decisively demonstrated during the Operation Sindoor."

Calling out the outdated "unipolar worldview" of the United States, the SJM emphasised the need for the world to adopt a cooperative, multipolar trade order. It criticised the US decision to target a strategic partner like India at a time when global efforts should instead be focused on countering China's disruptive control over rare earth exports and global value chains.

The Manch warned that the US has increasingly sought to bypass WTO rules by invoking "reciprocity" in a non-trade context, a strategy that undermines fair negotiations.

<https://www.newssc.com/india/indias-trade-cannot-be-dictated-by-foreign-nation-rss-affiliate-swadeshi-jagran-manch-criticises-trumps-tariff-punch-36075/>

Modi's Swadeshi Mantra Vs Trump's Economic Bullying



Once again, from his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon the people of India to take a firm resolve—to bring only Swadeshi (indigenous) products into their homes. This call is not only a befitting reply to the “pressure politics” and “tariff tyranny” of U.S. President Donald Trump, but also lays the foundation for building a stronger Indian economy. Modi's vision of an ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ (self-reliant India) is deeply rooted in this philosophy. He has repeatedly emphasized the need to become “vocal for local”—not merely as a slogan, but as a profound economic and cultural strategy that can liberate us from external dependencies. This is the same spirit of self-reliance that Mahatma Gandhi instilled through the spinning wheel and khadi, and which the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch continue to uphold.

Trump's frustration has manifested in his baseless accusation that India's economy is “dead.” Such a statement is not only factually incorrect and unfounded, but also an uncivil and unacceptable affront to India's economic sovereignty. What is even more ironic—and troubling—is that certain opposition parties in India have echoed and promoted this insulting remark as political fodder, indirectly lending it legitimacy. Often, these political actors seek to capitalize on anti-national narratives for domestic gain, forgetting that while political dissent is a pillar of democracy, unity in times of national affront is a mark of true patriotism. It is this very mindset—placing political ambition above national pride—that tarnishes India's image on international platforms.

Labeling India's economy as “dead” is not only a denial of current economic facts but also a strategic attempt to downplay India's rising global stature. In-

stitutions like the IMF, World Bank, and OECD have consistently recognized India as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Initiatives like Digital India, Startup India, and Make in India have led to a post-pandemic economic revival that many developed nations would envy. The truth is: India's economy is neither dead nor directionless. Yes, we face challenges such as unemployment, inflation, and income inequality—but despite these, India is advancing toward innovation and self-reliance. On global platforms, India's voice today resonates with strength and confidence.

https://www.pressnote.in/India_518448.html

SJM launches ‘Swadeshi Security and Self-Reliance Campaign’



The Himachal Pradesh unit of the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) organised a press conference in Mandi on August 8, 2025 to intensify its nationwide initiative — the Swadeshi Security and Self-Reliance Campaign.

The event was chaired by Anupama Singh, Swadeshi Research Coordinator for Himachal Pradesh, who emphasised the urgent need to adopt indigenous products and reject economic models that weaken India's sovereignty and self-reliance.

Prominent regional representatives, including Hem Raj Pathania (prantsamparkpramukh), Jaswant Singh, Vivek Anand, Joginder Chauhan, Rajni and Pushpa were also present and voiced their collective support for the campaign.

Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent call to promote swadeshi (indigenous) products, Anupama Singh said, “Buying and selling local products is not just a choice, but a true service to the nation.”

Since its inception in 1991, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch has been a strong proponent of a self-reliant Indian economy. In the current global environment, marked by economic protectionism, manipulation of global supply chains and aggressive dumping of cheap goods, the campaign repositions swadeshi as a strategic necessity for national resilience.

“The global economic system is no longer neutral. Countries like China are flooding markets with substandard goods, destroying domestic manufacturing and jobs in developing countries like India,” Anupama Singh observed.

One of the most pressing concerns discussed during the event was India’s expanding trade deficit with China, now approaching \$99.2 billion. The influx of inexpensive Chinese goods, often of poor quality, is damaging India’s MSME sector and weakening its manufacturing base.

“Why should we, as consumers, continue to fund a regime that threatens our borders and destabilises our industries?” Anupama Singh questioned, referring to China’s geopolitical aggressions and its economic influence in Indian markets.

The press conference also highlighted how India’s success in developing and manufacturing its own COVID-19 vaccine demonstrates the country’s capability to become self-reliant in critical sectors. Examples from defence, space and digital infrastructure were cited as additional proof that India can lead globally through indigenous innovation.

A major concern raised was the unchecked expansion of foreign e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart. The SJM likened these corporations to the East India Companies of the 21st century, accusing them of monopolistic practices that threaten India’s traditional retail ecosystem.

“These companies are not just digital platforms but unregulated empires lobbying for policy changes that favour global corporations over Indian entrepreneurs,” the panel stated.

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch issued the following demands to the Indian government:

- Impose strict regulatory controls on Chinese imports.
- Re-examine free trade agreements to safeguard national economic interests.
- Regulate e-commerce giants’ warehousing practices, pricing strategies, and preferential seller models.
- Prohibit the sale of private-label products by plat-

form owners to ensure a level playing field.

The platform also called upon citizens to reject excessive foreign dependency — be it in education, consumer goods or digital services — and instead support local artisans, manufacturers and service providers.

Reinforcing the Prime Minister’s vision to “Make India Great Again”, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch emphasised that the campaign is not about economic isolation but about responsible globalisation rooted in national interest.

“Swadeshi is about choosing employment over exploitation, production over passive consumption, and dignity over dependence,” said Anupama Singh.

The organisation urged all Indian citizens to join the Swadeshi Security and Self-Reliance Campaign, asserting that every conscious purchasing decision has the power to shape India’s economic future.

<https://thenewradar.com/himachal-pradesh/himachal-chapter-of-swadeshi-jagran-manch-launches-swadeshi-security-and-self-reliance-campaign-in-mandi-calls-for-economic-nationalism/>

Swadeshi Jagran Manch Rallies Against US Tariffs



Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), staged a protest against what it describes as ‘unethical and unreasonable’ tariffs imposed by the US on Indian goods.

The demonstration, part of the ‘Swadeshi, Suraksha and Swavlamban’ campaign, was organized by SJM volunteers, highlighting their opposition to import duties they deem ‘illegal’ and ‘unreasonable.’

SJM stated that amid global uncertainties, these tariffs bolster protectionism and damage Indian interests. SJM urged Indian citizens to join the campaign promoting self-reliance and called on the government to limit Chinese imports, secure favorable trade agreements, and regulate dominant e-commerce players. □□

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/3536497-swadeshi-jagran-manch-rallies-against-us-tariffs>

Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Meetings

Pictorial Glimpses



Swadeshi Shankhnad, Ranchi



Vichar Varga, North Assam



Panchkula, Haryana

Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Sanklap Yatra

Pictorial Glimpses



Agartala, Tripura



Etah, UP



Uttarakhand



Baghpat, UP



Imphal, Manipur



Bhadohi, UP



Hardoi, UP



Etawah, UP



Kanpur



Jhalawar, Raj.



Jhansi



Kalahandi, Odisha



Lucknow



Mainpuri



Mandi, HP



Manipur



Moradabad



Nilgiri, TN



Prayagraj



Shajapur, MP



Shahjahanpur, UP