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Welcome improvement in Public Health Facilities



Swadeshi Activities



Dattopant Thengdi Excellence Award program, Hyderabad



North Karnataka – Prant Vichar Varga



Seminar at CCSU, Meerut



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LETTERS 3

NEWS 36-38



CONTENTS

COVER STORY 6

Welcome improvement in public health facilities

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



1	Cover Page	
2.	Cover Inside Page	
08	OPINION	
	Like Sankara Award for EVR Periyar?	S. Gurumurthy
11	ECONOMY	
	India's Manufacturing and Progress	KK Srivastava
13	SCRUTINY	
	Trump second assassination bid: Swamp suspect	Sandhya Jain
16	FARMING	
	It's time to reimagine Agricultural Education	Devinder Sharma
18	POLICY	
	PFMS and Freebies	Alok Singh
20	ISSUE	
	Adulterated Prasadam in Tirupati: Is it a Planned Conspiracy Against Hindus? Let fight it!	Mahadevayya Karadalli
22	DISCUSSION	
	Stuck in the middle forever? Action to recognise, avoid, overcome perils of middle income trap has to be made policy focus	Rathin Roy
24	HISTORY	
	Ancient Indian Export Surplus with Rome	Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur
26	ANALYSIS	
	The growth factories	Anilesh S. Mahajan
29	DISCUSSION	
	The Untold bravery to save Kashmir - 1	Vinod Johri
32	INITIATIVE	
	Initiative to protect endangered Golden Mahseer at NEHU	Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla
39	Back Inside Cover	
40	Back Cover	



Lessons for India from Russia-Ukraine Conflict

The Russia-Ukraine conflict offers good lessons to India: it underlines the strategic imperatives of alliances, energy security, and economic resilience. All these point to strategic alliances type, India must undertake with like-minded countries to counter regional threats and strengthen interoperability and security cooperation, especially within the wider Indo-Pacific agenda. It also underlines the imperative for energy security, because Moscow's weaponization of energy exports throws world markets out of kilter; India's quest for diversified energy sources has necessarily had to follow investments in renewables and long-term contracts with multiple suppliers.

The economic implication also demands self-reliance; India needs to focus on the growth of domestic industry and reduce imports in the fields of defense and technology, which initiatives like "Make in India" support. It is also due to this humanitarian implication of the war that India is reminded of the power of soft power diplomacy, as efforts at the political-diplomatic level and humankind can better its position in the global spectrum and show its commitment to peace.

— Nishant Chaturvedi, Researcher, Swadeshi Shodh Sansthan, Delhi

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Quote-Unquote



PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure, it has significantly enhanced multimodal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors.

Narendra Modi, PM, Bharat



India's vision for the Indo-Pacific is based on fostering partnerships through sustainable development, economic growth, and mutual security.

Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, Bharat



The problems of the farmers are such that they appear small but if these are solved, the income of the farmers will increase by 10-20%.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Agriculture Minister



The Swadeshi Jagran Manch deeply mourns the sad demise of one of the greatest industry leaders of India and the world, Padma Vibhushan Ratan Naval Tata.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

RCEP is still harmful for India

On November 4, 2019, at the Third Summit of RCEP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India was withdrawing from RCEP and he also said that his conscious does not testify that India should sign the RCEP agreement. Not only the RCEP member countries but the whole world was astonished by this announcement. But in less than five years it has become clear that india's decision was prudent and this agreement proved to be disastrous for almost all the remaining countries except China. India escaped this disaster by taking prudent decision at the right time. RCEP was a proposed agreement between 16 countries, which included 10 ASEAN countries, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, China and India. When all efforts to persuade India to join this agreement failed, then though, not in that summit, but in the subsequent summit in November 2020, the remaining countries signed the RCEP agreement. It is worth noting that despite India's withdrawal from this agreement, the RCEP group represents 30% of the world's GDP and 30% of the population. Even after that, India has constantly been invited to join this group. In this context, the World Bank recently said that India should consider joining RCEP now. In such a situation, the debate has started again in India whether we should rejoin RCEP or not? Few economists supporting this view, may have liked World Bank's advice, but the trade figures of the last few years are telling a different story.

We will have to understand what is the situation of other countries currently included in RCEP? It will also have to be understood that if India had also reduced import duty as per the RCEP agreement (the condition of the RCEP agreement was that the countries included in it would have to reduce the import duty on 90 to 95 percent of the goods to zero), then what would have been the situation of India's imports from China? If we look at the imports, exports and trade balance of other countries included in RCEP. Since the launch of RCEP, the trade deficit of ASEAN countries with China has increased from US \$81.7 billion in 2020 to US \$ 135.6 billion in 2023 (66% increase). Similarly, Japan's trade deficit with China has increased from US\$22.5 billion in 2020 to US\$41.3 billion in 2023 (85.5% increase). South Korea, which is considered an important participant in the global supply chain, may also face a trade deficit with China for the first time in 2024. Although India's trade deficit with China has also increased rapidly, experts believe that had India joined RCEP, this deficit could have been unbearable due to zero duty on most imports. Though, the reality is that despite not joining RCEP, India is still importing goods from China in large quantities. Since 2020, India's imports from China have increased rapidly and India's imports from China have increased from \$65.2 billion in 2020-21 to \$101.7 billion by 2023-24. On the other hand, India has generally been exporting only precious minerals and raw materials to China, which is mostly not in India's interest. Due to the fall in exports from India to China, India's trade deficit with China has increased from US \$44 billion in 2020-21 to US \$85.1 billion in 2023-24. Increasing imports from China have emerged as a big challenge confronting on India's resolve for self-reliance. It can be understood that after 2020, India's GDP has grown rapidly, due to which the demand for spare parts in industries has also increased rapidly. It is believed that 75% of India's imports from China are machinery, bulk drugs, chemicals and other types of equipment and spare parts. These are the goods which are not available in India at competitive prices.

We need to understand that global value chains are generally China-centric, and other member countries have little participation in the same. This puts other countries in a vulnerable position. We also need to understand that China has built up a huge excess capacity in manufacturing. This makes it possible for China to dump all kinds of products in global markets. This dumping has caused havoc for manufacturing in most of the countries. Even countries that used to be part of GVCs earlier are losing ground to China. Many South East Asian countries, including South Korea, are living examples of this. We also need to understand that reducing import duties cannot automatically make a country a part of the global value chain; there are many other factors that play a role in that. Researchers on GVCs say that successful participation in value chains depends on the country's economic strength, the absorptive capacity of domestic firms and the enabling environment at the domestic level. The truth is that due to the neglect of industrial policy in the era of globalization, our economy is not ready to take advantage of GVCs. In such a situation, it is possible that we may remain a country producing low technology products in the value chain. The country is moving towards the goal of self-reliance by imposing various types of restrictions on imports by increasing import duties to a reasonable amount and schemes like Production Linked Incentives. In such a situation, the idea of an agreement like RCEP can derail the efforts towards self-reliance. We should not be misled by false arguments like global value chains, but should move forward towards the formulation of an appropriate industrial policy to carry forward our goal of self-reliant India in the light of the experiences of the rest of the countries involved in RCEP.

Welcome improvement in public health facilities

The period of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG) has consistently affected government expenditure on social services. Among the social services, worst affected have been the education and health. It is notable that in 1990-91, total public expenditure on health (which included medical and public health, family welfare, water supply and sanitation, nutrition, child and welfare of disabled) was 2.36 per cent of GDP. Although, public education and health institutions had never been excelling, in the pre-LPG era, these facilities were largely kept at the heart of government policy making. With the advent of privatisation under LPG policies, people were largely left at the mercy of market forces for education and health. Although data on out-of-pocket expenditure on health in the pre-LPG era is not readily available till the year 2000, it is believed that people especially poor used to spend very little from their pocket, on health services. If we talk about health, naturally the treatment of diseases has always been the top priority for any family or individual. If government health services are lacking, people are forced to spend, out of their pockets on health services. People's out-of-pocket expenditure on health facilities increased not only quantitatively but also as a percentage of total expenditure on health. It is worth noting that in 1991, government expenditure on health, which also included many other services, was 2.36 percent of GDP, by 2013-14 the total expenditure on health had declined to 1.15 percent and on the other hand, people's out-of-pocket expenditure on health reached 2.6 percent of GDP in 2013-14. It is worth mentioning, that by 2013-14, out-of-pocket expenditure on health reached 64.2 percent of total health expenditure. Decline in public expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP and the consequent deterioration of the condition of public health facilities, the proliferation of private hospitals and nursing homes, and growing awareness and concern about health among the general public, including the underprivileged; was responsible for rising out of pocket expenditure on health.



Given the pace at which private expenditure is coming down in India, it can be hoped that the country will soon be able to stand up to the level of at least middle income countries.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



The disproportionate reduction in government spending on health has also been a matter of great concern for the country, as due to the poverty prevailing in the country, people do not have enough money for treatment, due to which they have to either borrow huge amounts of money or sell their belongings to spend on private health facilities. After coming to power, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Narendra Modi government said in a statement in January 2015, "630 lakh people are pushed into poverty every year due to "catastrophic" spending on health care, which neutralizes the benefits of various government schemes aimed at reducing poverty and increasing incomes." This problem is not limited to India, rest of the world is equally affected by it. A recent WHO study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) said, "A growing number of people in Europe and Central Asia are spending so much on healthcare that they do not have enough money for their other essential needs – what is called 'catastrophic health expenditure', which occurs when a family's out-of-pocket payment exceeds a certain level of paying capacity. And it is becoming more and more common."

But what is a matter of satisfaction in India is that according to recently released data, over the years, private out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure on health has come down from 64.2 percent in the year 2013-14 to only 39.1 percent by the year 2021-22, and at the same time, government expenditure has increased from 28.6 percent in the year 2013-14 to 48 percent in

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has recently been expanded to include citizens above 70 years of age, so that they can be provided comprehensive health facilities.

2021-22. If we look at it from the other side, it is found that government expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure on health has increased from a mere 1.15 percent in 2013-14 to 1.9 percent now.

How was this made possible?

Out-of-pocket expenditure on health has come down drastically due to several reasons, the most important reason for this is the introduction of a public health insurance program called Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Under this scheme, Ayushman cards are issued to the eligible population. Currently, there are about 35 crore beneficiaries of this scheme. Ayushman Bharat card holders are provided assured treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. However, only treatment of indoor patients (IPD) is covered under this scheme, and outpatient (OPD) services have not been included under this scheme yet. Apart from this, the government has also started many programs for primary health care, which are also helping in reduction of out-of-pocket expenditure on health.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has recently been expanded to include citizens above 70 years of age, so

that they can be provided comprehensive health facilities. This means that all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their income group, will now be eligible for the benefits of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Extending this scheme to senior citizens above 70 years of age will further reduce private out-of-pocket health expenditure and also increase the proportion of public expenditure on health. It is worth noting that the government has set a target of taking public expenditure on health to 2.5 percent by the year 2025.

Rising to the level of middle income country

It has to be understood that there was a time, when out-of-pocket expenditure had reached almost 70 percent of the total expenditure on health (in 2012-13); and the government's expenditure on health was only 1.15 percent of the GDP, whereas now with the expenditure from private pocket reaching 39.1 percent and government expenditure on health reaching 1.9 percent of GDP, India is now reaching the level of those select countries of the world which fall in the category of middle income group and upper middle income group. It is worth noting that according to the World Bank data in the year 2021, the out of pocket expenditure on health in upper middle income countries was an average of 31.37 percent of the total expenditure on health, in middle income countries it was about 34 percent. Given the pace at which private expenditure is coming down in India, it can be hoped that the country will soon be able to stand up to the level of at least middle income countries. □□

Like Sankara Award for EVR Periyar?

As a Brahmin by birth, TMK gained fame in Tamil Nadu, the land of Brahmin hate, by his virulent anti-Brahmin tirades, which automatically made him a progressive in today's discourse. Since he is a leftist and a liberal, no one can dare call him a misogynist for his dirty and sexy remarks about MS.

Imagine Bhagwan Mahaveer Award for promoting vegetarianism is given to a butcher—a Jain by accident of birth who says the Bhagwan is a hoax. By a jury that has no reverence for the Bhagwan. And the apostate butcher proudly accepts the award in the name of the apostle. How humiliated his Jain devotees will be? Apologies to Jains for taking the Bhagwan's name for a fictional analogy. Similarly, devotees of Carnatic music to whom it is not just an art but divine and sacred, have been hurt and humiliated in Tamil Nadu. Here unfolds the sordid story.

MS – “Greatest Hoax”, “Barbie doll”, “Sexy” to infatuated eyes?

“A young aspiring musician told me MS Subbulakshmi is the greatest hoax of the twentieth century”.

Who declared, on an anonymous testimony, M S Subbulakshmi as the greatest hoax?

“We have never thought of her music as being worthy of any serious investigation. What is there to say? We treat her [MS Subbulakshmi] like a saintly Barbie doll. Yet we duped the outside world into thinking we revere her.”

Who described MS as a saintly Barbie doll?

“Isn't it astounding that we will all agree that MS has been one of the most beautiful musicians in the Indian classical musical scene, but the word sexual has never been used in the context of describing her....Let me make it clear I am not referring to her inner beauty. She was what my daughter's generation would call sexy.”



TM Krishna's MS misogyny S Gurumurthy calls out the conferring of the 'Sangita Kalanidhi MS Subbulakshmi Award' on TM Krishna despite the latter's misogynistic tirade against MS, who Nehru said was the Queen of Music.
S. Gurumurthy



Who saw MS as sexy, not her inner beauty?

“Let any honest man besotted with her beauty deny that his fascination had to do with her looks as with her music and that Cupid played with her darts wherever she went. The Smarta Brahmin kattu [a specific style of wearing sari] has never looked more fetching, been more alluring than on the daughter of Madurai Shanmugavadivu. She was a diva, yet we are unable to openly celebrate her physicality, even in 2016.”

Who spoke about men besotted — meaning “blindly, utterly infatuated” — with MS’ beauty? And said Cupid — Greek God of Erotic Love — played with MS wherever she went? Not so much her music. Who’s this misogynist — to use the modern term liberals quite often use to brand other men who they think demeaned women?

MS award – for abusing, demeaning, hating her?

It is no congenital Brahmin hater E V Ramaswami Naicker (EVR) or his disciples, nor the DK clones in the DMK, who continue to hate all the good work the Brahmins did and do, all their Gods, icons, literature, worship, traditions and devotion. It is TM Krishna (TMK), a self-proclaimed heretic among Carnatic musicians, and a Brahmin himself. Ironically, TMK who declared MS the greatest hoax, described her as a saintly Barbie doll, derided her as sexy, and spoke of men besotted more with her looks than her music, is the proud recipient of the Sangita Kalanidhi MS Subbulakshmi Award for 2024. TMK spoke so ‘honourably’ about MS not long back. Just eight years ago but long after MS left this world in 2004. The Award in

MS’ name to TMK now is automatic after the Madras Music Academy conferred on him its ‘Sangita Kalanidhi’ Award for 2024.

TMK has unquestionable liberal and wokeist credentials to demean the gentle and humble MS — citing her birth, music and looks. As a Brahmin by birth, TMK gained fame in Tamil Nadu, the land of Brahmin hate, by his virulent anti-Brahmin tirades, which automatically made him a progressive in today’s discourse. Since he is a leftist and a liberal, no one can dare call him a misogynist for his dirty and sexy remarks about MS.

As a Carnatic musician who has turned an iconoclast to demolish all sacred and devotional foundations of Carnatic music that owes its body and soul to great saints like Tyagaraja, he has emerged a hero of atheist Dravidian liberals. Most importantly, like Kejriwal who, now neck-deep in scams, was promoted by the Ramon Magsaysay Award as a crusader against corruption, TMK too was adorned with the Magsaysay Award for unleashing “what music has to offer not just for some but for all”.

But, in the “for all” inclusiveness that the Magsaysay Award mentions, TMK reserves the choicest of dirty words for MS. His appetite to demean MS seems insatiable. He refers to MS’ ‘past’ as a single mother’s daughter and adds “what does MS’ metamorphosis [from that past] into a perfect Brahmin housewife say?... She sought respect and dignity and that she got only because she erased her past from her life and mind.” Without successfully erasing her past — as a woman of low birth, according to TMK — MS would not

have got the dignity and respect she commanded.

More than all his credentials, what makes TMK more qualified to mock MS as a ‘Brahmanical’ pretender is that he is a proud fan of EVR. Not many, not even TMK, may know today that EVR, who not only wanted all Brahmins killed and burnt, also desired that Mahatma Gandhi be annihilated along with the Congress! Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to Kamaraj (on 5.11.1957) calling for action against EVR who, he said, was a “pervert, criminal and lunatic”. But speaking about MS, Nehru said: “Who am I, a mere Prime Minister before a Queen, Queen of Music”.

Diametrically opposite to Nehru, TMK character-assassinates the noble MS before whom Nehru felt humble, and eulogises EVR who, in the eyes of Nehru, was a criminal. TMK wrote and tweeted a song last year celebrating EVR as “the one who told us to think”. In the same tweet he glorified EVR, TMK also held aloft a perverted writer Perumal Murugan who wrote that women, who pray all night on a Holy Day in a temple in West Tamil Nadu for begetting children, actually slept with unemployed youth stealthily to get impregnated by them! The liberal TMK eulogised him for dirtying both women and their faith. The liberal in him is also liberal in dirtying not just MS but womankind as a whole.

Proud to humiliate? Or shameless to accept?

On the Sangita Kalanidhi Award given by the Music Academy to MS as far back as 1968, TMK says “there is a lot to discuss about the negative impacts of her musicality” with a snide comment on her “artistic journey on the

India’s Manufacturing and Progress

India aspires to become the third-largest economy and a developed nation by 2047. For this goal to be realized, the manufacturing sector must play a pivotal role. While manufacturing activity has seen an increase since the launch of the “Make in India” initiative, the sector, a cornerstone of India’s economic growth, is showing signs of slowing down, raising concerns about the broader economy’s future trajectory. Additionally, India’s integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs) presents certain challenges. Trade related to GVCs, which reflects a nation’s participation in multistage trade processes, accounts for over 50% of gross trade in manufacturing.

Here’s a sectoral breakdown of GVC-related trade in gross trade:

Sector	2014	2022
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	20.0	23.8
Construction	21.4	39.5
Services	25.8	27.8
Manufacturing	46.1	51.6

However, India’s participation is lower compared to countries like Vietnam, which recorded 57.0% (2014) and 62.8% (2022), or Russia with 45.4% (2014) and 42.2% (2022), whereas India stands at 41.0% (2014) and 40.3% (2022) in terms of GVC-related trade’s share of gross trade.

The “Make in India” initiative aimed to increase manufacturing activity and investments in the sector. However, manufacturing still contributes less than one-fifth of India’s GDP, a ratio unchanged since 2014. From 2012 to 2022, India’s manufacturing output per capita grew at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5%, but countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, and China experienced faster growth. Nonetheless, India’s manufacturing activity, especially post-pandemic, remains stronger than many of its BRICS peers.



India strives to be the third largest economy soon and developed nation by 2047.

Manufacturing sector has to contribute with full force towards achieving the milestone.

KK Srivastava



Economy

Despite surpassing \$400 billion in merchandise exports in the decade following the initiative's launch, India's share in global merchandise exports has remained largely stagnant.

Here is a comparison of the Index of Industrial Production (year-on-year growth in %):

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
India	0.6	-12.7	13.5	4.0	5.3
China	5.7	1.3	12.3	3.5	4.2
Vietnam	7.8	2.6	3.4	19.7	-14.3
Bangladesh	9.0	-0.6	21.0	6.9	6.2

Despite growth in the past two years, India's manufacturing growth rate is decelerating, as evidenced by the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). This slowdown comes amid global economic uncertainty and domestic challenges, both of which are eroding market confidence. Local and global demand are softening, with output and new orders—a key component of the PMI—seeing declines. India's export market is facing challenges, and muted domestic consumption has not been able to fully compensate for weaker foreign demand. This dual pressure is a significant hurdle for manufacturers.

In summary, short-term and long-term developments in manufacturing raise concerns. India's manufacturing share in GDP, exports, and GVC participation has not seen substantial growth, affecting economic development, inflation, and employment. For instance, India's growth rate dropped from 7.8% to 6.7% last quarter. Despite these challenges, the fundamentals of the economy remain strong.

Manufacturing continues to hire at a slower pace, indicating

that businesses are not scaling back operations just yet. While short-term challenges persist, long-term optimism remains. Looking ahead, the key challenge will be how India navigates both domestic and international obstacles. Geopolitical tensions, increasing protectionism, and the trend to-

ward self-sufficiency pose additional challenges. Domestically, policymakers must balance stimulating growth with managing inflation and maintaining fiscal discipline. Indian companies must also enhance competitiveness and explore new markets to offset potential demand declines.

Currently, domestic manufacturing is supported by initiatives like production-linked incentives, import substitution policies, concessional corporate taxes for new units, proposals for industrial townships near major transport corridors, and policies easing logistics and land use. Additionally, there is a focus on creating a semiconductor ecosystem. However, more radical reforms are needed to boost productivity and competitiveness to accelerate growth in the sector.

India is now the world's fifth-largest manufacturing powerhouse, producing nearly \$550 billion worth of goods, which represents just 3% of global manufacturing output. Its share in gross value added remains at 17%, similar to agriculture, despite years of economic growth. Some question whether manufacturing will play its

intended role in India's growth story, especially given the country's shift from agriculture to services without significant manufacturing dominance.

India has the potential to become the third-largest economy sooner rather than later if it continues to grow its GDP, strengthen manufacturing, and advance infrastructure. The country could add \$1 trillion to its GDP every 1.5 years, reaching \$10 trillion by 2032. India is on track to become a \$4 trillion economy by 2024-25, making it the world's fourth-largest economy by that time. Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion. Today, it has emerged as the fastest-growing large economy, with an 8.2% growth rate in FY24. Even with a growth rate of 6.7%, India is poised to become the third-largest economy by 2030-31.

For India to become a developed nation, it must aim to be a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 with a per capita income of \$18,000. This would require GDP growth of nine times its current level of \$3.36 trillion and an eightfold increase in per capita income, which is currently \$2,392.

The 21st century can be India's century if it moves forward with confidence, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which has been somewhat stagnant so far. India is becoming a major player in the global supply chain, and this expanding role will be crucial to its economic growth. The manufacturing sector, supported by the right policy framework, must now lead the way in balancing supply and demand to drive the country's progress. □□

Trump second assassination bid: Swamp suspect

Barely two months after he survived an attempt on his life at a Pennsylvania rally on July 13, 2024, Donald Trump, former US President and Republican nominee for the November poll, escaped a second assassination attempt on Sunday, September 15, 2024, at his Florida golf club. Trump quickly reassured supporters via email: “I AM SAFE AND WELL. Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!” His running mate and Republican Ohio Senator, J.D. Vance told the media that Trump was in “good spirits.”

While it would be inappropriate to impute motives behind the attack – the first time a presidential candidate has been attacked, twice, in the course of a campaign – Trump supporters hinted at deeper political reasons. They pointed out that the first attack came soon after Trump trounced President Joe Biden in the first presidential debate (June 27, 2024), and the second potential attack followed a controversial debate with the new Democratic candidate Kamala Harris on September 10, 2024.

Conspiracy theorists pointed to the latest cover of *Time Magazine*, posted on 9/11, showing Trump in a golf cart. *Time* had famously prepared a cover of Hillary Clinton as America’s first female president, until her shock defeat consigned it to the dustbin. However, as Trump’s decision to play golf that day was not publicly known, the investigation must reveal how the shooter knew he would be at the golf course and could get close enough with a semi-automatic rifle.

The would-be assassin, identified as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, managed to escape but was soon arrested at the I-95 highway. Some Americans fear that he may die “mysteriously” in prison as has happened with inconvenient convicts in high profile cases. The assassins of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy were also speedily dispatched, which inhibited a comprehensive investigation into the killings.



While it would be inappropriate to impute motives behind the attack – the first time a presidential candidate has been attacked, twice, in the course of a campaign – Trump supporters hinted at deeper political reasons.

Sandhya Jain



Edward Snowden, former NSA whistleblower who leaked classified documents on US global surveillance programs, tweeted: We know little so far, but alleged Trump shooter's personal and public participation in military activity in Ukraine, it is hard to imagine this White House's agencies can claim zero contact-clean hands. Something of an Oswald vibe, here. Congress should get answers.

Supporters link the assassination attempts with Trump's attacks on illegal immigration. At Butler, Pennsylvania, Trump was showing immigration statistics on big screens at his rally, when an assassin known to Secret Service and law-enforcement, shot several bullets that almost killed the former President. They question how Alejandro Mayorkas, secretary, Department of Homeland Security, who refused more Secret Service protection to Trump and his team, has still not been held accountable.

Now, soon after Trump raised questions about the Haitian invasion of Springfield, Ohio, and locals alleged that the migrants were eating people's pets, he was targeted at his Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. At the September debate, Trump said that if elected, he would make the NASDAQ liable. Then, at a livestream event on September 17, 2024, Trump, accompanied by his sons and some cryptocurrency entrepreneurs, backed a new digital currency initiative, World Liberty Financial. This move to leave slow and outdated big banks behind is a major shift in Trump's economic perspective.

Ryan Wesley Routh

Ryan Routh is a US soldier who served in the Ukrainian foreign Legion that is allegedly con-

What set the social media aflame was the news that Ryan Routh had appeared in a propaganda video for the AZOV BATTALLION in May 2022, 'trying to recruit people for a revolution.'

trolled by the CIA. Radio host Alex Jones declared, "This is all about preparing the ground for total war with Russia." In a self-published book, Routh had advocated Trump's murder because of the latter's decision to withdraw from the pact that limited Iran's nuclear program.

As Facebook quickly deleted Routh's account, a reader posted a screen recording of all @Ryan-Routh's posts on X (Twitter), fearing that his X account may also be deleted. Another reader managed to archive Routh's entire Facebook page, with posts about recruiting mercenaries for Ukraine and fighting for Taiwan against China. It included posts about Routh being in Maui after the wildfires.

A devoted fan of Biden-Harris, Routh called Donald Trump a threat to democracy. He bragged about his recruitment efforts for the Ukraine war. New York podcaster Candace Owens tweeted: Everything about this shooter's background reeks of a criminal-turned-Federal asset in prison. Convicted for weapons of mass destruction and then years later trying to recruit Americans to (sic) the war in Ukraine?

What set the social media aflame was the news that Ryan Routh had appeared in a propaganda video for the AZOV BATTALLION in May 2022, 'trying to recruit people for a revolution.' However, the Azov brigade's press service denied any links with Routh. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the suspected assassination attempt, saying on X: "I am glad to hear that Donald Trump is safe and unharmed."

While there is no clarity about who shot the Azov Battalion video, the first Trump assassin, Thomas Matthew Crooks, did appear briefly in a BlackRock commercial. Blackrock has secured the largest commercial deal in Ukraine. Routh was interviewed by Newsweek Romania in June 2022, but now the magazine denounces him as "delusional" and a "liar."

Kamala Harris campaign

Coincidentally, on September 15, the Kamala Campaign found itself in a soup as an ABC News whistleblower released an affidavit revealing that ABC had conspired with the Kamala Harris campaign to provide questions in advance of the debate with Donald Trump on September 10, 2024. The collusion is regarded as election interference. The affidavit was signed on September 9, 2024, one day before the debate. The network also aggressively fact checked every statement by Trump during the debate for discrediting him but never challenged Kamala Harris's questionable or inaccurate affirmations.

Social media posts displayed images of the purported sworn affidavit from the alleged ABC News employee (with personal information redacted). The whistleblower alleged that this was the

only way the network could get Harris to join in the debate. Interestingly, days before this, Mark Penn, former Hillary Clinton advisor, had claimed that an ABC News whistleblower would soon come forward with claims of bias at the news outlet.

Following the debate, ABC News moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis were lambasted by media critics for their lopsided and often faulty “fact-checking” of Trump and softness towards Harris. The affidavit suggests that the Harris campaign made ABC News agree that the moderators would not ask Kamala Harris about President Joe Biden’s health, her numerous statements attesting to his mental and physical fitness, her tenure as Attorney General of California, and Tony West, her brother-in-law who is accused of embezzling billions of dollars in taxpayer funds and may find place in her administration if she is elected.

Reactions

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were briefed on Trump’s assassination attempt. Biden in a statement on Sunday evening, said he is “relieved” that Trump was not harmed, and commended “the work of the Secret Service and their law enforcement partners for their vigilance and their efforts to keep the former President and those around him safe.” Democratic vice-presidential nominee and Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz, said he and his wife, Gwen, are “glad” to hear that Trump is safe. “Violence has no place in our country,” he tweeted, “It’s not who we are as a nation.”

But it did not help a polarized nation that Hillary Clinton, who lost

to Donald Trump in 2016, appeared on MSNBC and said Donald Trump was a “danger” to the world.

In a long post on X on September 17, Trump’s running mate J.D. Vance warned against the perils of heating up the debate: “Kamala Harris has said that “Democracy is on the line” in her race against President Trump. The gunman agreed, and used the exact same phrase. He had a Kamala Harris bumper sticker on his truck. He was obsessed with Ukraine’s “fight for Democracy” and absorbed many unhinged views about the Russia-Ukraine war... and he donated 19 times to Democrat causes and zero to Republican ones.”

Vance added, “For years, Kamala Harris’s campaign surrogates have said things like “Trump has to be eliminated.” Asking “how have their media allies responded to the second assassination attempt on Donald Trump in as many months?” Vance accused NBC News, LA Times, USA Today, CNN, PBS of egregious double standards.

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Ct), chairman of the Senate subcommittee investigating the security failures at Butler, observed, “A second serious incident, apparently involving an assault weapon, is deeply alarming and appalling.” Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), said the Senate’s investigations into the security lapses in Butler cited mismanagement within the Department of Homeland Security which oversees the Secret Service, as well as budget and morale issues.

Michael Matranga, a former Secret Service agent who protected President Barack Obama, said the agency should “seriously consider giving former President Trump the same or equal package

as the president of the United States” and called the incidents “unprecedented.”

The FBI, the Secret Service and the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office are probing the attempt on Trump’s life. Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw told media that the suspect was around 500 yards from the former president. A Secret Service agent positioned ahead of the former president spotted a gun barrel and engaged with the suspect, prompting him to flee. Police later discovered a backpack containing an AK-47 and a GoPro.

David Aronberg, state attorney for Palm Beach County, said the suspect will be charged at the state level but federal charges are also likely. Palm Beach Sheriff Bradshaw told the media on Sunday that the entire golf course would have been secured if Trump was the sitting president, but currently, “security is limited to the areas that the Secret Service deems possible.” He added that, “the Secret Service did exactly what they should have done, they provided exactly what the protection should have been and their agent did a fantastic job.”

This enraged Trump’s supporters who quickly produced evidence of the level of security still provided at former President Barack Obama’s golf course in Martha’s Vineyard, with Secret Service agents inspecting every vehicle that even drives near the course.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (Republican) said his office will conduct an independent investigation into the matter, expressing shock that the would-be assassin was able to get within 500 yards of the former president. □□

<https://www.sandhyajainarchive.org/2024/09/23/trump-second-assassination-bid-swamp-suspect/>

It's time to reimagine Agricultural Education

I sometimes wonder. Why is it that when agriculture is in a deep crisis, the course curriculum of agricultural universities and colleges do not reflect on the severe farm distress that prevails. It looks as if all is well on the farm front, and the role of students who pass out is to primarily use the technological and agronomic tools they have acquired and studied for enhancing productivity so as to maintain food and nutrition security.

It was in this connection that I was drawn to an announcement for a sociology course being proposed by economist and author, Christopher Blattman, for his Master of Public Policy class at the University of Chicago: “How to Change the World – the Social Science of Policy Making in International Development.” Before you say so what’s new in this, let’s see the course description: “So you want to make the world a better place, but how? So much policy fails. So many good intentions go awry. Why? What makes for good policy? What makes it bad? This is a class on the social science of policy making – the lessons from economics, political science, sociology and anthropology, plus the practical experience of practitioners’. Further, it adds that the course will focus on policy making in a global context, especially international policy and development.

It was interesting to see another distinguished economist from the Harvard Kennedy School, Dani Rodrik, expressing the desire to be associated. “I’d love to take this course,” he wrote on Twitter (now X). The immediate thought that cropped up in my mind was that I too would like to take this course. I may not be in the distinguished category but it surely will be a challenge to expose the young students to formulate policies that are based more on the existing ground realities.



Agricultural education must evolve to address the severe crises faced by farmers, incorporating a curriculum that goes beyond technical agronomy to include socio-economic realities and policy impacts.

Devinder Sharma



And if I take this further, similarly designed courses by Indian political economists, sociologists, anthropologists, and even plant scientists from agricultural scientists can lead to a very thought-provoking and a more grounded generation of young scientists. Sowing the seeds of change in the minds of the young scientists will help build a sustainable and profitable farming future. These young brains will not only rethink an economic design that is pro-farming but also navigate the policy framework to ensure that no farmer is left behind.

Is agriculture in distress? Is the farm crisis because of low productivity or because of reasons beyond his control? Is it the absence or low adoption of improved technology that is killing farmers? Or is it because of economic policies that are beyond the control of farmers? These are some of the questions that can make the young minds think, and come up with explanations that may help in formulating the right kind of policies.

After all, if close to 4-lakh farmers have ended their lives since 1995 to escape indebtedness, and there is hardly a day when reports of farm suicides do not appear in newspapers, the relative quietness about farm suicides in the classrooms leaves behind a vacuum, which becomes clearly discernible at the research, development and even policy making stage. These are the issues that need immediate solutions. Wonder whether any agricultural university has sociology and political economy classes designed to make the students understand the complexities small farmers are confronted with, and suggest solutions that can be implemented.

It is not a task that can be left to policy makers alone. Agricultural students are equally qualified to take a call on this vexed crisis.

The class that finally graduates will be better informed.

The country needs the next generation of agricultural scientists and economists who are not only well-informed but also have the ability to dissect international and national policies in the context of the local realities. This helps the organisations where these students are subsequently employed to take appropriate and corrective steps by avoiding the rhetoric that is passed in the name of approaches and strategies to be followed. Being outdated and ineffective, many of these strategies need course correction. In fact, many of the policies too may have become outdated. Only students who have had an opportunity to look beyond textbooks can rethink many of the strategies, fresh approaches and policies that need to be incorporated.

Agriculture is not only about new crop varieties or pest and disease control or improved agronomic practices. It is also about socio-economic policies that have a larger impact on the farming populations. In fact, agricultural students need to be told that much of the problems that farmers succumb to are actually not because of technical gaps in the crop field. Growing indebtedness is when the cost of production rises and the output prices are unable to adequately compensate farmers and leave behind a reasonable profit. In other words, with farm prices not in his control, much of the agrarian distress is also beyond his control. The spate of farm suicides

that Indian farmers are confronted with is because of distress factors, which may include weather abnormalities or pest and disease attack, but are more because of the prevailing economic design. It is here that an analysis of the international policies, supply chains and the role of agribusiness comes into play.

Not only about farm suicides, agriculture university students are not even up to date with some of the latest international developments that have a bearing on domestic farming and agriculture. To illustrate, in some of my visits to universities, I have talked about the global collaborative effort between United Nations and World Bank leading to an International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). Although India is a signatory to this treaty but the lack of awareness is clearly visible. There are numerous other international developments, which have a long lasting impact on domestic agricultural policies, but are rarely discussed in the classrooms. This may be because the education system conforms to a strict curriculum. Perhaps we can learn for the University of Chicago's innovative effort to bring students to learn, evaluate and then take informed decisions.

A strong foundation goes a long way. For this, what is needed is a new template that needs to be adopted for cross-discipline research and analysis by agriculture universities. Surely, agriculture education too is in need of a reform. □□

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture and hunger)
<https://www.bizzbuzz.news/opinion/its-time-to-reimagine-agricultural-education-1337733>

PFMS and Freebies

The Public Finance Management System (PFMS) conceptualizes and realizes the success story of the application of the Management Information System (MIS) in the financial transactions of the government of India. It successfully executes the real-time transaction system. It is an integrated financial management system of the government of Bharat. It is integrated with treasuries and the financial management system of state governments. It is a transparent system that involves real-time transactions of information and finances.

The journey of PFMS started in the year 2008-09 and took its current shape in the year 2021-22. In 2008-09, a comprehensive design of the decision support system (DSS) and Management Information System (MIS) was established to implement a central plan scheme monitoring system. In 2014-15, PFMS was made mandatory for payment, accounting, and reporting of direct benefit transfer (DBT), as well as for compilation of union accounts. From 2019-20, PFMS became the regular function of the controller general of accounts. Since 2021-22, the PFMS has been engaged in the implementation of a single nodal agency (SNA system), integration of treasury as per new procedure, universal roll-out of treasury single account system (TSA), and launch of the e-bill system, online internal audit module, direct tax accounting module, debt accounting and reporting module.

PFMS is integrated with the core banking system of all types of country banks, including all the public sector banks, the cooperative banks, all the regional rural banks, major private sector banks, India Post, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The interface of PFMS with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has made Aadhar-linked payments easy. The interface of PFMS is also available to an external system that relies on services like account validation, payments, and other MIS reports as required.

The much-talked-about Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is among the most visible applications of PFMS. The direct stakeholders of the PFMS include citi-



The election commission of India should be empowered to control the freebies announcement as a part of model code of conduct during elections.

Alok Singh



zens, post offices, program division, drawing and disbursing officer (DDO) bill preparation, Pay and accounts office (PAO) payments, various departments and treasuries of state governments, program implementing agencies, commercial banks, external systems, and MIS users for analytics.

The essential constituents in the PFMS network are payments, such as the e-bill module, employee management, monitoring and evaluation systems, MIS reports, Budgeting and accounting, and receipts.

The e-bill module incorporates a single nodal agency (SNA), central nodal agency (CNA), treasury single account system (TSA), DBT, and Expenditure, advance, and transfer (EAT).

The employee management incorporates an employee information system, general provident fund (GPF) module, Pension module, National Pension Scheme (NPS), and online permanent retirement account number (PRAN) generation.

The monitoring and evaluation system incorporates an Expenditure and Budget dashboard for senior management.

The MIS reports incorporate SNA and DBT dashboards apart from more than a hundred role-based reports.

The Budgeting and accounting incorporate a budget module, complete integration of the union budget information system (UBIS), and monthly account compilation.

The receipts incorporate the non-tax receipt portal (NTRP), Pratyaksh Kar Lekhankan Pranali (PRAKALP), and the Accounting & Reconciliation Portal of Indirect Taxes (ARPIIT).

This comprehensive system

genuinely fulfils the objectives of improving fiscal management and control of the exchequer. The arrival of PFMS has disciplined the state governments to improve their fiscal discipline and control of the exchequer. Earlier, it was easier for the state governments to divert funds from one project to another project, and even in strained financial conditions, the state government could divert the finances from the union government to pay salaries and meet other operating costs.

The announcements of freebies by political parties, including regional political parties, are not regulated by any agency like the Election Commission of India or by any other law enacted by the parliament of India. To win elections, the political parties once in power must meet the promised freebies, and when they try to meet the freebies that they have committed to the people then the financial troubles pop up. Then, in the process, they mismanage the state government's fiscal status. The PFMS ensures that the fund provided by the union government is used exclusively for the projects for which it has been released.

The state governments can deliver their freebies and commitment according to their resources, earnings, and revenues. Such state governments can raise the price of petroleum products or taxes on alcoholic beverages. They will avoid raising taxes on petroleum products as it will be unpopular, apart from the rise in inflation. So, they are left with a beautiful toolkit to raise the taxes on alcoholic beverages. The government of the union territory of Delhi relied on a fancy design to earn from sales of alcoholic beverages to service

their freebies' debt that is due to their voters, keeping apart the corruption related court cases that is going on implementation of this design.

The state governments must refrain from diverting money from one project to meet their freebie commitments. This restriction because of PFMS has led to severe repercussions, and the state government of Himachal Pradesh is even struggling to pay regular salaries. Punjab and Karnataka state governments either fail to service their freebie commitments or seek reasons to run away from their fancy freebie announcements.

In our system of running government, it is not possible for one of the states or one of the union territories to be bankrupt, and, at the same time, the country is not bankrupt. However, in the United States of America's system of government, it is possible that one of its states is bankrupt and the other country is not bankrupt.

Despite the absence of any regulator to control the freebie announcements by the political parties, the PFMS seems to have emerged as an unannounced and effective regulator of freebie crimes against the exchequer.

Whatever be the initial objective of PFMS, it is also a de-facto sledgehammer to control the behaviour of political parties that announce senseless freebies to capture power and consistently fool the ignorant voters of the nation. The election commission of India should be empowered to control the freebies announcement as a part of model code of conduct during elections. □□

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

Adulterated Prasadam in Tirupati Is it a Planned Conspiracy Against Hindus? Let fight it!

The horrific incident of defilement of Tirupati Laddu Prasadam with many impurities including beef & Pig tallow, Fish Oil can be compared with the beef, Pig tallow smeared cartridges to Sepoys by East India Company. The latter incident led to First war of Independence, resulting in much weakened EIC handing over Indian affairs to British Crown. Further, British distanced themselves from interfering in Hindus faith. When compared with the forceful response given by Hindus 176 years back, the current response to the heinous act of defiling sacred Prasadam seems to be very mild and almost nonexistent. On the other hand, so called secular lobby consisting of communists, crypto Christians, leftists, and pseudo intellectuals are trying to paint the whole issue as merely a political accusation against the previous former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and labeling it a fabricated story. But secular lobby shall remember that this is not a such a simple issue as they are trying to paint it to be. Let us read between lines to analyse .

Historic and religious significance of “Tirupati Laddu Prasadam”

The devotion and reverence expressed by Billions of Hindus across the world, to “Lord Venkateshwara” is well known. In this context, it needs to be highlighted that same level of reverence is expressed for the “Prasadam of Lord i.e., Tirupati Laddu”. The recipe for the preparation of Laddu has a history of more than 300 years and the recipe has been changed only 6 times. This unique recipe, the preparation process and of course the divinity associated for being Prasadam of Lord, Tirupati Laddu, gives its unique Taste. Hence, the defilement of sacred Laddu, with beef and pig tallow, fish oil is not an ordinary issue and implications of such a heinous act goes much beyond of being a mere adulteration issue.



Hindus should force politicians to amend the laws to strongest possible punishment such as Life imprisonment, for such deliberate acts of defilement, and force judiciary to award the same.

**Mahadevayya
Karadalli**

Is there a larger conspiracy behind this incident?

Hindus shall not take a charitable view that this is just a case of supply of poor quality Ghee by oversight or worse, a case of greed for profit by an unethical supplier. Because upon deeper reflection, Bhakta can come to a reasonable conclusion that a much bigger sinister purpose is behind this incident. It is to defile the holy place of Hindus with a view to slowly bring down the faith and reverence which ordinary, innocent devout Hindus have on Tirupati temple and its traditions which ultimately result in slow poison for Hinduism.

Just recollect and review the facts after revealing about adulterated Prasadam by the AP Chief Minister.

- Till Jagan (a self declared practicing Christian) took over as Chief Minister, the milk cooperative of nearby Karnataka i.e., Nandini was supplying pure ghee at a reasonable price.
- As soon as Jagan took over, he appointed his own uncle SubbaReddy as the chairman of TTD, which in itself is an unethical action. Mr. SubbaReddy claims that he is a Hindu, whereas his close relatives are Christians, gives rise to doubts about being Hindu. It is said that during his tenure, a good number of

Christians and Muslims (whose holy books teach them that Idolatry is a “sin” and it is a holy and heavenly act to resort to all types of immortal action, right from outright violent destruction, to bribing people for conversion to remove the Idolatry.) were employed in the holy temple.

- Tender procedures were changed to allow earlier unqualified suppliers to participate who quoted impossibly low prices to grab the order. Nandini repeatedly pointed out that the price quoted by competitors is so low that it is impossible to supply at those prices commercially, unless the supplier adulterates pure ghee with cheap material such as vegetable oils etc.
- In spite of this glaring discrepancy, supply contracts were awarded to unscrupulous suppliers who adulterated Ghee with many impurities viz. Beef, Pig tallow.
- The above fact was confirmed by testing carried out by independent reputed Private laboratories.
- In spite of huge volume of Ghee purchased at crores of Rupees, no proper quality inspection was perhaps deliberately done before the usage
- Not only that Jagan Government, TTD Board, tempered with the rituals and practices of worship, as alleged by former Chief Priest of Temple.

Observing the above facts, any reasonable Hindu may come to the conclusion that Government of the day headed by a Christian, deliberately allowed this to happen or worse, actively ensured that such a desecration did take place.



Awake, Arise to Unite, Protect Hindu faith and culture

The lesson of adulterated Prasadam reminds about our age old practices of preparing and distribution of Teerta and prasadam. Now onwards let each and every temple shall start of having its own Goshala according to their needs. Let them try to grow Food Grains, Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers etc. in the Temple Land. Prasadam and Teerta shall be prepared in a hygienic environment and under the supervision of Archaks and distributed only after testing. And Let Hindus, take note that, whichever be the Government, no non Hindus were allowed to appoint in the temple Committees, Board. And also see that Hindus, who have faith in the particular temple's rituals are only appointed. Government controlling the running of temples is a travesty of “secularism”. Government should immediately handover the management of affairs of temples to the genuine devotees who have faith and reverence to local “Sampradayas” of the temple. In this aspect let us Hindus be sure that in future such onslaughts on Hindu sentiments will be rightly addressed as and when it happened/occurred immediately without yielding to fear or favour.

Further, Saints, Math- Mandir Pramukhs shall come out with a easy ritual for Hindus as Prayashitta, for those, who might have visited and taken adulterated Prasadam. Let all Hindus support and accept the rituals to show (as in Carona Period) solidarity. Hindus shall take a clue from Muslims and Christians who play vote bank politics to protect their religion and interests. Let us alert and shall not give room for repeating such an incident by unscrupulous elements in future in any temple. Hope, Judiciary will also respect the sentiments of majority Hindus.

Hindus need to act strongly from the angle to “protecting the temple” from the onslaught of nefarious elements. Hindus should force politicians to amend the laws to strongest possible punishment such as Life imprisonment, for such deliberate acts of defilement, and force judiciary to award the same. Bhaktas’ should take much more interest in critically examining the running of temple using Right To Information Act and other legally available means. All the above would be possible, if only the awaked Hindus force the politicians to act, making this a political issue. □□

Mahadevayya Karadalli: Writer on Swadeshi Issues, Kalaburagi, Karnataka

Stuck in the middle forever?

Action to recognise, avoid, overcome perils of middle income trap has to be made policy focus

India is a lower-middle-income country with a per-capita income of \$2,700. 'Viksit Bharat' involves transiting to high-income status - i.e. \$14,000. Most development trajectories don't smoothly achieve high-income status. Türkiye, Egypt, Brazil and many others languish in the 'middle-income trap' (MIT). MIT, first analysed by World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill, is marked by the persistence of problems that low-income countries confront in significant measure, but rich countries do not, like poverty, malnutrition, poor education, poor public infrastructure, slums and substandard healthcare.

Even as other countries fell into MIT, India has managed to avoid it. Despite hiccups, India's economic transformation has been a positive story, whether one looks at growth, poverty reduction, health and education, or infra development. India is not China. But it has had every reason to hope to avoid the fate of Egypt and Brazil. However, since at least 2019, I've been worried that conditions of India's economic development are increasingly signalling the approach of MIT unless urgent policy action is taken.

The India story since 1991 has delivered great prosperity for the top 150 mn of its population. This has reached its limits because we're unable to craft a strategy that extends this to the next 200-300 mn people. As a consequence, there has been a sharp increase in inequality of every kind - income, consumption, geography, wealth, gender and inheritance.

The Great Indian Plain is 250-350% poorer than peninsular India. The latter has health and education outcomes that match upper-middle-income countries, while the former languishes at Burkina Faso levels. 75% of our population



If India is not to lose hope of completing its development transformation successfully, a hope I've been fortunate to cherish all my life, then action to recognise, avoid and overcome the danger of MIT needs to be the primary focus of economic policymaking going forward.
Rathin Roy



earns just \$5 a day. Every year, for every 10 people who escape poverty, 6 who weren't poor, fall into poverty.

All this manifests in the quality of India's growth story. Leading indicators of the economy are all about what the richest 200 mn consume. The five sectors that produce what half our population should be able to consume, without subsidy, at affordable prices, are economic failures.

Agriculture, where we subsidise food for 800 mn people; textiles, where we make shirts for the rich but import shirts for common people from Bangladesh and Vietnam; housing, where the only chance of a pukka home for the non-rich is through some awaas subsidy, while the rich engage in a Ponzi scheme of real estate acquisition; and health and education, which are so messed up that the rich flee abroad to get both, while the poor have to make do with highly-rationed availability and decrepit quality.

The MIT experience of other countries tells us that our growing richer will be inhibited with three terrible consequences:

- We will, like Egypt, Brazil and Turkiye, never be viksit.
- A quarter of our citizens will enjoy prosperous lives equivalent to those in rich geographies, while the majority and their children will face the same development gaps their forefathers did when India was a poor country.
- Regional ethnic and gender dimensions of this will challenge the unity and integrity of India far worse than Pakistan or China can ever do.

Given my analysis, I was very

All this manifests in the quality of India's growth story. Leading indicators of the economy are all about what the richest 200 mn consume. The five sectors that produce what half our population should be able to consume, without subsidy, at affordable prices, are economic failures.

interested in the World Bank's latest World Development Report (WDR) on MIT in contemporary times, and particularly because Gill is now the Bank's chief economist. WDR doesn't speak to the macro structural drivers of MIT that I highlight focusing, instead, on microeconomic factors.

Some of these are neoliberal doctrine, and current global fashion like 'Capital account liberalisation helps growth accelerations', 'Startups are great', and 'Climate change is a magic bullet for growth'.

However, there are other insights that are consequences of macro structural challenges, which have been ideationally smuggled into the report, taking issues like inequality and political economy on board. For example, 'countries characterised by higher-income inequality are often those in which a significant portion of economic advantage is transmitted from parents to their children. In many middle-income countries, descendants of political elites [are] involved in and consolidate resources through politics' (pg 144).

'Efficient firms do not expand, and inefficient firms do not exit the market in India, Mexico, and Peru' (pg 47). 'In India, and Turkiye, female labour force participation is well below what would

be expected given their levels of income per capita, the rates are much higher in Indonesia and Malaysia' (pg 156).

The stark headline message of WDR is: the typical fate of a middle-income country is to stay there and not achieve high-income status. Only a handful of (mainly) small European countries and petrostates have made this transition since 1990.

WDR then goes on to speak of different types of supply-side processes that countries like India need to adopt to accelerate and bulletproof their transition. But within the content, there are important observations about inequality and political economy - such as those encapsulated in the quotes above - that point to the need to address serious structural deficiencies on the demand side, by ensuring that the smart strategies adopted result in equalising and inclusive increases in prosperity.

If India is not to lose hope of completing its development transformation successfully, a hope I've been fortunate to cherish all my life, then action to recognise, avoid and overcome the danger of MIT needs to be the primary focus of economic policymaking going forward. □□

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/stuck-in-the-middle-forever-action-to-recognise-avoid-overcome-perils-of-middle-income-trap-has-to-be-made-policy-focus/articleshow/113675767.cms>

Ancient Indian Export Surplus with Rome

This brief essay explores the theory that Ancient India had an export surplus with Rome. The hoards of Roman gold coins on the coast of Southern India especially in ancient Arikamedu (present Puducherry) are direct evidences of Ancient India's export surplus with Rome. This essay is based on Prof. Moti Chandra's famous work, 'Trade and Trade Routes in Ancient India' (New Delhi: Abhinav Publications, 1977). It was around the 1st century BCE that trade relations were established between India and the Roman Empire. What is noteworthy is that the balance of trade was more or less in India's favour and Roman gold and silver coins poured into India taking her affluence to greater heights.

The Indo-Roman Trade

Though the Indo-Roman trade started in the 1st century BCE, it truly matured in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE. The geographical location of Arabia, Asia Minor and northeastern Africa helped to establish trade contacts between South Asia, West Asia and Europe. As far as India is concerned, the earliest evidence of this trade is to be found from the southern Peninsula, especially in the state of Kerala. Indo-Roman trade was carried out on the sea as well on land. The seaborne trade was controlled by the Úakas and the Sâtavâhanas whereas the land-borne trade was monitored by the KuûâGas.

It is believed that to promote foreign trade, Kanîcka, the KucâGa ruler made use of the standard of the Roman gold coins for his own issues. The political tensions between the Úakas and Sâtavâhanas did affect this trade for some time at least. Similarly, the contentions between the Ceakas and Parthians also served as a major impediment for trade overland. In order to overcome this problem, Augustus, the Roman Emperor encouraged the traders to take the sea route and offered them protection as well.

There is a text called Periplus on the Erythrean Sea, a sort of a guide book



It is believed that to promote foreign trade, Kanîcka, the KucâGa ruler made use of the standard of the Roman gold coins for his own issues.

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur



written by an unknown Greek sailor which is one of the major sources to reconstruct the history of this trade. Indo-Roman trade was mainly in luxury items and the Roman Empire paid for these in Roman gold coins. Chinese goods with the exception of silk were first brought to India and then dispatched to the eastern frontiers of the Roman Empire. Silk was directly sent to Europe along the silk route. Indian animals like tigers, lions, rhinoceroses, elephants and serpents also formed a part of exports from India and these were used in circus shows to entertain the Romans. Ivory and tortoise shells were also exported which were used to inlay furniture. Roman ladies were especially fond of pearls from India and the Persian Gulf. Different kinds of herbs, spices, indigo, cotton cloth, sesame oil, rice, wood for furniture and plant products from India were also in great demand in the Roman markets. The city of Bharuch or ancient Bh[gukachcha was well known for its exports of wheat and ghee. Like pearls, precious and semi-precious stones like diamonds, onyx, sardonyx, agate, carnelian, crystal, amethyst, opal, cat's eye, ruby, turquoise and garnet were also popular among the Romans, especially the ladies. In the category of imports from Rome, wine topped the list. It was called VâruGi as it was brought from the sea in specially designed carriers which were called Amphorae. Roman Amphorae have been discovered at many sites in peninsular India including Nevasa in Maharashtra. As the Romans had to pay for Indian products in gold, there was a huge strain on their economy. Tiberius, the Roman Emper-

or who ruled in the 1st century CE attempted to stop the outflow of Roman gold but to no avail.

The discovery of the south-west monsoon winds is credited to a Greek navigator named Hippalus who probably lived in the 1st century BCE. However, some scholars argue that these winds were known to sailors even before the 1st century BCE. The seaborne journey from Rome to the western coast of India approximately took sixteen weeks and the ships began their sojourn from the Mussel Harbour coinciding with the winter equinox. Some Roman merchants would commence their journeys from Myos Hormos or Berenice (in Egypt). Ocelis at the mouth of the Red Sea was the terminating point for exchanging commodities as the Arabs did not allow the Indian merchants to travel further. In spite of this restriction, much of the Indo-Roman trade was under the control of Indian merchants.

Barbaricum (probably a port near modern Karachi) was an important port on this route and it was from here that the ships travelled to the coast of Saurâcmra and from there to Bh[gukachcha or modern Bharuch in Gujarat near the mouth of the river Narmada. This arrangement was made because the sea near Bharuch was difficult to navigate as the seafloor was rocky and sharp. The ships would first go to the coast of Saurâcmra and from there the fishermen in the king's service (a Kcatrapa ruler) would guide the ships to Bharuch.

Apart from wine, the other goods which were imported to Bharuch were copper, tin, lead, coral, topaz and waist girdles. The Roman merchants also brought expensive merchandise like silver-

The discovery of the south-west monsoon winds is credited to a Greek navigator named Hippalus who probably lived in the 1st century BCE.

ware, wine, good quality cloth and ointments as gifts for Indian rulers. Bharuch also exported fragrant ointments and ivory to Rome. Bharuch had trade relations with two inland cities- ancient Praticmhâna or modern Paithana and Tagara or Ter, both in Maharashtra. The Periplus on the Erythrean Sea informs that the journey from Bharuch to Paithana would take twenty days and Ter was at a further distance of ten days from Paithana. Both Paithana and Ter were well known for the export of carnelian, muslin and mallow cloth. Ter and Paithana were also a part of the southern trade routes.

One route originated from Masulipattanam and the other from Vinukonda (both in Andhra Pradesh) and these two routes met near the modern city of Hyderabad. As this route proceeded northwards, it passed through Ter, Paithana, Devagiri and the Ajanta ranges. It crossed the Western Ghats and reached Kalyana near Mumbai which was the last destination of this route. However, due to the long-drawn conflict between the Sâtavâhana ruler Gautamiputra SâtakarGi and the Kcatrapa king Nahâpâna in the 1st century CE, the trade route was diverted to Bharuch. □□

The growth factories

The first Economic Survey of Modi 3.0 dropped a bombshell when it made a case for getting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China to help India improve its participation in global supply chains through exports. Even as Union commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal quickly scotched speculations about easing Chinese capital inflows, the economic survey—tabled a day before the Union budget to provide an overview of the Indian economy’s performance—has set off a debate.

China is India’s largest trade partner, with export/ import volumes exceeding \$118 billion (Rs 9.9 lakh crore, at the current exchange rate) in 2023-24. But India’s trade deficit with China is also the highest at \$85 billion (Rs 7.14 lakh crore), not including Chinese products reaching its shores through free trade agreements (FTAs) with ASEAN countries. This gap was less than a billion dollars at the turn of the century when China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Since then, China has transformed itself into a bustling “factory of the world”, capitalising on lower environmental compliances, surplus and cheaper labour, as well as economies of scale. It was producing enough to flood global markets with much cheaper products, especially when other emerging economies like India and Brazil continued to struggle with their own reforms to open up to foreign capital.

In fact, the share of manufacturing in India’s GDP declined from 15.93 per cent in 2001 to 13.35 per cent in 2022, despite the economy expanding by about a 6 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR). Many economists argue that India needs to continue blocking Chinese finished goods through both tariff and non-tariff barriers while incentivising domestic industry and opening up FDI to set up cutting-edge factories that manufacture intermediaries as well as final prod-



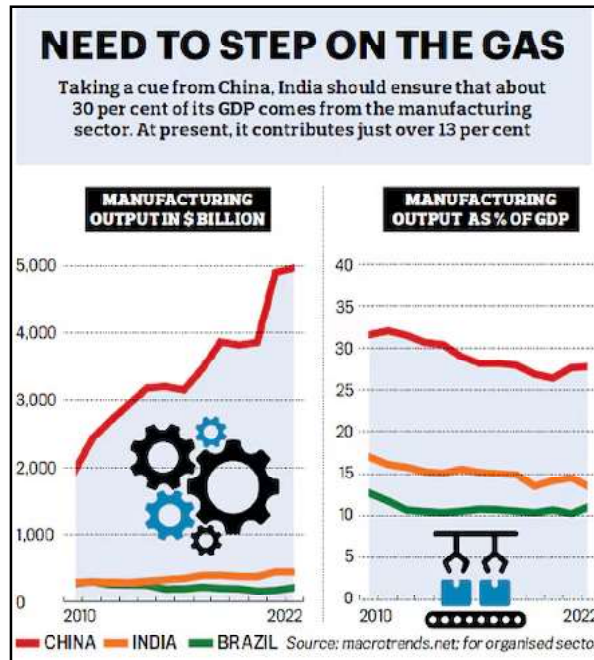
Modi’s vision of a \$10 trillion economy has spurred policy shifts that aim to transform India into a global manufacturing powerhouse. But China’s dominance poses a challenge..
Anilesh S. Mahajan



ucts. In 2020, when the pandemic forced the world to devise the 'China-plus-one' strategy to diversify investments into other emerging economies, India too saw an opportunity to boost its manufacturing. Around the same time, Chinese aggression in Galwan and Beijing's opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies led to New Delhi shuttering Chinese FDI by amending rules, which mandated that India's neighbours could invest here only after securing prior government approval. Subsequently, the

government also raised tariff and non-tariff barriers to block Chinese goods, similar to the US's 'small yard, high fence' strategy.

But this poses another challenge. Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims for India to become a \$10 trillion (Rs 839.5 lakh crore) economy by 2031-32 from the existing \$3.94 trillion (Rs 331 lakh crore), requiring more than a 12 per cent CAGR. This can't be achieved unless the manufacturing sector starts firing on all cylinders and contributes at least a third of GDP. The Economic Survey indicates that consumption is growing at 4 per cent, roughly half the rate of GDP growth, and capacity utilisation of existing factories remains at 74-76 per cent. A World Bank report, on the other hand, forecasts global growth to stay steady at 2.6 per cent in the current fiscal. The report notes that the major growth engines are not the developed economies of the West, but India and China. This means Indian manufacturers will have to rely more on domestic consumption than on



any surge in export demands.

Accelerating manufacturing With India's expanding workforce availability, factories remain big work churners. The Reserve Bank of India's KLEMS (capital, labour, energy, materials, services) database shows 46.6 million added to the organised workforce in the previous fiscal. To accelerate manufacturing, India requires a multipronged strategy: strengthening the ecosystem for intermediary product manufacturing, turning MSMEs from just auxiliary manufacturers for the mother industry to also the makers of new products, and integrating them into the global value chain. In the past four years, India has taken steps in this direction—for instance, the production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes in 14 sectors that incentivise manufacturing of products to substitute imports and capitalise on opportunities that are emerging from the 'China-plus-one' policy, especially in the manufacturing of advanced electronic items and components. Among them is the

PLI scheme for automobile and auto components launched in September 2021 to boost the manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products, facilitate deep localisation for AAT products and enable the creation of a domestic as well as a global supply chain. The sector continues to be a key driver of the Indian economy, contributing 7.1 per cent to India's GDP and about half of the manufacturing GDP.

India is also focusing on new-age products like electric vehicles (EVs), cleaner hydrogen-based cars, electronics and white goods, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), telecom and networking products, and drones and their components. But despite attracting investments through PLI and tax breaks, India remains short of becoming an immediate beneficiary of manufacturing diversification by the West. For, even for these products, there's dependency on the imports of Chinese equipment. It was perhaps faced with this Hobson's choice that the economic survey made a case for FDI inflow from China, having learnt from the experience of other economies such as South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia that have benefitted from it.

Safeguarding national interests

However, this comes at a time when the Modi regime is repairing its relationship with its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which sees China as an ideological opponent and does not want New Delhi's interests to become subservient to Beijing's.



The RSS and its affiliates working in this arena have been pushing the government to look for alternatives and bring in reforms such as easing out the inverted duty structures that have hit labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather. In a research paper written for the New Delhi-based think tank Council for International Economic Understanding, economist Ashwani Mahajan noted that the textile industry in India faces a 9 per cent cost disadvantage on account of levies like the cess on fuel, logistical inefficiencies and cheaper inputs flooding the market through FTAs, especially with the ASEAN countries. Talking to India Today, he identified 70 products ranging from chemicals and metals to textiles and electrical and electronic goods that are facing cost disadvantages. “The PLI is a good start,” he says, “but to lay the foundations for the factories of tomorrow, India will have to bring the next level of reforms quickly.”

India is investing heavily in railway and highway networks to facilitate the transportation of raw material and goods. The introduction of the Goods & Services Tax (GST) has added to the ease of doing business. But “the availabili-

India is investing heavily in railway and highway networks to facilitate the transportation of raw material and goods. The introduction of the Goods & Services Tax (GST) has added to the ease of doing business.

ty of land to set up factories and the availability of robust supply lines are still a big challenge”, says an industrialist, speaking on condition of anonymity. Access to cheaper and easy capital is also an uphill task, he adds. In April this year, a report by consulting group EY highlighted that preferential duty structures in FTAs with countries having strong manufacturing capacities, like ASEAN, South Korea and Japan, have created an uneven playing field for Indian manufacturing. The report identified several factors, including taxes outside GST, higher input costs, expensive capital, and high energy and logistics expenses, as contrib-

uting to the disadvantage of India’s manufacturing sector. This gives vital pointers to the government to recalibrate India’s multilateral and bilateral trade agreements for achieving a level playing field between imports and domestic manufacturing.

But a change is visible. In fact, the EY report noted that since 2010-11, when FTAs were implemented, India has eliminated 75 per cent of its tariffs, covering nearly 90 per cent of tariff lines. In 2019, India pulled out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), conceived at the 2011 ASEAN Summit, and has never given heed to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) pushed by China. Instead, India has decided to go for bilateral agreements with the UAE and Australia and has entered into a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with EFTA countries (Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) besides negotiating trade deals with the US, UK and EU. This reflects a change in strategy, as these new geographies may not supply cheaper inputs but open up markets for Indian products. Another industrialist, speaking anonymously, suggests that while the focus is on strengthening manufacturing, it should be done in a “synergised way”. “Look at the final product,” he adds, “and do backward integration, cleaning up the inverted duty structures which make the products uncompetitive and ineffective.” If done right, it could very well help India achieve its ambitious growth targets and become a global manufacturing hub. □□

<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/cover-story/story/20240826-industry-the-growth-factories-2583247-2024-08-18>

The Untold bravery to save Kashmir - 1

The assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are in the last phase. People must know and have right to know the truth and ground reality of the circumstances prevailing at the time of partition.

This part of the article appeared in the magazine - Organiser – Oct. 27 – Nov 3 – 2019 – The Sangh Connection – Page – 34 to 38 – by Shri Arun Kumar, Former Sangh Pracharak of Jammu and Kashmir, Akhil Bhartiya Prachar Pramukh of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. I have taken liberty with pride to search this article for Swadeshi Patrika. It is honestly submitted that nothing is mine in this part of article.

August 15, 1947. The whole of Bharat was beaming with the joy of independence. The people in Jammu and Kashmir were also breathing in free air after the slavery of centuries. Even this independence did not appear palatable to the people from a particular class who were inebriated in the communal frenzy. They thought that Kashmir was a Muslim majority state that had to be in Pakistan. They hoisted the Pakistani flags on the government buildings in Srinagar before the sunrise.

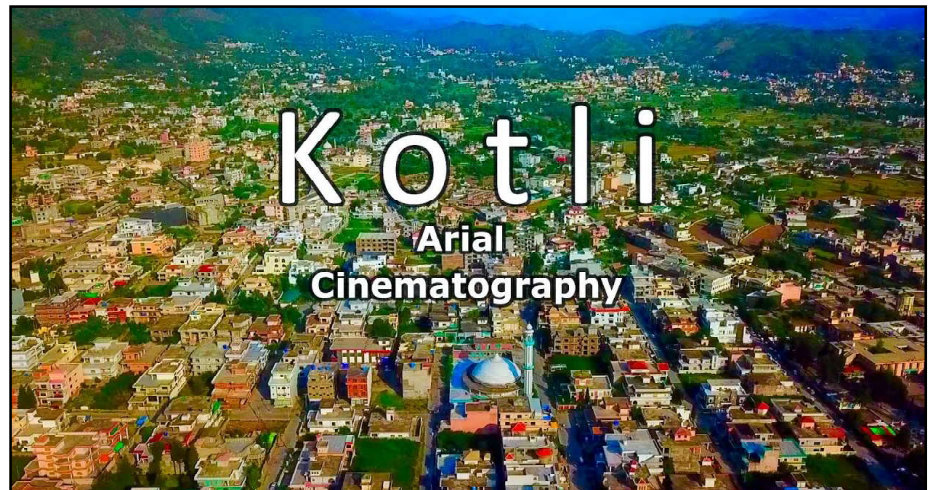
The people's reactions arose in hushed tones; but who would come forward? The RSS Swayamsevaks came out for the Shikha with the sunrise and they heard this talk. There was a meeting after the Shikha and the Swayamsevaks decided that the strong reply would you be given. They came together near Amirakdal exactly at 10:00 AM. Patriot citizens also joined them. Thousands of people ferried the roads of Srinagar chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. Within no time, the Pakistani flags were taken down from the government buildings.

The Kashmir valley had then and even now has a Muslim majority. Like today, a gang of nuisance makers existed at that time also who were few in number but had the capability to take the valley hostage. In spite of this, the courage that the citizens showed on August 15th, 1947 along with the RSS Swayamsevaks by resisting those nuisance makers had the background of a grand pro-



The Kashmir valley had then and even now has a Muslim majority. Like today, a gang of nuisance makers existed at that time also who were few in number but had the capability to take the valley hostage.

Vinod Johri



gramme of the RSS that had started just a few months earlier. The people of Kashmir valley experienced the capability and discipline of RSS for the first time in that program. The program had taken place at DAV college, Srinagar in which more than one thousand Swayamsevaks in their uniforms took part. In his address, the then RSS Sarsanghchhalak Poojya Shri Madhavrao Golwalkarji aka Shri Guruji explained the necessity of the unit of the Hindus and appealed to be alert towards the anti-national activities and foil their ploys with the help of united force.

This initiative by the Swayamsevaks filled the minority but nationalist community, which was affected by an inferiority complex, with enthusiasm. This confidence that arose through it, played an important role to face off the Pakistani aggression in coming days.

Stormy days

Those were stormy days. The prominent RSS workers in Jammu and Kashmir could hear the sound of coming tragedy and were working on a war footing, with their all might, to avoid it. In this regard, some prominent Swayamsevaks had even penetrated among the pro-Pakistani conspirators in the areas that are today in Pak occupied area as well as in Srinagar because of which they received confirmed reports of the conspiracies being hatched in Karachi and Rawalpindi.

On the one hand, the Swayamsevaks war gathering information by staking their lives and on the other hand, the work of uniting the youths was on a constantly through the Shakhas. The reports coming from the border areas was worrisome and the Swayamsevaks were determined

that they would try everything to save Jammu and Kashmir from the Pakistani conspiracy.

When the plan of attack on October 22 was prepared on October 13th 1947, in the presence of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a swayamsevak was present there in disguise. The RSS headquarters at Srinagar had received this information by night which was conveyed in time to Brigadier Rajendra Singh and Brigadier Fakir Singh.

Likewise, the Swayamsevaks were the first to receive the information of the Pakistani conspiracy to abduct Maharaja Hari Singh during his tour of Bhimber. The then Sanghchhalak of Jammu Pt. Prem Nath Dogra alerted Maharaja in time because of which, the latter changed his programme. The attack on Bhimber failed and Maharaja's life could be saved.

On the Path of Duty

Brigadier Rajindra Singh was martyred while combating the Pakistani attackers in Uri. In that difficult situation, Maharaja Hari Singh himself called Shri Balraj Madhok, who handled the entire expedition on RSS behalf, to his Palace. The Prime Minister Mehar Chand Mahajan said clearly, "we want youths from you who can go to Baramulla tomorrow itself and help the military in stopping the enemy from entering Kashmir valley".

Shri Madhok said, "The heart of our youth are full of spirit, enthusiasm, they are ready to shed their lives for the nation but they are not soldiers. They have neither arms nor the training to use them. In such a situation, how helpful can they be? Brigadier Fakir Singh said instantly, "The RSS Swayamsevak are patriots and educated, we will train them and make them soldiers

within a day."

"So how many swayamsevaks do you want?"

150, tomorrow at 7:00 AM."

It was 12:00 AM. The Mukhya Shikshak of Renavadi, Parana city and Amirakdal were awakened from the sleep and given the responsibility of informing their swayamsevaks by 3:00 AM to gather in the RSS office at 6:00 AM with the preparedness of going to the war zone.

The smaller group of swayamsevaks started coming to the RSS office from 5 AM itself. By 7 AM, more than 200 swayamsevaks had gathered of which 150 swayamsevaks were selected. Those who were rejected had tearful eyes. After the inspiring address by Shri Madhok, there was Sangh prayer and the swayamsevak left hand in the trucks towards the camp at Badami Bagh.

Ready for your cause...

The whole of Kashmir was expecting the Bhartiya army to reach any moment. However, wider airstrips were needed for the landing of the military planes and they were not there. The swayamsevaks finished the challenging task of constructing airstrips at three places, Srinagar, Jammu and Poonch by toiling day and night.

On the path off sacrifice

The first aeroplane of the Indian Air Force landed in Srinagar on October 27, 1947. Within next 10 days, the Bhartiya army captured all the area up to Uri. When the Pakistanis had to retreat from Kashmir, they increased their pressure on Jammu. Both Bhimber and Mirpur had fallen into Pakistan's hands. More than 50,000 citizens were killed mercilessly. It is

impossible to describe what happened to thousands of mothers and sisters.

The grip was tightening around Kotli. The possibility of getting military help was dim. An IAF aeroplane threw the boxes of ammunition but it also fell in the enemy controlled territory. It was neither possible to bring it back from among the enemy nor fighting without it. The RSS swayamsevaks came forward to turn the impossible to possible.

Kotli's Nagar Karyavah Chandra Prakash took seven swayamsevaks beside him and reached to the box of ammunition scrawling. A nullah in the way was to be crossed swimming. The sounds emanating from the water alerted the enemy. They were inching forward and pushing the box amid the showering of bullets.

All of the sudden, bullets hit

Shri Chandra Prakash Ji and Shri Ved Prakash ji, but they had no time to look after them. The other swayamsevaks took their boxes and went ahead. They returned after successfully handing over the ammunition to the soldiers. Both the swayamsevaks passed away. They had to carry their dead bodies on their back and scrawl upwards on the hill. The showering of bullets was becoming intense. Two more swayamsevaks were hit by the bullets and remaining two colleagues lifted them on their back.

All four swayamsevaks were cremated on the same pyre on the outskirts of the Kotli town. They lived up to their vow. The soldiers had enough ammunition now that they took with them and started marching ahead on the same road from where it was brought. The Pakistani guns were rendered silent with the sunrise. The Tricolour was

flying high on the hill ahead.

This body falls for you, Salute Salute!

Kotli was now in full control of Bhartiya army. A report came abruptly that aggressors had surrounded 1200 Hindus in Palandhari, 20 kilometres away from there. Kotli could not be left unsecured, hence soldiers in large numbers could not be sent there. It was determined that three soldiers, 15 jawans of Jammu and Kashmir police and 100 swayamsevaks would go to Palandhari for this mission. The enemy got the information of the mission in advance because of a traitor officer and they were all prepared for this. The entire unit fought till their last breath; none of them returned alive. □□

The second part of the article will be requested for publishing in the next edition of Swadeshi Patrika.

Vinod Jobri: (But not the author of this article)

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Initiative to protect endangered Golden Mahseer at NEHU

The Golden Mahseer, sometimes called the Himalayan Mahseer or *Tor putitora*, is a popular sport fish found in the lower Teesta and Rangeet river basin. The Golden Mahseer, portrayed in the narratives of Jim Corbett and Rudyard Kipling, is regarded as a “prize catch” for fishermen and a “fierce combatant.” The Teesta and Rangeet rivers are home to two of the sixteen known types of Mahseer found in Indian river waters: the Himalayan Golden Mahseer and the Copper Mahseer. But few people know that the golden mahseer is an endangered species that ought to be protected and not caught.

The Himalayan or Golden mahseer (*Tor putitora*), once dubbed the “tiger of the river,” is endangered because of harmful fishing practices, irresponsible brooder fishing, and habitat fragmentation brought on by dam and barrage building. The IUCN presently classifies the species as “Endangered.” Since catch limits are not strictly enforced and mesh sizes are not regulated, the current regulatory system has not helped to conserve it. Fisheries is no longer a minor aspect of agriculture. It has established its relevance in India and around the world by growing its contribution to the national economy. Fish production has increased from 0.75 million tonnes in 1951 to more than 8.3 million tonnes now. In India, the number of people who make a living from fishing has risen to over 14 million. The marine sector alone employs more than four million people, dispersed throughout 3,827 fishing villages along the beaches. When it comes to foreign cash generated by fishing, India’s export of fish goods exceeds Rs.30,421 crores, ranking second only to rice.

As it relates to Meghalaya, the fishing industry is unquestionably vital to the state’s overall economic growth. Despite having abundant inland fishing resources, Meghalaya is not fully utilizing them, which offers a huge opportunity for the fisheries industry to grow. Even though the state is primarily a fish-consuming

The Mahseer Conservation Project is a small step in the lakes of NEHU, but like they say, little drops of water make a mighty ocean. This initiative is a kick start to conserve and restore the declining population of the species in the natural waters of the region.

Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla



state, it imports fish from states like Assam and Andhra Pradesh since the state's fish supply cannot keep up with the state's rising demand. The Government of Meghalaya has identified fisheries as a key sector and has launched the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission (MSAM). Therefore, it is imperative that we identify and promote aquaculture as an alternative means of increasing fish production in the state of Meghalaya. But the question is, how prepared are we to take up this challenge?

This certainly is a huge task, but if we all offer our participation sincerely for this noble cause, there is nothing that cannot be achieved. Golden Mahsheer holds significant economic, recreational, and cultural value in the rivers and lakes across eleven Asian nations, as per the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As its name suggests, Mahsheer is a combination of two words: mahi – fish and sher – tiger, and hence is also referred as tiger among fishes. Despite its past abundance in the waters of Meghalaya, the Golden Mahsheer population has drastically reduced in recent years, calling for urgent conservation measures. It's need of the hour for community participation in mahsheer conservation and safeguarding the fish breeding grounds should be a crucial step towards reviving its population. Therefore, relevant practical skills, entrepreneurial aptitude, self-employment, leadership qualities and confidence among graduates, and attracting and retaining youth in agriculture and fish farming will all be promoted through NEP 2020 course curricula. Like in other areas, skill enhancement for running hatcheries and other aquaculture



Golden Mahsheer holds significant economic, recreational, and cultural value in the rivers and lakes across eleven Asian nations, as per the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

units has to be imparted to young students. They have to be trained as professionals in agri-business management.

Being Vocal for Local, region-specific courses such as Hill Agriculture & Pisciculture, Tribal Agriculture, etc. should be promoted in the region. Recently new degree programmes and vocational courses have been recommended in emerging fields like genomics (biotechnology), nanotechnology, GIS, precision farming, conservation agriculture, secondary agriculture, hi-tech cultivation, specialty agriculture, renewable ener-

gy, artificial intelligence, big data analytics, dryland horticulture, agro-meteorology and climate change, community science, and food nutrition & dietetics. These will need additional high-quality human resources and a shift in pedagogy which will help our tribal students to come up with new innovative start-ups not only in Meghalaya but in the entire north east.

In the hill regions, fish represents an essential, source of high quality and inexpensive animal protein, crucial for the balanced diet of the marginally food secure communities. Keeping in view the global, national and ecological changes, enhancing fish production in hills through intervention measures such as research, technological support, awareness programmes and frontline demonstration activities is a must. There is a need to document aquatic biodiversity in hill states and generate research information that helps in developing ecologically sustainable strategies for fish yield enhancement.

Students will definitely play a crucial role in expansion of aquaculture in partnership mode involving public and private enterprises, taking up challenges in establishing new start-ups towards develop-

ment of farmer friendly android applications; telephonic help lines and online technical consultancy platforms for this great cause towards promoting and sustaining fish biodiversity in the region.

In 2012, under the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission (of the fisheries department), this concept of conserving our declining fish population endemic to the region was therefore encouraged across the state. In the Garo Hills, the fish sanctuary on the Chibok River was created in 2015. With a focus on the chocolate and golden mahseer, the goal was to conserve rare fish species in these reserves. Accord-

when the community was made aware of this, they consented to the idea of establishing a sanctuary to safeguard the fish. In carrying out its job, the community is exceedingly watchful and keeps an eye out for anyone who might try to violate the law. Defaulters face a steep charge of Rs 30,000; in certain other regions, the fine could also include a cow, pig, bag of rice, packages of biscuits, and sugar.

The Golden Mahseer population in Meghalaya's rivers and lakes was formerly abundant, but in recent years, it has significantly declined, necessitating immediate conservation action. At NEHU,

The Golden Mahseer population in Meghalaya's rivers and lakes was formerly abundant, but in recent years, it has significantly declined, necessitating immediate conservation action. At NEHU, our mission is to evaluate and prioritize important habitats for conservation and restoration.

ing to the IUCN Red List, the golden mahseer, known as Ka.chol, is endangered, whereas the chocolate mahseer, or *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*, or Na.rong in the local language, is considered near threatened. The forefathers of the tribal community lived in harmony with nature. They practiced community fishing with various gears; they also utilized plants such as Maka.Naru and Rutel to 'poison' the fishes, which was actually an attempt to stun them so they could be captured. The fish would resuscitate in one and a half hours, and it did not kill them completely. However, overfishing and over-exploitation of natural resources have major consequences, and

our mission is to evaluate and prioritize important habitats for conservation and restoration. In order to forecast likely future changes, we will assess its population dynamics and structure and compare the data already available with records from the decade before it. As villagers, students, legislators, and fishing clubs, we will include local stakeholders in various capacities in order to accomplish population restoration in the near future. Reducing indiscriminate fishing and promoting broodstock conservation will be aided by awareness campaigns and the construction of banners to teach those nearby about the species' nesting habits and migration patterns.

The ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (ICAR-DCFR), Bhimtal, jointly with Department of Zoology, NEHU, Shillong have successfully conducted a seed ranching program for the iconic Golden Mahseer at NEHU lake here recently. The dignitaries emphasized the critical need for community participation in mahseer conservation and called for safeguarding the fish breeding grounds as a crucial step toward reviving its population. ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal and Department of Zoology and Biodiversity Informatics Centre at NEHU is committed to conserving the Golden Mahseer in the natural ecosystems of Meghalaya. This joint initiative will bolster the golden mahseer population and conserve its genetic diversity.

As part of the event, hatchery reared fingerlings of Golden Mahseer were released into the lake. Over 200 participants actively took part in the program, marking a significant step toward the conservation of this vital species. The programme of ranching golden mahseer in Meghalaya, an important sport fish, was conceived by Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Director, ICAR- Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal. This integrated effort will help in achieving long term conservation goal of the 'Charismatic' golden mahseer. The Mahseer Conservation Project is a small step in the lakes of NEHU, but like they say, little drops of water make a mighty ocean. This initiative is a kick start to conserve and restore the declining population of the species in the natural waters of the region. □□

Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla, Vice-chancellor, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya

Press Release

Ratan Tata's visionary leadership made India proud Swadeshi Jagran Manch



Swadeshi Jagaran Manch deeply mourns the sad demise of one of the greatest industry leaders of India and the world, Padma Vibhushan, Shri Ratan Naval Tata. Continuing the legacy of the first Swadeshi large steel industry, from the days of pre-independent India, life of Shri Ratan Tata has been a source of inspiration for the budding entrepreneurs of not only of our country, but the whole world.

Profit has never been a sole motive of Tata Group and principle of taking care of the workers, poor and downtrodden has always been their guiding force under the visionary leadership of Shri Ratan Tata.

With his sheer determination, he took Tata Group businesses including steel, automobiles and aviation, to the global level. His visionary leadership always made India proud.

What makes Tata Group distinct from the other business houses is that Tata group under leadership of Shri Ratan Tata, has always been pro-worker, pro people and especially the poor people. He once said that when he saw a poor family waiting for a bus under heavy rain, the idea came to his mind to manufacture a small car which is affordable by the ordinary man, and he accomplished the task of world's cheapest and affordable car.

He had always been a guiding force to the policy makers. Ratan Tata with his visionary, leadership to the Tata group had always won the affection, admiration and loyalty of the workers, consumers and the common man. He has been the torch bearer of swadeshi movement of self employment and entrepreneurship to brighten the path for young entrepreneurs. It was Tata Group amongst all big industrial houses, which not only provided full salary to their employees during Covid19 pandemic, but also ensured that the families of those who lost their lives during Covid19, will continue to get full salary till the date of their retirement.

Activists and leadership of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch from every nook and corner of the country pay heartfelt tribute to Ratan Tata.

Dr Ashwani Mahajan, National Co Convenor

Swadeshi Jagran Manch Honors Ratan Tata's Legacy

Swadeshi Jagran Manch leaders pay tribute to Ratan Tata, highlighting his pivotal role in India's industrial growth and commitment to national values.

Manoj Kumar Singh, National Working Committee Member of SJM, expressed deep sorrow. He praised Tata's entrepreneurial spirit and contributions to India's development. Singh emphasized Tata's role in expanding India's industrial footprint globally. "Tata acquired large industrial units abroad," Singh noted. This expansion elevated the Tata family's business reputation internationally. Singh highlighted Tata's impact beyond the business world. He acknowledged Tata's patriotism and commitment to social causes.

"Tata consistently stepped forward during national calamities," Singh remarked.

The SJM leader stressed that Tata's absence will be deeply felt in the industrial sector. He asserted that the country will always remember Tata's invaluable contributions.

Bandeshankar Singh of SJM also offered his tribute to Ratan Tata. He described Tata as a historical figure who redefined the concept of Swadeshi. "Tata demonstrated that Indian manufacturing could match global standards," he stated. Bandeshankar highlighted Tata's role in producing world-class steel and vehicles in India. He emphasized that these products often surpassed foreign alternatives in quality.

The SJM leader predicted that Tata's legacy would be revered for generations. He particularly noted Tata's unwavering commitment to Swadeshi principles.

Both leaders underscored Tata's multifaceted impact on Indian industry. They highlighted his role in boosting national pride through industrial achievements. Tata's approach to business was seen as a model of patriotic entrepreneurship. The tributes emphasized Tata's balance of global expansion and national development. His leadership style was praised for aligning with Swadeshi ideals.

The SJM leaders' statements reflect a broader national sentiment. They portray Tata as a visionary who elevated India's global industrial standing. His efforts in promoting Indian manufacturing were particularly lauded.

Tata's legacy is seen as a blueprint for future industrial development in India. The tributes highlight how Tata's vision extended beyond mere profit-mak-

ing. His commitment to social causes was seen as integral to his business philosophy.

The SJM leaders' words underscore Tata's role in shaping modern Indian industry. They present him as a figure who successfully merged global ambitions with national interests. Tata's passing is viewed as the end of an era in Indian entrepreneurship. However, his principles are expected to guide future generations of Indian industrialists.

<https://townpost.in/2024/10/10/swadeshi-jagran-manch-honors-ratan-tatas-legacy/>

Swabalambi Bharat Abhiyan Inspires Future Entrepreneurs at CUO



The MBA Department of Central University of Odisha hosted a dynamic event under the Swabalambi Bharat Abhiyan, inspiring students to embrace entrepreneurship in honor of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary. The event emphasized self-reliance and innovation as keys to India's future. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University Chakradhar Tripathi conveyed his best wishes for a successful programme. Keynote speaker Ashutosh Mukharjee, Eastern Executive of Swabalambi Bharat Abhiyan, urged students to become job creators. Drawing inspiration from entrepreneurial legends like Steve Jobs and Dhirubhai Ambani, he encouraged harnessing local resources such as millets and flaxseed—to build sustainable ventures. "Communities can rise together through cooperative efforts and entrepreneurship," Mukharjee remarked.

The event featured Namita Patjoshi, founder of Kanchan Gopalan Kendra, a successful dairy enterprise supporting 25 families. She shared her journey of turning everyday challenges opportunities, urging students to unlock the potential in simple ideas. Tanmay Pradhan, National Executive of ABVP, emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping India's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Dr. Padmacharan Mishra, Head of the MBA Department, welcomed the guests,

highlighting the importance of fostering innovators, not just employees. A key highlight was the announcement of Swadeshi Saptaha (August 21 October to 2 November), an annual celebration promoting indigenous products to boost local economies.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Subhash Chandra Pattanaik, acknowledged support of Vice Chancellor, Dr. Chakradhar Tripathi and emphasized continued efforts to integrate entrepreneurship within academia.

Shanti Kali Skill Development Centre inaugurated at Tripura University



A milestone in the history of Tripura, Shanti Kali Skill Development Centre was inaugurated at Tripura University to recognize the noble contribution of reverend Maharaj Shanti Kaliji. Prof. Deepak Sharma, Kshetra Sanyojak, Purvottar Kshetra, Swadeshi Jagran Manch and the Registrar, Tripura University said that the University is committed to protect the Swadeshi and indigenous culture of Northeast Bharat. Prof. Sharma added that still many unsung heroes of the region didn't get the true recognition and TU was continuously working to find out them. The programme was a joint observation of the Foundation Day of the University along with culmination of the Swachhata Divas under 'Swachhata hi Seva Pakhwada' as well as the observation of the birth anniversary of two legendary figures of India, Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Padma Shri Sri Sri Chitta Ranjan Debarma Maharajji of Shanti Kali Aashram, Tripura.

The gathering was addressed by the members on the dias who enlightened the audience about the Centre, the motto of the skill development centre, emphasizing on its being the need of the hour for the youth of the nation. The eleven courses currently being offered by the Centre are 1. Entrepreneurship & Valorization of Bamboo; 2. Agrowaste Valorization;

3. Digital Media Marketing; 4. Tribal Tourism; 5. Tribal Cuisine; 6. Swadeshi Thought and Action; 7. Certificate in Vaidik Karmakanda, 8. Formulation of Fish Feed, 9. Fish Breeding and Larviculture, 10. Aquaculture Entrepreneurship and 11. Mushroom Cultivation.

These courses are designed to meet the demands of the local job market and equip students with essential vocational training and empowering them for a brighter future, practical skills that are highly sought after by employers. The Shanti Kali Skill Development Centre would emerge as a beacon of hope for the youth of the state. The centre has also partnered with local industries and businesses to provide internship opportunities for students, allowing them to gain valuable hands-on experience and build professional networks. Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasian, Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University said that the University is committed to provide quality education to the students and the Centre is a part of NEP-2020, where skill based course is essential for every student. Sri Sri Chitta Ranjan Maharajji congratulated the University and said that Guruji was always in favour of promoting educational institution in the State. Today the University truly paid homage to him by opening the centre in his name. The programme was followed by prize distribution to the winners under 'Swachhata hi Seva Pakhwara' competition. Prof. Shaon Ray Chaudhuri, Coordinator of the Centre, CA Ratan Das, Convenor of Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan and many other dignitaries were present during the programme and it was moderated by Dr. Sunil Kalai, Dept. of JMC, Tripura University.

Unlimited employment opportunities in Northeast, claims Swadeshi Jagran Manch

A two-day regional meeting of Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), Purvottar Kshetra was held during 28-29 Sep., 2024 in Agartala. The meeting comprises 8 sessions followed by a special round table discussion for the development of North-eastern States. Annada Shankar Panigrahi, Sangathak, Purvottar-Kshetra and Akhil Bhartiya Sangharsh Vahinia Pramukh, Swadeshi Jagran Manch were present in all sessions and gave various special tips to inculcate the local resources with its maximum use in the vicinity. Annadaji mainly focused to retain our tradition including food, cloths etc. and to maximum utilize the local youth

force. Other participants from different north-eastern states included Prof. W.C. Singh, Registrar, Manipur Central University, Prof. Tarnee Deka, Gauhati University, Shanta Sutradhar, Amal Baisya and Ratul Kalita from Assam and Anita Ray Chaudhury from Nagaland and others. The meeting concluded with an idea to develop and support the local Artisans and Businesses; who preserve traditional techniques. Focused to prioritize the local markets when purchasing goods. Consume locally grown fruits, vegetables and grains. Explore traditional herbal medicines and natural products. Wear traditional made cloths from locally produced fabrics. To strengthen the Swadeshi concepts and to change the mindset of the youths from 'Job Seekers to Job Providers' and also to create more employment opportunities in North-eastern states with local resources. In line to develop skill in the youths, Tripura University has been decided to establish 'Shanti Kali Skill Development Centre' and initially to start some skill based courses like: (i) Entrepreneurship & Valorization of Bamboo, (ii) Agro Waste Valorization, (iii) Digital Media Marketing, (iv) Tribal Tourism, (v) Tribal Cuisine, (vi) Swadeshi Thought and Action, (vii) Vedik Karma-kand, (viii) Formula- tion of Fish Feed, (ix) Fish Breeding and Larviculture, (x) Aquaculture Entrepreneurship, (xi) Mushroom Cultivation. It has been revealed by Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice-Chancellor, Tripura University who had also presided over the 'Round Table Discussion Meeting for the development of the NER' where many suggestions have come from the faculties of the University. Prof. Deepak Sharma, Kshetra Sanyojak, Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Purvottar Kshetra and Registrar, Tripura University said that the youths would be able to start their own business after completion of their desired skill development courses run by the University.

Lecture on Intellectual Property Organized

A special lecture on "Intellectual Property" was held in the new auditorium of the Rajasthan Agricultural College, part of Maharana Pratap Agricultural and Technology University.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal, All India Co-Coordinator of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. He addressed the students, providing detailed insights into the technical



and legal aspects of intellectual property, and urged them to test new ideas in laboratories, creating a conducive environment for pilot project implementation.

Dr. Agarwal emphasized that 300 years ago, we relied solely on natural resources, whereas now, we must enhance the quality of indigenous products and focus on marketing. He stressed the importance of promoting indigenous goods to the general public and highlighted that intellectual property rights (IPR) need to be researched and widely disseminated. Students should increase the use and consumption of indigenous products through research conducted within the country.

On this occasion, Dr. Raj Kumar Mittal launched his book titled "37 Crore Startups - A Country for Every Young Entrepreneur," which focuses on organic entrepreneurship. The university's Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ajit Kumar Karnataka, expressed gratitude to Dr. Agarwal for his valuable lecture and welcomed him on behalf of the university, noting that such enlightening discussions are beneficial for students.

The event also highlighted various research and outreach efforts by agricultural scientists at the university, emphasizing the need to benefit farmers with the latest agricultural technologies. It was reiterated that contributing to the country's progress equates to personal progress, and that motivation is essential for achieving goals. There was a strong emphasis on the widespread dissemination of useful information for farmers, focusing on innovations.

Dr. R.A. Kaushik, Director of Extension Education and Acting Dean of Rajasthan Agricultural College, expressed satisfaction with the attendance of senior scientists, faculty members, staff, and students, reiterating the importance of hosting such special lectures periodically. At the end of the program, Dr. Ramhari Meena, the university's examination controller and Assistant Dean of Student Welfare, thanked all agricultural educators and students present for their participation. The event was conducted by Dr. Kapil Dev Ameta, Associate Professor of Horticulture. □□

https://www.pressnote.in/MPUAT_503310.html

Swadeshi Activities

Entrepreneurship Promotion Programmes

Pictorial Glimpses



Mandi, HP



Bareilly, UP



Indore, MP



Konark, Odisha



Kashi



Lucknow



Saharanpur



Bijnor, UP



Puri, Odisha



Pilibhit, Braj



Etah, UP



Khuari, Manipur



Rourkela, Odisha



Dhampur, Bijnor



Shahjahanpur, Braj

Swadeshi Activities Entrepreneurship Promotion Programmes

Pictorial Glimpses



Moradabad, UP



Alwar, Rajasthan



Ayodhya



Balasore, Odisha



Gujarat



Jhunjhunu, Raj.



Himmatnagar, Gujarat



Boud, Odisha



Prayagraj



Kangda, HP



Jaipur



Badaun



Bikaner



Manipur



Jamshedpur, Jharkhand