

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

AUGUST 2020



BCCI had gone against the Nation's Mood

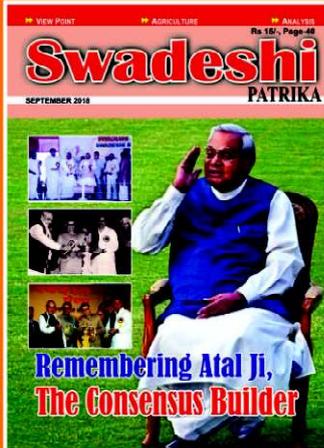
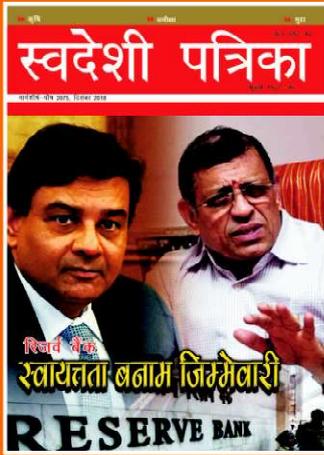
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+

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BOYCOTT
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Academia-Industry during Pandemic

The academia and industry have come up to the expectations created during the emergency situation of the pandemic. The prototypes of academia have been well accepted by the industry. Whether it is ventilators or masks or other medical devices or medical kits- the domestic academic institutions participated and contributed in their own way. It's a great experience to see the success of the undeclared collaboration between academia and domestic manufacturers. The examples of hand sanitizers developed by IIT Delhi within days and the development of ventilators by many other IITs and accepted by manufacturers are a few success stories. There are many institutes in academics such as engineering as well as in life sciences apart from many other streams that are local and with their limited resources could come up with the immediate solution. Those institutes will surely follow up on their research in the new product which came up during the pandemic. It can be visualized the emergence of a strong collaboration between domestic academics and the domestic industry.

The new education policy has been approved by the cabinet of the union government. Twenty years is sufficient time for an academic institute to create its footprints. The new education policy aims to create an education system that imparts valuable and true learning to meet the challenges of the future. It addresses the primary education to higher education. It's an urgent necessity to discourage rote learning at primary school and an urgent necessity to develop high ranking domestic academic institutions for higher education. The rising import bill of higher education will also be checked in the near future, maybe a decade or so. The education sector is rising and rectifying itself.

– Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

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Quote-Unquote



"Our country believes in 'Vasudev Kutubhkam' i.e. World is One Family. We believe in taking everyone along. Today is a new beginning of a new India."

Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, RSS Chief (In Ayodhya)



India's rural regions came up as a beacon of guidance for the entire country in the time of covid -19.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, India



Today is a historic and proud day for India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the bhoomi puja and laid the foundation stone of the grand Ram temple, which marks a golden chapter of Indian culture and civilization and has started a new era.

Amit Shah, Home Minister, Bharat



We welcome this decision of IPL not to allow VIVO this year but it should not happen even next year. The situation is not going to change the next year or in the years to come.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, Co-convenor, SJM

Controversial Changes in MSME's Definition

Sometime back, the government proposed to change the definition of MSME, which was earlier based on investment in plant and machinery and switch over to the criteria based on 'turnover'. But in the face of opposition to this, the government decided to bring in a new definition of MSME, by mixing the two criterions of investment in plant and machinery and equipments and 'turn-over', and issued an ordinance on 1 June 2020 to this effect. New definition for micro, small and medium enterprises, which has been implemented with effect from 1 July 2020, is as follows –

1. A micro enterprise, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed one crore rupees and turnover does not exceed five crore rupees;
2. A small enterprise, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed ten crore rupees and turnover does not exceed fifty crore rupees;
3. A medium enterprise, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed fifty crore rupees and turnover does not exceed two hundred and fifty crore rupees.

Advantage of the new definition is that, since many enterprises exist where, investment in plants and machinery is small, but their turnover is very high; with mix of two criteria, such an enterprise will lose the tag of MSME, if its turnover exceeds the threshold limit. Therefore, a combination of both 'investment' and 'turnover' has solved that problem. But due to other provisions in the current notification, many controversies have erupted. Many organizations of small scale industries are strongly opposing this notification.

The first objection of these organizations is that this definition of MSME does not exclude industries with foreign capital. Domestic small enterprises believe that in such a situation, large foreign investors will also enjoy the advantages of small enterprises. For example, a foreign entrepreneur with an investment of up to 50 crores and a turnover of up to 250 crores, and even more (provided the rest is exported), will be able to take advantage of medium enterprise and in this process Indian enterprises will suffer.

The second objection to the new notification is that this notification does not distinguish between manufacturing and service enterprises, whereas, the previous MSME Act (2006) made a clear distinction between the two. It is worth mentioning that as per MSME Act, 2006, the investment limit of enterprises engaged in service sector in micro enterprises was only Rs. 10 lakhs, while in manufacturing it was Rs. 25 lakhs. The investment limit in small service enterprises was Rs 2 crore, in medium service enterprises it was Rs 5 crore, as compared to Rs5 crores and 10 crores in case of manufacturing enterprises. It has to be understood that small manufacturing enterprises are known for their inherent job creation opportunities. It is to be understood that the possibilities of employment generation in the services sector are much less than manufacturing. Therefore, when the objective is to promote manufacturing for employment, it would not be appropriate to equate service sector enterprises with manufacturing. Therefore, it would be appropriate to consider services like trading and assembling as distinct from manufacturing, otherwise the incentive for manufacturing will decrease.

The third objection in the context of the new notification is about changing the definition of micro, small and medium industries, where the limit for investment in small enterprises (investment in plant and machinery or equipment) has been doubled from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore. , But for middle-class enterprises it has been increased from 10 crores to 50 crores (5 times more). That is, it seems that this is an attempt to bring large enterprises into the category of MSMEs. The benefit of the MSMEs so far is now going to be extended to relatively large enterprises as well. This seems strange, and it is actually going to benefit the bigger enterprises at the cost of small. This is so because now the share of large enterprises in finance, government procurement etc. will increase.

Another important criticism of this notification is that MSMEs also include foreign-funded enterprises. Small Enterprise Organizations believe that the so-called medium enterprises with a large investment of Rs 50 crore will take away all the benefits of MSMEs. These organizations therefore demand that enterprises receiving foreign investment should not be included in the definition of MSMEs.

Another objection is that when the question of 'turnover' comes up, the export business will be excluded while determining the threshold limit. There is no justification for this. Because, if a large enterprise (which is also exporting) and whose investment in plant and machinery or equipment is less than 50 crores; even if it exports in large quantities, then it can come at par with MSME of the country. For example, if a firm exports worth Rs. 1000 crores and does a business of Rs. 250 crores domestically, but investment in plant and machinery is Rs. 50 crores or less, then it would fall under the definition of MSME. It is very strange and illogical to enterprise a MSME.

It can be said that micro-small and medium-scale enterprises should be properly defined, after taking a fresh look at the current notifications of the government, so that the goals of employment, equity in distribution, decentralization etc. could be achieved.

‘BCCI had gone against the nation’s mood’

‘Our people are crazy about cricket, but they are more crazy about their country, and their armed forces.’

‘To the people of India, there is nothing that is above the nation, not even cricket.’

When the Board of Control for Cricket in India decided to go ahead with Chinese mobile company VIVO as the title sponsors for this year’s Indian Premier League despite the killing of 20 soldiers in a fierce clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on June 15/16 and the continuing military stand-off in Ladakh, it shocked cricket lovers.

Swadeshi Jaagran Manch attacked the BCCI over the decision and called on all Indians to boycott the IPL which will be staged in the UAE next month.

‘When the whole world is boycotting China, IPL is sheltering them’, declared Swadeshi Jaagran Manch Co-Convenor Professor **Ashwani Mahajan**.

On Tuesday, August 4, VIVO pulled out of the IPL.

‘Indians are not saying they do not want to see the IPL; they just do not want to see the IPL if VIVO is the sponsor,’ Professor Mahajan tells Rediff.com’s Shobha Warrier.

Vivo pulled out of the IPL, not the BCCI asked them to leave...

Nobody knows what happened within the four walls of the room. Whether VIVO pulled out or the BCCI asked them to pull out, the fact remains because of popular pressure that this happened.

As the person who started this campaign, are you satisfied?

It is not just satisfaction. The fact is the BCCI had gone against public opinion, they had gone against the nation’s mood.

Two days ago, when I tweeted for the first time about this, they (BCCI made it very clear that VIVO was going to be with them. After a day, they said that VIVO had withdrawn.



We need to understand what has transpired in this 36 hours, or less than 36 hours.

Why they had to change their decision was because of the kind of response from the people of this country.

Every FM channel, every TV channel was discussing who should sponsor the IPL. The masses discussing such an issue happens very rarely.

It means the appeal by the Swadeshi Jaagran Manch was very well accepted by the masses.

VIVO said that public sentiment played a major role in it taking such a decision.

They are trying to make VIVO a hero in this case, which it is not.

They (*the BCCI*) were running the BCCI like a business. They realised that if they went ahead with VIVO, they would not get any revenue from TV, and even other advertising revenue too would be gone. They are already holding the event in some other country.

If people of India are not going to see the IPL, nobody else is going to.

Indians are not saying they do not want to see the IPL; they just do not want to see the IPL if VIVO is the sponsor.

Even today, the images of VIVO on the T shirts of cricketers are haunting them.

You had said, when the whole world is boycotting China, IPL is sheltering them.. Quite strong words..

Yes, I had no other words to express their decision then.

It was not that this was a sudden decision; they had discussed it. The statement from the BCCI had said they had discussed the whole issue and came to the decision to have VIVO as the sponsor. They said because they had taken money from the Chinese spon-

sor, it would be a huge loss if they ended it now.

My question to them was: What about the loss of ordinary citizens who were ready to throw away their TVs and mobile phones and pay more for a non-Chinese TV and mobile phone? Were they not incurring losses?

When the country was ready to pay more for infrastructure projects, were we not incurring losses?

When everybody was sacrificing, what was the big deal about the BCCI?

Were you shocked when the cash-rich BCCI decided to go ahead with VIVO for IPL?

It was shocking and surprising for us to read the news. Why it was shocking was, when the whole nation was up in arms against the Chinese and Chinese products, they were going ahead with VIVO.

After the way the Chinese have treated our economy, the way they have treated our soldiers, the way they have acted so irresponsibly on the pandemic and its spread, the way they have been subjugating the world into a debt trap, the way they are controlling the infrastructure, the way they are impacting global peace, Indians have every reason to boycott Chinese goods, Chinese investments and keeping Chinese companies at bay from infrastructure projects.

Like the Opposition said, do you feel the BCCI decision exposed the double face of the government and the BJP?

The BCCI Secretary Jay Shah is Home Minister Amit Shah's son and the BCCI Treasurer Arun Dhumal is the Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur's brother/

I don't think so. Because in the last three years, the government has been trying its level best to control the goods coming from China by imposing higher tariffs especially electronics items and mobile phones.

The campaign against China accentuated in the last three months, and the government came out openly against China saying, FDI from any corner of the world was welcome except from China.

We were stopping Chinese goods at the border itself, and checking each and every item.

That was why the Swadeshi Jaagran Manch was surprised and shocked by the BCCI decision.

It made sense when the Swadeshi Jaagran Manch opposed the decision because we had no representation in the BCCI, but it did not make sense when the Opposition made a fuss as many prominent leaders of various political parties were associated with the

BCCI's business deals were against the mood of the nation, it was against the security concerns of the nation so we asked the BCCI to cancel the deal.

BCCI. I am not talking about this party or that party.

The fact is the BCCI has the character of a business. It is quite evident that they are running the BCCI like a business unit. It is also a fact that people from many political parties are running this business house.

The BCCI argument was that the IPL had a 5-year deal with VIVO worth Rs 2,199 crores.

Many businessmen in India who had investments from China also argued that they had business deals with China which could not be broken despite the fact that people of India have been boycotting Chinese products for the last 3-4 years.

We heard the same argument from the BCCI too. That's why I said, the BCCI had the character of a business.

The Swadeshi Jaagran Manch came out with a clear viewpoint that running the nation is not business. We felt the BCCI's business deals were against the mood of the nation, it was against the security concerns of the nation so we asked the BCCI to cancel the deal.

Were you disappointed with the government?

There was no question of me getting disappointed with the government. We are much more disappointed with the previous regimes in which the Chinese imports increased 3,000 percent. So, they don't have any face to talk about China or anti-China.

I am happy about the measures taken by this government in the last three years, especially in the last three months against China. They are in tune with what we have been saying.

When you asked the people of India to boycott the IPL, did you expect a cricket-crazy nation like India boycotting the IPL?

I knew people were very sensitive about the security concerns of the nation. When we started the boycott China campaign in 2017, some people lis-

tened to us, and many people said, they would not.

Today, I don't see a single person saying that he will buy a Chinese product.

Yes, our people are crazy about cricket, but they are more crazy about their country, and their armed forces.

To the people of India, there is nothing that is above the nation, not even cricket.

VIVO said it would be back next year. It means the withdrawal is till the public sentiment dies down..

This is what you call dishonesty. They are waiting for public sentiment to die down.

They should understand that people of this

country are not fools. People know what they (*China*) did in 1962 and also in 2020. They know what they have done to our economy, and what they have done to the world.

It is childish on the part of both the BCCI and VIVO to say that they will be back next year. People are not going to forget any of this.

Public memory is short...

When people realise that BCCI and VIVO are playing with our short memory, they will definitely remember this. They are not going to forget.

That's why I said, '*abhi nabin, kabhi nabin*'... Not this year... never... □□

https://www.rediff.com/cricket/interview/bcci-bad-gone-against-the-nations-mood/20200805.htm?fbclid=IwAR3XkgH3Mt09PJH1_QpaASr1bFpuL0Fjzpy_BRBQut8FpkeoNXLAuXoa6b5do

Vivo quits as IPL's title sponsor a day after Swadeshi Jagran Manch raises objection



Chinese mobile brand Vivo withdrew as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League, a day after Swadeshi Jagran Manch expressed strong reservations to the BCCI continuing its ties with the Chinese company, media reports said.

According to reports, the Chinese mobile brand will be pulling out of the tournament for this year and is in talks with the BCCI for an “amicable separation” amid rising Sino-India diplomatic tensions.

The one year pullout could be treated as a moratorium period and if the relations improve, BCCI may look at inking a fresh three-year deal with the company from 2021 to 2023 on revised terms. Chinese sponsorship became a bone of contention after the BCCI declared it would review the deals following the violent clashes between the armies of both the countries in eastern Ladakh. The clash, which led to the killing of

20 Indian soldiers, triggered public outrage and led to calls of boycotting Chinese companies and products.

SJM had urged Indians to consider boycotting the cash-rich T20 cricket league. “The BCCI and the IPL Governing Council have shown utter disrespect to the Indian soldiers killed by Chinese troops with its decision to hold the cricket league with its Chinese sponsors,” a statement from SJM. The IPL Governing Council had on Sunday decided not to cut off its links with Chinese companies, which are the tournament's major sponsors. Vivo, a Chinese mobile phone manufacturer, is the title sponsor of the T20 cricket league. Vivo has paid over Rs 2,000 crore to the BCCI, the owners of the IPL, for a five-year deal.

“At a time when the country is striving hard to make our economy free from Chinese dominance in the markets, the government is making all efforts to keep China out of our markets, this act of the IPL Governing Council is an aberration to the nation's mood,” SJM said.

SJM had also urged the IPL organisers and the BCCI to rethink their decision to allow Chinese companies to sponsor the cricket league, while asserting that nothing is above the country's security and dignity.

The IPL is all set to be held between September 19 and November 10 in the United Arab Emirates. □□

<http://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/040820/bcci-dumps-vivo-as-ipl-sponsor-after-swadeshi-jagran-manch-raises-objection.html>

India @ 74: Past imperfect, future charted out



This year independent India has turned one short of the 75 years. But how has it performed? Well, India is a story of success, but remains a land of unfulfilled potential. Its democracy has stood up to challenges, yet it is miles away from being perfect. Its unity is increasingly under threat from internal and external forces. The quest for social justice often hits barriers. In brief a story of remarkable achievements, but intertwined with no less quantum of setbacks. Tremendous economic progress, but coupled with unmet promises. This is our beloved Bharat.

Mother India, the 1957 classic Bollywood movie, dealt with the post-independence socio-economic reality and focused on nationalism and nation building.

Lagaan, Swades, Rang De Basanti, Border and many more movie inspired generations of Indians while confronting them with stark reality that is India. From the perspective of India's economic evolution in the initial phase of post independence India, a rich businessman was the real villain in an Indian movie. Gradually, however, aspiring middle class took centre stage and the idea that it is not bad to be affluent gained ground. Then came Uri (2019) which encapsulated the can do spirit with its famous line – How is the josh. Reel life, however, does not necessarily mirror real life.

A survey by LocalCircles reflects the growing pessimism of citizens about the future of the country. They are pessimistic about employment and corruption levels. They feel that economic growth, which anyway will remain elusive in near future, and prosperity in India will benefit only a select few. But they believe that Indians clout in the world will improve Barclays apprehends that India's GDP growth rate for FY21 will decline by 6% while RBI estimates that GDP will contract by 5.8%. All, however, predict a V shaped recovery. On August 2020 Modi has set a target of doubling farmers' income by 2022, pucca houses and electricity connection for everyone, optical fiber network and broadband connectivity for every village. But then nobody could see the impending covid-19 and its ill effects. This, hopefully, is a short term blip.

In terms of nominal GDP India is the fifth largest economy in the world, and in terms of purchasing power parity the third largest. In 1950 its GDP was 30.6 billion dollar which had risen to 3.02 trillion dollar in 2020 (\$ 11.32 trillion, in terms of PPP). The per capita income is abysmally low, at \$ 2,338 (\$ 9027, PPP). In 2019 India accounted for 8.5 percent of world GDP. It added 17% to it. Nat-



India has tremendous unexploited economic potential; reincarnated Self-Reliance philosophy should help us tap that.

K.K. Srivastava

urally, India is looked up to as an economic power house, albeit with tremendous untapped potential.

At the same time, last year a World Bank report estimated that 176 million in India still lived in poverty. According to UNDP multidimensional poverty in India affected 369 million in 2015-16. A study in 2019, based on consumer expenditure data, suggests that between 2011-12 and 2017-18, India's rural poverty rate may have actually increased by 4 percentage points. Naturally, in India there are only 120 million e-commerce shoppers, out of which only half are active users. Sins of past have led to this performance. In early post independence India there reined the license raj to curb concentration of economic power with handful of big industrial houses. This govt. control went awry, however, away. Licences, for example, were manipulated. Govt. merely acted as a regulator and not an enabler.

The GDP growth averaged 4.4% per annum during the 1970s and 1980s. Finally come the LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation) policies of 1991. And the reform driven unshackled economy paced ahead unless and until corruption at large scale ate into it like a termite in early 2000 onwards. Still all was not lost. Now market forces are at play in commodity, financial, and foreign exchange markets. Investment is possible. The consumer is spoilt for choice. But the reforms remain incomplete. For example, RBI still influences interest rates, farm prices are set by the govt. and businesses still have to comply with a plethora of regulations. We are miles away from the credo of one coun-

try, one business, one compliance. What is really needed is the power in the hands of economic agents to drive the economy within a framework of market forces. India adopted the Nehruvian model wherein we had sarkarnirbharharat. What we need ofcourse is Atmanirbhar Bharat, where the govt. will only act as an enabler. It will play the role to support the economic agents, hand hold infant industries, revive demand during down turn, build social overhead capital, and most importantly will stop acting like a doting parent. The current regime has decided to make an about turn and adopt self reliance as the guiding philosophy.

Self reliance is not a concept to be frowned at provided, we can ensure that domestic products match their imported counter parts in cost and quality. Minus that we will return to pre-Maruti age with products matching Ambassador and Premier Padmini. Atmanirbhar Bharat is a strategy to reduce import dependence, produce products suited to Indian buyers, and gain market heft at the word mart. This will provide us added geopolitical leverage too. India always has had a trade deficit in recent years. Export growth has flattened since 2010, while imports have outpaced exports. While some imports may be inelastic (crude) in others (electrical and electronic equipment, pharma) imports can really be reduced. India needs to be particularly self reliant in relation to China which has proven to be an untrustworthy neighbor geopolitically and with whom India has had a trade deficit ranging between \$48 billion to \$63 billion over the last three fiscal years. Second, given India's larger market

size reorienting domestic companies to cater to domestic consumption can lead to more sustained growth that can be insulated from external shocks.

At the world stage India should exploit its market size to its advantage. India is the second largest mobile phone market, second largest importer of arms, the third largest for solar power equipment, beside being an enormous consumer base for social media and digital players. Self reliance can be used as a weapon, but of a kind Mohan Bhagwat has advocated wherein swadeshi need not mean boycott of videshi (foreign products) indiscriminately. So New Delhi should continue to supply Boeing and other with a steady stream of orders for defense equipments (in US) and seek trade gains while bargaining with America.

Finally, if we take the example of pharma and medical industry, while the situation may not be identical all around, most of the medical supplies needed for tackling the covid-19 pandemic are now being domestically manufactured, giving a boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India campaign. If we wish to be world's leading economy, there is a need to be vocal about local, adopting vaccine nationalism. It is important to generate local data and research since people have ethnic, genetic, environmental, dietary and other type of differences that could have a bearing on the effectiveness of a medicine. To be sure, it does not mean retracting from global cooperation; it is about becoming self reliant, global standard need to be met, while being cost effective. Let us give self-reliance an honest try. □□

The author is Associate Professor, PDG,AV Collage, University of Delhi.

Pakistan, via Ladakh

India's boycott of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on grounds that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) goes through Gilgit-Baltistan that was part of the kingdom of Jammu & Kashmir and, hence, belongs to India, has been viewed by Beijing as threatening the security of the CPEC. Pakistan is the only country that links Beijing's mega-connectivity project by both land and sea and is critical to Chinese ambitions in West Asia. It links Xinjiang province with Gwadar port, close to the Strait of Hormuz, through which a bulk of the world's crude oil moves.

Gwadar's importance has increased in recent weeks due to its proximity to Iran where Beijing is cementing a long-term relationship based on mutual hostility to Washington. India is a collateral loser due to bureaucratic inertia that has failed to execute agreements crafted by the political leadership. It will take great skill (and management of US President Donald Trump) to rejuvenate ties with Tehran.

China is unhappy at public protests in Gilgit-Baltistan against Islamabad's mistreatment and more recently against the CPEC. According to an intelligence report accessed by Paul D Shinkman, national security analyst, US News and World Report magazine, New Delhi views the current imbroglio in Ladakh as evidence of "Beijing's sweeping imperialist designs." China covets (large portions of) Ladakh for easy access to Pakistan and enhanced stability for the CPEC; resentful local populations would be dealt with sternly.

New Delhi believes that Beijing wants to expel Indian troops from areas it wants to occupy and eventually link Thang Chhenmo (wild, big desert) that China calls Aksai Chin (white stone desert pass) after intruding into the region in mid-1950s. The aim is to link Thang Chhenmo (India must start calling the area by its original Ladakhi name) with the Shaksgam Valley region, gifted illegally by Paki-



In hindsight, it appears that China's quest for a direct land route to Pakistan was conceived and partially executed by Chairman Mao; President Xi is trying to complete this agenda
Sandhya Jain



stan in 1963, and eventually join Pakistan. Every move has been methodically planned.

In April 2013, a Chinese platoon entered the Daulat Beg Oldi area with the same objective in mind, though it withdrew a month later. Occupation of Daulat Beg Oldi would enable China to link Thang Chhenmo with Siachen glacier (currently held by India) and Karakorum Pass, where it has built an all-weather road. A cursory look at the map shows that Pangong-Tso and Galwan Valley, where the current stand-off is taking place, could enable China to seal the border of the Union Territory of Ladakh from Thang Chhenmo side and fully absorb this large territory that belongs to India.

This would make it difficult to defend Ladakh in the event of more serious hostilities. India cannot allow China to entrench itself along the Thang Chhenmo border. As this deadly terrain can be visited only in summer months, China had to build infrastructure and grab the region before the arrival of winter in November. It was a serious lapse on the part of our foreign policy and national security mandarins not to anticipate these moves.

The June 15 killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in hand-to-hand combat at Patrolling Point 14 of Galwan, Western Sector of Ladakh border, was a bold move by China to entrench its military in this strategic location. But the valiant response from Col B Santosh Babu and his men, who took down 35 to 53 Chinese soldiers (casualties not acknowledged to this day) before making the supreme sacrifice, has strengthened the national resolve to defend the borders at any cost, a message reinforced by Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during recent visits to Ladakh. However, as the stakes are much higher this time, Beijing's retreat is grudging and slow.

The modus operandi at Doklam in 2017 bears examination. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) was engaged in a joint military exercise on the Tibetan plateau to test its combat efficiency when it suddenly crossed into Indian territory. The Doklam intrusion was resolved diplomatically but showed that Beijing has built all-weather roads along its borders for swift military mobilisation.

In hindsight, it appears that China's quest for a direct land route to Pakistan was conceived and partially executed by Chairman Mao; President Xi Jinping is trying to complete this agenda. The salami-slicing technique is not ad hoc needling of India but a grand design of strategists of the Communist Party of China. The increased terrorist infiltration on the western front clearly enjoys Beijing's support. Henceforth, India's military planning should view the northern frontier as a single entity. The loss of Tehran must be acknowledged as a diplomatic blunder.

In January 2020, China conducted military exercises in Tibet, showcasing the PLA's ability to fight a mountain war, with the Type 15 light battle tank, the new 155-MM vehicle-mounted howitzer, helicopters, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft missiles. The increasing number of military exercises in Tibet over the past three years has acclimatised the PLA to high-altitude conditions and India cannot afford to be complacent.

Interestingly, the exercises were held from Lhasa up to the border

— a message to Tibetans in Tibet and India. One wonders why does India host a Tibetan Government-in-exile if it sees Tibet as part of China? We must fix our foreign policy goals and engage Sikyong, Lobsang Sangay, who desire an independent Tibet.

India's move to augment its border infrastructure is commendable. However, even after Maj Gen KS Thimayya modified and led tanks up the Zoji-la in 1947, India never invested in light tanks for mountain warfare. Worse, former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar's suggestion for a Mountain Strike Corps was simply struck down.

New Delhi and Washington believe that Beijing exploited the Coronavirus pandemic to assert territorial claims along its borders, in the South China Sea, and Hong Kong. The Trump administration issued retaliatory sanctions against Beijing after it imposed sanctions on US lawmakers for passing a legislation against China for repression in Hong Kong. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo promised increased support to allies in the South China Sea.

Observers, however, expressed surprise at the determination with which Beijing moved on so many fronts simultaneously, from denting Hong Kong's autonomy and trying to impose its authority on the archipelago; to upping the ante against India in Ladakh and wooing Tehran against India; to challenging Washington and reiterating its claims in the South China Sea vis-à-vis its South East Asian neighbours and Taiwan. This could prove a classic overreach but Washington should help by turning neutral on Iran. □□

(The author is a senior journalist. Views are personal)
<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/columnists/pakistan-via-ladakh.html>

Why must India get worked up about declining opportunities for cash, brain drain?



It would be interesting to see how many of those who attended Modi's rallies abroad have decided to return home to contribute to India's "atmanirbharata".

Rather, the number of Indians seeking blessings of the Visa God is only increasing by the year, and the non-resident Indian is becoming the not-returning Indian.

Sanjaya Baru

Thanks to the COVID lockdown, the Chilkur Balaji Temple near Hyderabad remains closed. This temple gained popularity as the Visa Temple because its devotees believe prayers to the deity here for a US visa rarely go unanswered.

Though the temple is closed and prayer and offerings are not possible, Chilkur's Balaji has shown that he can open a window even when an American President shuts the door. Though, to be sure, Balaji's blessings have been supplemented by the combined power of America's Ivy League institutions and information technology behemoths who have together managed to get US President Donald Trump to **rescind his directive** that when an American university switches to online courses, international students must go home to their country of origin and complete their education online.

That so many US universities and companies successfully protested the move should not surprise given the income that universities get from international students and the profits that US companies make from hiring imported talent. According to a US department of commerce estimate, US universities earn every year close to US\$45 billion in international student fee. A UK study showed that British universities could lose anywhere up to GBP19 billion if intake of international students falls sharply. Educational institutions in many Anglophone countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, have become increasingly dependent on tuition fee earned from foreign students and Indians are becoming the single largest group among them.



Consideration

Look at this, however, from an Indian viewpoint. Studies show that Indian students remit anywhere between \$10 to \$13 billion annually as tuition fee abroad. The Reserve Bank of India provides data under its Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) on foreign exchange remitted overseas by Indian nationals resident in India. The annual average forex outflow has risen from \$1.07 bn in 2009-14 to \$11.33 in 2014-20. Two items — payment for studies abroad and for maintenance of close relatives — together accounted for an average of around 30 per cent of total outward remittances in 2009-2014, rising to 47 per cent in 2014-20. Indians are taking more money out of India to educate and maintain themselves abroad.

H1-B visa holders, who go abroad as workers, do remit a substantial part of their income earned abroad, especially if the family is still in India. Students who pay their way and go in search of paid education and eventual citizenship abroad are a net drain on the economy, unless they return and contribute to national development. An entire industry has emerged in India to help students migrate, with as many as a 176 “world schools” offering International Baccalaureate (IB) certificates that help qualify school-leaving Indian children for graduate education abroad.

The fee charged by IB world schools can range from around Rs 75,000 per month to Rs 1,50,000 a month. Many of them employ experienced, elderly British and European teachers retired from institutions in their countries. There is, however, no systematic effort at either encouraging these students to return home or pay a “brain

drain tax” like the one suggested in the early 1970s by economist Jagdish Bhagwati.

In the 1970s, 1980s and even into the 1990s, most Indian migrants to developed countries came from middle class, mainly upper caste, families. However, over the past couple of decades, out-migrants have come from all classes. The demand for a US visa, for access to educational and employment opportunities in the English-speaking developed world comes as much from the middle class as it does from upper class families. Children of business leaders, politicians, government officials, diplomats and just about every influential section of society are seeking exit visas.

The next generation of the Indian elite is increasingly domiciled overseas. A survey has shown that online education offered by western institutions has little appeal for Indian students because those who travel West for education also hope to eventually emigrate.

The out-migration of educated and skilled Indians that is not balanced by a return flow of income, knowledge, investment and talent, constitutes both a drain of cash and of brain power. The policy elite in the developing world, from where talent has been migrating out to the developed world, has consistently ignored Bhagwati’s brain drain tax proposal. Both Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi have referred to overseas Indians as a “Brain Bank” on whom India can draw for its own development. However, the fact is that this so-called Brain Bank has in fact been making huge financial and intellectual deposits into the host country, increasing the drain without appreciable re-

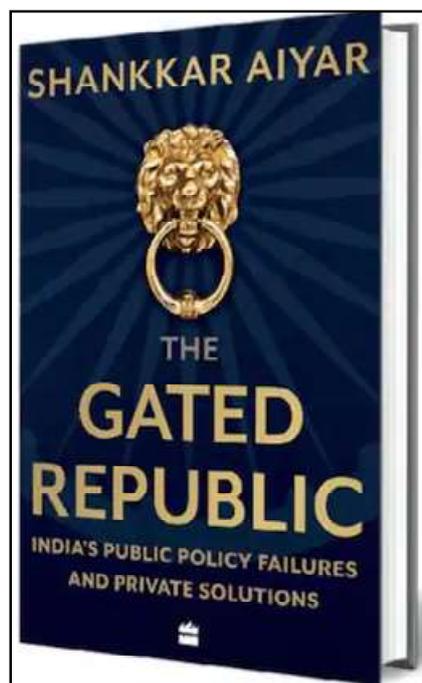
turns for the home country.

It is largely the workers in the Gulf region and some H1-B workers in the US who remit any money home. Well-off Indians in the developed Anglophone world settle down there and make all their investments — financial, intellectual and emotional — in their host country. Why the Indian government and media get all worked up about declining opportunities for Indian out-migration has never been clear to me. India has made the out-migration of skills a matter of great national interest, seeking a favourable multilateral trade regime for what is referred to in the language of trade diplomacy as the “movement of natural persons”.

In the early 2000s, when India’s rise was viewed in a positive light, many had hoped that like the East Asian communities in the US — Japanese, Koreans and Chinese — Indians in the US would also return home, invest in India and contribute to the home country’s development. However, for a variety of reasons, this expectation is yet to be realised. Overseas Indians are quite happy to chant the “Modi-Modi” mantra in New York, London, Houston and around the world, many may even contribute financially to the Modi campaign, organise webinars and talk India up. It would be interesting to see how many of those who attended Modi’s rallies abroad have decided to return home to contribute to India’s “atmanirbharata”. In the past, rather the number of Indians seeking blessings of the Visa God has only been increasing by the year, and the non-resident Indian is becoming the not-returning Indian. □□

This article first appeared in the print edition on July 17 under the title “Blessings of the visa gods.” The writer is a policy analyst and former media advisor to Prime Minister of India.

The private fallacy



The author makes his case with an impressive combination of historical analysis, policy initiatives, cited research and individual case studies of private responses.

Rathin Roy

The principal premise of this book is that citizens who can afford to, respond to India's public policy failures through private initiative and that this is neither optimal nor adequate. This is shown in five domains: water, health, education, power and security. The author makes his case with an impressive combination of historical analysis, policy initiatives, cited research and individual case studies of private responses. This would seem to be quite a challenge to coherence, but I found it superbly addressed. The narrative in each chapter is well stitched together and, at the conclusion, one is left with a clear geography of the problem and the response.

The first chapter begins with a disturbing story of the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, home to some 20 million people, where water borrowed from a neighbour has to be returned in double the quantity within 180 minutes. Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, recorded as the rainiest place in the world in 1860-61, is today called a wet desert as there is no water when it does not rain. The author then shows how the problem of water has received much policy attention since the colonial era. The solution was to increase supply through dams or groundwater. But the problem of management of the water economy, which involves getting supply to where it is needed, received little attention. From 1991 to the present date, those who could afford to, solved the problem by creating a water supply industry marked by the evolution of Sintex tanks, bottled water and home filtration systems. These private sector models were eventually taken up by communities, and even governments.

The story repeats in healthcare where the author shows how medical callousness that makes headlines is actually embedded in widespread systemic inadequacies. There is a private response, but this is just bypass surgery and not a solution. Thus, the Ayushman Bharat programme cannot rely on private provision as a solution without addressing the structural constraints.

A very similar, if darker, story is told about education where the private sector response for the poor spends less than the public system per pupil. 'Tutor available' informal sector initiatives struggle to provide Band-Aid solutions. The picture of incoherence and failure presented is deeply disturbing.

India's power generation, distribution and transmission problem is well known, both within policy ecosystems and in lived experience. The author adds value in this chapter by showing how electricity was, and is, about empowerment. But this quest has failed due to 'the cohabitation of structural inefficiencies and political denial about the cost of profligacy', whether in production, distribution or transmission. The alternative has been to go off-grid, this has made electricity affordable as a luxury or through the generosity of not-for-profit institutions.

[Continued on page no. 22]

Jaivik Bharat

(Continued from previous issue)

Linear Extractive Economies create poverty, unemployment and ecological destruction

The dominant economy based on colonialism, industrialism and globalization is a linear extractive economy based on limitless extraction, commodification, profits, and the creation of waste and pollution by the rupture of nature's cycles of renewal. It has no place for the care of nature and community. It has no ethics of giving. It leaves nature and society impoverished, be it extraction of minerals, or pollution, including Green House Gas Emissions, or extraction of knowledge through Biopiracy, or extraction of "genes" through genetic mining, or extraction of personal data through "data mining", or extraction of rents and royalties for seed, water, communication, privatised education and health care. The linear extractive economy encloses every commons that we care for and share, and reduces it to private property, including the "intellectual property" on seeds, biodiversity, living organisms, living processes, including "data" from our minds and bodies.

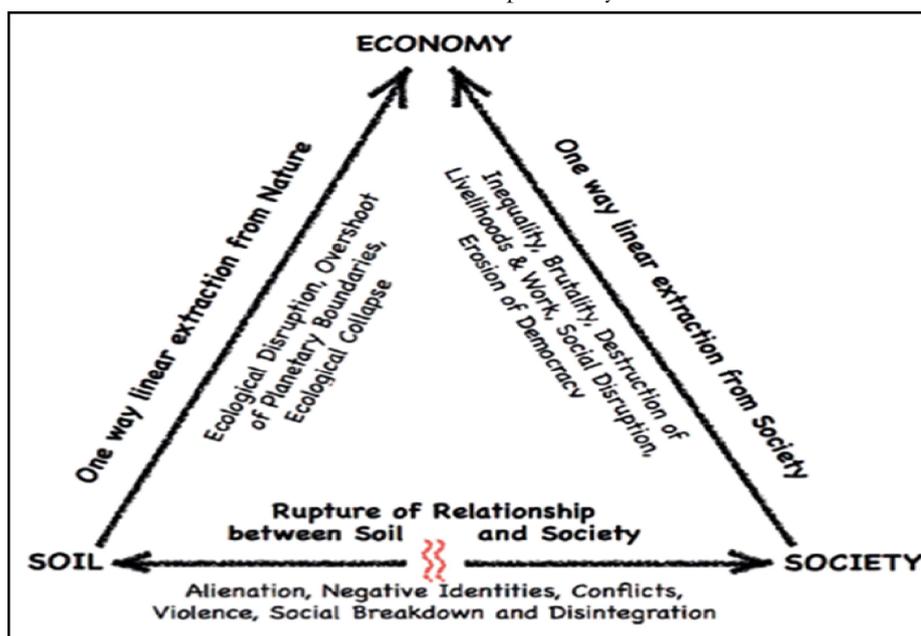
The linear, extractive logic of exploitation, threatening ecological social collapse

It creates poverty, debt, and displacement. It creates waste -waste as pollution, wasted resources, wasted people, wasted lives. It creates a world without work, but imagines that people without work will all be "consumers" of junk food, junk clothing, and junk communication. It is this extractive money machine which has led to the rise of the 1% and disposability of the 99%.



Towards a Self Reliant (Atmanirbhar), Seed Sovereign, Food Sovereign India Through Regenerative Agriculture (Jaivik Kheti) and local, circular, solidarity, economies.

Dr. Vandana Shiva



Poverty is not the original state of nature or earth centred economies of local communities. The dominant economic program creates poverty, the economy of the 1% punishes the poor.

The poor are poor because 1% have grabbed their resources and wealth. Peasants are getting poorer because the 1% are promoting an industrial agriculture based on purchase of costly patented seeds and chemical inputs, which traps them in debt, and destroys their soil, water, biodiversity, and their freedom.

Small farmers are getting poorer because vertically integrated corporations are stealing 99% of the value they produce. They are getting poorer because “free trade” promotes dumping, destruction of livelihoods and depression of farm prices.

Street vendors and hawkers are losing their livelihoods as e-commerce firms with a very heavy negative social and ecological footprint are displacing their livelihoods, and destroying the networks of trust that build local economies. The Corona lockdown increased the control over distribution to e-Commerce giants like Amazon. Jeff Bezos increased his personal wealth by \$24 million in a month of Corona lockdown. Even the so called “reforms” announced were precisely the processes which have contributed to the agrarian crisis.

The FSSAI, which is the agency for food standards, has been captured by the junk food industry and is imposing unsafe foods on people and spreading disease and creating destruction of livelihoods. FSSAI has recently announced new guidelines to attempt to lock all farmers, street vendors

Small farmers are getting poorer because vertically integrated corporations are stealing 99% of the value they produce. They are getting poorer because “free trade” promotes dumping, destruction of livelihoods and depression of farm prices.

and hawkers into an Amazon slavery.

https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Guidance_Document_Clean_Fresh_Fruit_Vegetable_11_05_2020.pdf

All values that arise from our interdependent, diverse and complex reality have been displaced or destroyed by extractive economies based on the greed of a few. When reality is replaced by abstract constructions created by the dominant powers in society, manipulation of nature and society for profits and power becomes easy. The welfare of real people and real societies is replaced with the welfare of corporations. The real production of the economies of nature and society is replaced by the abstract construction of capital. The real, the concrete, the life-giving gives way to the artificially constructed currencies, artificial fertilizer, artificial food, artificial intelligence.....

Extractive economies do not create or produce. They extract what nature and people have created and produced. Extractive economies do not generate or regenerate the conditions of life. That is why they lead to collapse of ecosystems and of economies, of societies, cultures, and communities. Having contributed to collapse, they seek the next frontier to colonise, the next extraction to collect rents and royalties from.

Oikonomia, The Art of Living, is based on Circular Economies, Solidarity, Mutuality and cooperation.

The Art of Living is about generating and regenerating life – the life of all beings on the Earth, including our human family. Living economies sustain life, and life creates living economies which nourish both nature and society.

In organic farming and ecological farming we refer to this principle as “the law of return”.

Living economies are therefore circular economies that are aware of, and maintain nature’s cycles by giving back to the earth. The earth gives us food. When we give back part of her organic gifts to the soil, we act according to the law of return, of gratitude, of giving. When we give back organic matter to nature, she continues to give us food. The work in giving back is our work, our gratitude, our oneness. Giving us food is nature’s complex work -through her soil, her biodiversity, her water, the sun, the air.

The earth gives us water. When we act to conserve water, we are engaging in the oikonomia of giving. When we share water in the commons, we are creating economies of giving and sharing. The earth gives us seeds. When we save

Farming

and share seeds we are creating timeless economies of the continuity of life.

All ecological crises are the rupture of nature's cycles, and the transgression of what have been called planetary boundaries.

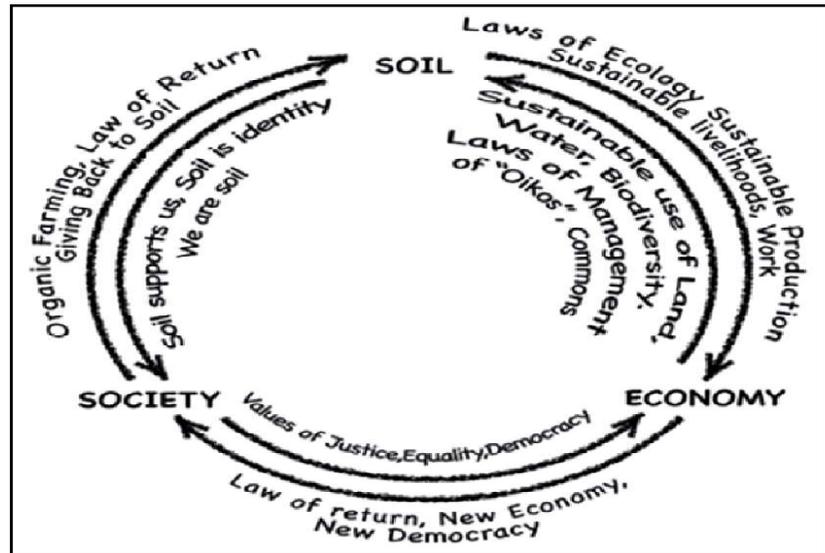
In the circular economy we give back to society. Wealth is shared. Wealth circulates. In circular economies wealth does not concentrate in a few hands. In a circular economy no hand is useless. There is work for all hands.

Given the lock down, more hands have returned to the villages. It is now time to regenerate both life and livelihoods based of farming, artisanal production, and distribution through circular economies, beginning with the local, expanding to regional, till the national economy becomes a circle of circles of circular, solidarity, self reliant economies. Gandhi had said I do not see India as a pyramid where the top crushes the bottom that supports it but ever expanding, never ascending ocean circles. Jaivik Bharat is an ever expanding oceanic circle which begins with self reliant small farmers, self reliant villages, self reliant regions to a self reliant India.

When economies are circular, every living being, every place, is the centre of the economy, and nature and society evolve and emerge from multiple self organised systems, like the trillions of cells in our body.

In real economies, plants grow, soil organisms grow, children grow in well being and happiness.

The circular economy replenishes nature and society. It creates enoughness and well being for all. In the care of the Earth and society, diversity of meaningful and cre-



ative work is possible. It is based on nature's law of return. In nature, there is no waste, no pollution.

Because circular economies are based on giving, indigenous communities can live over centuries in the same place. India has farmed on the same small pieces of land over more than 5000 years. Aboriginal Australians farmed the continent over 60,000 years. When you care for the Earth as your home, you can stay home in the same place.

Circular economies as living economies are by their very nature biodiverse, spanning from the intimate and local, to the global and planetary.

Soil, Society, Economy

The circular logic of Law of Return, mutuality, reciprocity & regeneration

Just as self organised systems evolve in and through diversity, self organised economies are diverse. However the economic paradigm based on a linear one-way extraction of resources and wealth from nature and society has promoted systems of production and consumption that have ruptured and torn apart these cycles, threatening

the stability of the natural and social world.

Self Reliant, *Atmanirbhar* Jaivik Bharat based on Seed Sovereignty (BijaSwaraj), Food Sovereignty (Anna Swaraj) Knowledge Sovereignty (GyanSwaraj) Economic Sovereignty (ArthikSwaraj)

The seeds of a Self Reliant, *Atmanirbhar Bharat* lie in an *Anna Nirbhar Bharat*, a Food Sovereign India based on Seed Sovereignty (Bija Swaraj), Food Sovereignty (Anna Swaraj) Knowledge Sovereignty (Gyan Swaraj) Economic Sovereignty (Arthik Swaraj). A future of a food Sovereign, Food Secure, Livelihood Secure India lies in shifting from globalised linear extractive economies based on non renewable fossil and mineral resources, piracy of our knowledge and biodiversity, and extraction of the wealth we create through our work to circular, regenerative biodiversity economies based on biodiversity, cultural diversity, people's ability to create and produce real wealth, circulate it in society for the well being of all by strengthening community, solidarity, cooperation, compassion.

[to be continued]

Future belongs to India, Opening up is the *mantra*

India has to end its lockdown completely for fast economic recovery. The unlock is like a see-saw. While the Centre is keen on opening up, the states have become erratic all over in imposing closures all over the country either on a daily, weekly or hourly basis hurting the crucial revival after 15 weeks of complete or partial curfew. With a number of states, including UP, West Bengal, Assam, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Rajasthan and Maharashtra re-clamping curfew in parts it has led to closures all over, now in pieces. Very few states are functioning to their capacity. It is affecting supplies, trade, transport, health of businesses and uncertainties all over the country during the 13 weeks since March 25.

Over 40 crore Indians are estimated to be still under various forms of local lockdowns (LD).

The Narendra Modi government is caring for the health and life of the people. That is a solace. However, the disease is not lethal says ICMR DG Balram Bhargav in his pre-unlock meet the press. He said overall incidences are low and fatality is less than one percent in smaller cities. He does not consider it to be a fatal disease. A cautious post-unlock approach has caused more piecemeal closures though impact is national. There is little evidence that local LD reduce spread of covid19.

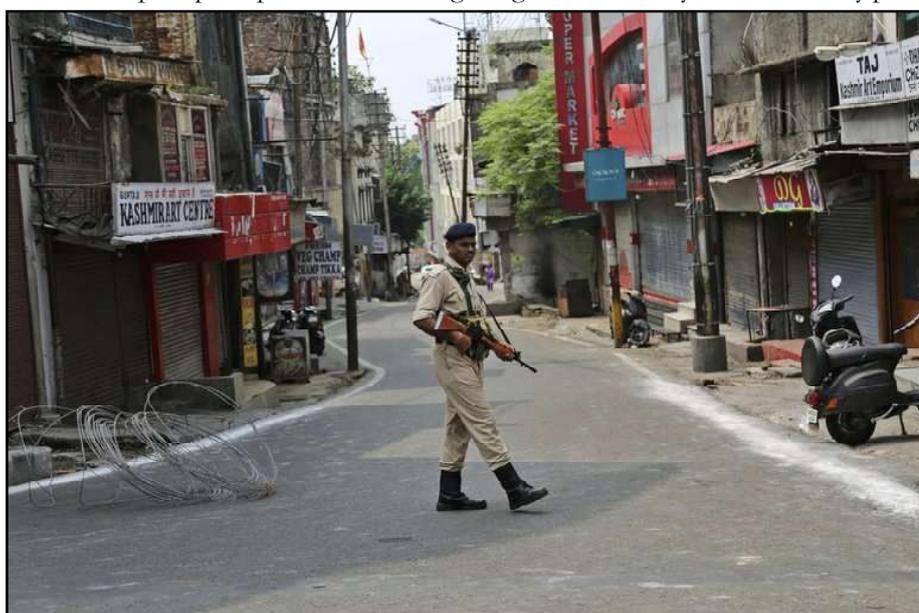
Half of the year, first due to financial crisis since December 2019 and then severe covid19 closures, is witnessing tepid recovery. Post-unlock some select big industries like the automobiles appear to be doing better but it's still far away from normal operations.

The flip-flop US policies are hitting the global economy accentuated by poor



India needs to end its lockdown for economic recovery as lockdown is affecting supplies, trade, transport, health of businesses and uncertainties all over the country.

Shivaji Sarkar



shipping operations and other blockades. The trade war with China has hit the US hard. Disney and Apple, among major US companies, Bloomberg reports, have become pawns of China enabling Beijing to amass influence and wealth at the expense of the US and western democratic values.

India is no less hit by Chinese border and economic aggression. The country has taken tough steps to ban Chinese goods and 59 apps. It made China react sharply and cajole India in diplomatic language. Indian search for alternative has begun but long dependence on Manmohanomics is delaying it. Complete *swadeshi*, or *atmanirbhar* Bharat, dream of Prime Minister Modi or every self-priding person through make in India is time-consuming. Total unlocking is needed to pace up these efforts.

Key economic indicators like labour participation rates, mobility indices, and electricity consumption are down in July compared to initial activities in June. The weekly Nomura India Business resumption Index (NIBRI) has plateaued causing worries. The index fell to 66.8 points till July 12, from 69.3 on July 5 and 70.5 at June end.

June saw a pent up demand due to prolonged LD that gave hope. The e-way bills under GST needed for goods transportation also seeing a slump at 17.2 million in July against 18.7 million till June 15. Similarly labour participation is falling since June 21 and mobility indices fell 30 percent below since mid-June.

The news of Google investment of \$ 10 billion and various other companies, including Facebook and Qualcomm in the country are encouraging. These would ma-

terialize as the country starts functioning in full scale.

Intermittent closures by city or state administrations are impacting demand generation and production. Large manufacturers and retailers of consumer goods, smart phones, automobiles have declined reversing the initial unlock gains. It is affecting truck movements, already hit by high diesel prices and no relief post-LD in toll rates and GST procedures. Markets closing weekends in UP and cities like Bengaluru, Guwahati, Kolkata reduce 30 percent sales of companies like German wholesale Metro Cash and Carry.

Policies like imports are not in a stable zone. The nation has to chart out clear road map to *swadeshi atmanirbharata*. Higher tariff barriers may not be a flat approach in an economy that has become dependent on global producers, including China, for many raw materials and finished goods.

The nation has to come out of the quandary whether to fully produce internally or have a mix. The political leadership has to clarify whether they want a Gandhian or a modern solution. No party alone can give a solution. A national confabulation to develop policy for the next 30 years is needed to sever itself from the debilitating uncertain Manmohanomics.

The policy to cut on public sector just to boost the private also needs review. The public sector has set a standard not only in production quality but also creating models for labour engagement. This strength of the PSUs is being tried to be eroded through watering down labour laws, wage policies and denying companies like HAL from naval copter production to

'help' private sector. To say that PSUs have undue advantage is a move against the spirit of strategic partnership model.

The Modi government has taken many good steps, it should allow PSUs to function freely so that Indian private sector could also achieve an overall quality level – a plank they are trying to compromise for fast growth by demolishing the standard makers. The PSUs are needed to be strengthened for *atmanirbharata* or self-dependence of the country. The nation needs to learn from the US, which despite private sector growth has not compromised on public sector. Most western countries too have followed that pattern.

The private sector should be advised to come up to the level of PSUs but they also be told that it cannot be at PSUs' cost. The PSUs and private sector must compete to make this a strong nation and not annihilate each other. Public money is involved in both. Growth of one is integral and mutually beneficial for the country.

Similarly for overall growth they need to coexist and not go for handing over select profitable rail routes to private sector. It may emerge as a poor imitation of the Prafulla Patel policy of annihilating Air India.

India has to go on a fast trajectory. It must now open up, end LD irrespective of the disease and start operations of railways normally to avoid an abnormal shrinkage of the economy. The country has its strength, it has to take a plunge and not cowed down by fear, apprehensions or panic. With a bold and practical step, the future belongs to India. □□

HTBT issue: We should embrace seed technology, but not through illegal means

Still reeling from the Covid-19 crisis, the Indian seed sector is being challenged by another deadly contamination: from Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Bt cotton. Reports from Maharashtra confirm that motivated agents are duping farmers and trying to sabotage the legal cottonseed business by channelling an illegal Rs. 300-crore trade.

HT cotton is a third-generation GMO developed by Monsanto/Bayer, with a Round-Up (Glyphosate-based herbicides) resistant trait. Today, with 50 lakh (of 450 gm each) packets in circulation, it is believed that 10-15 per cent of cotton area has been contaminated with illegal seeds.

The background

When did all this begin? In 2008, when trait developer Monsanto (now Bayer), through its Indian subsidiary Mahyco, imported GM-Bollgard 2 cotton seeds with HT trait (known as event MON 88913) called Round-up Ready Flex (RRF).

The GEAC gave Mahyco approvals to conduct large-scale field trials in Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Within three months of the approvals, GEAC confirmed that the HT trait had escaped into the environment. Reports that illegal HT cottonseeds were being sold under the name of WeedGard in Gujarat were also confirmed.

Fast forward to 2020. This spread aims to circumvent Indian laws — GEAC, Biodiversity laws — once again; leaving the ₹ 25,000-crore legal cottonseed businesses vulnerable.



HT cotton is a third-generation GMO developed by Monsanto/Bayer, with a Round-Up (Glyphosate-based herbicides) resistant trait.

Indra Shekhar Singh



HT cottonseeds are being sold by illegal operators without any seed licence or marketing permission for their hybrids from the State Agriculture Departments. The result: legal businesses suffer as their seed lots are contaminated with HT seeds, and they are penalised, despite being victims. But this is not the first time such modus operandi has been used in India.

In 1996, before the legal release of Bt cotton in India, Navbharat seed lots in Gujarat were found to be contaminated with Bt cotton. Fly-by-night operators then toospread Bt seeds among the hybrid population, which resulted in a major biodiversity and legal fiasco, as Indian biosafety experts and government were not given a chance to independently scrutinise the technology.

Today, the same method is being used to illegally introduce HT cotton in India. The trait provider had withdrawn its application a few years ago, and despite a Supreme Court technical committee recommending a moratorium on HT crops, a few black marketers and motivated agents are challenging the sovereignty of our laws and posing a threat to India's biodiversity.

Indian laws 'paramount'

Technology and bio-safety questions aside, Indian laws are paramount, and any transgression sets a very bad precedent.

A few seed lots of the organised players are found to be contaminated with the HT cotton trait in Andhra Pradesh, too, over the past 2-3 years.

In theory, once farmers plant HTBT seeds, they can spray Round-up (herbicide) on their fields; as a result, only the tolerant cotton will survive, and all other plants will die out.

If a contaminated lot with 5-10 per cent or 50 per cent of HT seeds, unknown to the seller, lands up in their cottonseed packets, can the company advocate the use of glyphosate? And even if the farmer detects it, will he spray the herbicide knowing that half or 90 per cent of the crop will die? It's unlikely. It is therefore easy to tell if a seed company is a victim of contamination or has developed HT cotton seed deliberately to gain the benefit of the HT trait.

The NSAI has offered State Governments the option to sample every seed lot before the seeds are sold in the market so as to detect and remove any lots that are contaminated.

The NSAI has also brought these to the notice of the DAC&FW several times. Yet, illegal oper-

ators continue to proliferate, and contamination has reached a tipping point, endangering seed companies, especially in Andhra Pradesh.

The government should uphold the rule of law and issue clarification to distinguish between genuine players (who are the victims of contamination) and the illegal players, who are spreading the HT cotton trait by maintaining HT gene presence. If the government acts with resolve, the illegal trade in HT cottonseeds can be uprooted. Until then, any seed lots found with contamination must be seized and destroyed. India should, of course, embrace new technologies, but not if it is channelled through illegal means. □□

The writer is Director – Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India. Views are personal
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/hbt-issue-we-should-embrace-seed-technology-but-not-through-illegal-means/article32180259.ece>

[Continued from page no. 15]

The private fallacy ...

The chapter on security is straightforwardly scary. Understaffing, a significant chunk of police deployed for VVIP security, poor equipment, primitive training, the Indian police are off the political agenda. The contemporary consequences, petty exploitation, encounters and incompetence in investigation as well as assistance to prosecution, are not mentioned, but the implications are amply clear from the narrative. Equally, the inadequacy of the solution that the gated republic goes for, private security agencies, is stark.

The author describes this phenomenon across sectors as an exodus, 'the mass exit of millions of Indians disinvesting from faith in

government delivery of services'. The gated solutions fracture the republic. The case is compellingly made, but the book is good enough to provoke further questions. To what extent are resources the problem? With education and water, does society sanction inequities and thereby present a barrier to progress? With health and security, are there expectations, or is the government simply delivering the minimum required? The power of this book is that anyone interested in addressing these questions is enriched and equipped at the end of reading it. □□

Rathin Roy is the director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi
<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20200803-the-private-fallacy-1704087-2020-07-25>

Make Ayodhya the Global Spiritual Capital

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to make Varanasi the Global Spiritual Capital during his 2014 electoral campaign. The same can be done better for Ayodhya which is now at the center of global attention with the construction of the Rama Temple. The case for Ayodhya stands on the fact that there are remarkable similarities between the lives of Rama and Ibrahim of the Abrahamic religions, namely, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Syed Tariq Abdulla of Rampur has established that Abrahamic Prophets Adam and Nuh lived in India. Might it be that Abraham too lived in India and is known as Rama to the Hindus? If so, Rama is not merely as the Lord of the Hindus but the Father of the Abrahamic religions as well. Ayodhya can be developed as not only the Global Spiritual Capital but also as a center of pilgrimage for Hindus, Jews, Christians and Muslims at par with Jerusalem and Mecca. The Government has developed the Pilgrimage Circuit covering Bodh Gaya, Lumbini and Varanasi. Ayodhya can similarly be developed as a global pilgrim destination. Saudi Arabia is today earning an income of about 10 billion US Dollars or Rs 75,000 crores every year from pilgrimage to Mecca. We could earn four times this money if we can establish Ayodhya as the pilgrim center for the Hindu and Abrahamic religions.



Ayodhya with the construction of the Ram Temple should be made the spiritual capital of the World and can be made a center of pilgrimage for Hindus, Jews, Christians and Muslims at par with Jerusalem and Mecca.

Dr. Bharat Jhunjunwala

A large number of parallels are seen in the life trajectory of Lord Rama and Prophet Abraham or Ibrahim. The original name of Ibrahim, written as Abraham in the Bible was Abram, or Ab-Ram, which means “father Ram.” Thus, the name “Rama” is embedded in the name Ibrahim. Similarly, the names Dasaratha and Terah, Sita and Sarah; and Lakshmana and Lot are similar.

Rama went to the south with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana. Abraham went to south with his wife Sarah and nephew Lot. Rama’s wife Sita was abducted and taken to Ravana’s palace, Rama killed Ravana and retrieved Sita and



returned to Ayodhya. Similarly, Abraham's wife Sarah was forcibly taken to the Pharaoh's palace, the Lord stuck the Pharaoh with troubles and Abraham retrieved Sarah and returned to Ai where he was living. The names Ravana and Pharaoh; and Ayodhya and Ai are also similar. Rama broke his relations with Lakshmana sometime after their return to Ayodhya because the latter had violated his order of not allowing anyone to intrude upon his secret consultations. Abraham also broke his relations with Lot sometime after their return to Ai because the herdsmen of the two fought with each other. These and many other parallels in their lives open the possibility that Rama and Abraham could be the same person.

Indeed, the Bible says that Abraham's father Terah lived at a place called "Ur Chaldea." Abrahamic religions believe this was a place named "Ur" in Iraq. But we have not one but many places with the name "Ur"—Kanpur, Nagpur, Rampur and so on. It is possible that Abraham may have lived named Ur that was located in India. The Quran says that Ibrahim and his son Ishmael make a House of Worship which is believed to be the one at Mecca. Ibrahim may have travelled from Ur in India rather than from Ur in Iraq to make the House of Worship at Mecca as believed by our Muslim brothers.

The major difference between Hindu and Abrahamic religions is that the Hindus undertake idol worship while the Abrahamic religions deny the same. They worship the one unseen God or Allah. The situation of Hindu religion at the time of Lord Rama may have been similar. The Yoga Vasishtha says that young Rama once re-

Hinduism was the Global Spiritual Leader till about 1000 years ago. Till then, it appears, the Hindu society followed the path of action told by Sage Vasishtha & followed by Lord Rama.

turned from a pilgrimage to Ayodhya and developed disinterest in matters of the world. He asked what would be the benefit of engaging in worldly works when the entire universe was a mirage and did not actually exist at all. At that time Sage Vasishtha explained to Rama that this entire universe was pervaded by the same Supreme Power called Brahman and this universe was as real as Brahman. Thus, he advised Rama to engage in his worldly duties seeing Brahman in everything—the earth, the trees and the relatives. Thereafter, Rama abandoned his idea of giving up the material world an engaged in actions such as killing Ravana. The core message of the Sage was that there is only one Brahman and no other. The Hindu Brahman is the same as the God of the Bible and Allah of in the Quran.

Hinduism was the Global Spiritual Leader till about 1000 years ago. Till then, it appears, the Hindu society followed the path of action told by Sage Vasishtha and followed by Lord Rama. The situation changed dramatically after Lord Shankaracharya gave his

teachings. Sage Vasishtha had taught that "Brahman is truth and the world His manifestation." In distinction, Shankaracharya taught that "Brahman is truth the world is unreal." The material world became "unreal." Lord Shankaracharya, it appears, made this teaching only to create a detached mode of action. He himself lived actively in the 32 short years of his life. Like Sage Vasishtha, he wanted people to engage actively in the world but with a sense of detachment. However, it appears, his teachings got perverted and later Hindu teachers taught that the world was actually unreal and there was no benefit to be derived from engaging in action within it. The result was that the best minds of India became inert and we lost to the Lodhi, Mughals and the British and Hinduism has been declining since then.

The making of the Rama Temple presents and opportunity to reinstate the teaching of Sage Vasishtha, which is in essence parallel to the teachings of the Abrahamic religions, at the center of the global religious movement; and to raise Lord Rama from a Hindu Avatar to the Global Lord.

Rama and Ibrahim could be the same person. Teachings of Sage Vasishtha are parallel to the teachings of the Bible and Quran. Therefore, we can promote the Ram Temple as the Temple of Ibrahim as well and promote the teachings of Sage Vasishtha. In this way we can make Ayodhya as the Global Spiritual Capital that the Prime Minister had promised to do for Varanasi in 2014; and also, as the global pilgrim destination along the lines of Jerusalem and Mecca. □□

Formerly Professor of Economics at IIM Bengaluru

Incentives for the rich, raw deal for the poor



In India, while the industry is lobbying hard to seek further tax concessions to the tune of Rs2.5 lakh crore by bringing the corporate tax slab to a low of 15%, an Oxfam study had earlier pointed to the creation of 117 million jobs if the richest 1% globally were to be made to pay an additional tax of just 0.5% over the next 10 years. If we look at it economically, this makes terrific sense.

Devinder Sharma

Former US Labour Secretary Robert Reich tweeted the other day: “America’s richest one per cent now owns half the value of the US stock market. The richest 10 per cent own 92 per cent. So when Trump says the stock market is the economy, know who he’s really talking about.” Well, Trump is not the only Head of State who believes that a booming stock market is a reflection of the state of the economy. The list of such leaders is pretty long. This shows how effectively credit rating agencies have drilled the idea into our minds.

Even on the day when India’s Finance Minister presents the annual Budget, all eyes are on the stock markets. When, in September last year, Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to build up domestic demand in times of a slowdown, she presented a tax concession bonanza of Rs 1.45 lakh crore to the industry, reducing the basic corporate tax rate to 22 per cent, celebrations the next day were observed on the stock markets. Shares jumped by as much as five per cent, the highest in 10 years, as some media reports indicated. If only the same amount had been allocated for providing more money into the hands of the poor, stock markets would have remained subdued, but perhaps more demand could have been generated, thereby refuelling the economy.

Even now, when globally, the pandemic has left the economies bleeding, the stock markets are on a bull run, prompting Nobel laureate Paul Krugman to say there is something terribly going wrong. This is also evident from the fact that the top 614 of America’s billionaires increased their wealth by over \$584 billion between March 18 and June 17 while more than 45.5 million Americans joined the unemployment queue in the same period. While much of the wealth increase is



related to the Wall Street, economic bailouts and stimulus packages have helped transfer more money into the pockets of the stinking rich.

On top of it is the 'printing' of surplus money in the form of Quantitative Easing (QE). According to Fitch Ratings, global QE asset purchases are expected to touch \$6 trillion in 2020. By bolstering the financial and property markets, this helps the rich become richer. But rarely have I seen the universities deliberating on the need to make QE work for the people. Why does it invariably fail to become part of the economics curricula or the media debates is beyond my understanding.

In India, while the industry is lobbying hard to seek further tax concessions to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh crore by bringing the corporate tax slab to a low of 15 per cent, an Oxfam study had earlier pointed to the creation of 117 million jobs if the richest one per cent globally were to be made to pay an additional tax of just 0.5 per cent over the next 10 years. If we look at it economically, this makes terrific sense. To promote inclusive and sustainable growth, the UNCSO (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) tells us that creating employment and decent job opportunities will ultimately drive progress.

But then, why mainline economists have invariably failed to demand the imposition of a slightly higher corporate tax if it could lead to such huge employment opportunities continues to baffle me.

In the past 30 years, says Bernie Sanders, the wealth of the top one per cent has gone up by \$22.65 trillion, while the wealth of the bottom 50 per cent has gone down

In the past 30 years, says Bernie Sanders, the wealth of the top one per cent has gone up by \$22.65 trillion, while the wealth of the bottom 50 per cent has gone down by \$776 billion.

by \$776 billion. "This growing wealth inequality is morally obscene," he regretted. Inequality is not only related to wealth accumulation, but also stems from an ideological bias.

In India, a former chief economic adviser had once said that writing off corporate bad loans leads to economic growth. The question that wasn't asked is how come when both the corporate and farmers draw loans from the same banks, writing off of corporate bad debt leads to economic growth whereas farm loan waiver upsets the national balance sheet?

Why should nations continue to blindly pursue the outdated economic theory that workforce from agriculture needs to be shifted to the urban centres, primarily to ensure that companies don't have to pay higher wages? Is it not a reflection of an ideological position?

Similarly, why is it that any additional investment in agriculture, public health and education is seen as a drag on the economy? For instance, why is it that a sledgehammer blow of a pandemic made the government realise the importance of public health?

"The public sector has an inescapable obligation towards health. The private sector alone cannot fulfil it. Of course, there will be public-private partnerships. Over the next five years, the Centre alone should be able to at least spend 2.1 per cent of the GDP on health," NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, recently said.

Whatever the reason, even in normal times, the emphasis on public health should not have diminished. But if only the reports of the Finance Commission, for instance, were deliberated and hotly debated upon in the classrooms, would the future economists get a peep into how our financial policies lay the framework for declining public sector investments in social sectors, and also lead to stark socio-economic inequalities.

Still, the bigger lesson is that if Britain can spend 9.6 per cent of its GDP on public health, why should India not try to catch up with at least six per cent to begin with? Why should public sector investment in agriculture continue to hover around 0.4 per cent of the GDP (between 2011-12 and 2017-18) when the sector employs roughly 50 per cent population? Why should the poor continue to live on the margins while the rich are routinely provided with massive bank write-offs, tax cuts and subsidies packed in the name of incentives for growth? Why should we have socialism for the rich, and leave poor at the mercy of market forces? Why should growth economics come in conflict with nature?

These are not difficult questions, but need a rethink on economics. □□

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/incentives-for-the-rich-rav-ideal-for-the-poor-112198/>

Indian Telecom Industry and Self Reliance

Self-reliance is the mantra of survival in all civilisations. The communication quality is the most important and the earliest mirror of any civilization. Richer the civilization, more robust is the language or method of communication. Nature communicates, the animals communicate and the humans also communicate. The communication has evolved too much- from sign language to machine level language, from the application of wired to wireless technology, from delayed delivery speed to match the speed of light, and is still continuously evolving. Perfect communication is the business principle of reducing wastage and attaining efficiency as well as productivity. If the perfect message is killed the communication is a failure.

The telecommunication is the accepted infrastructure of doing businesses in the contemporary world. Whether it is conducting financial transactions or imparting education or monitoring participation or quantifying value addition or any business which can be named, there is a role of communication. It's no more just a simple replacement of postcard or landline telephone. It's not about faster delivery rather it's about perfect delivery and at the same time real-time delivery. If the delivery is delayed the communication is a failure. If the messages are tempered then it's a communication failure. If the message is reaching late then it's also a communication failure. If the message is reaching to someone who is not supposed to be informed then it's a communication failure. If the message is not reaching in real-time to whomsoever it is supposed to reach then it's a communication failure. So, communication needs to be perfect, tamper-proof, and real-time. Hence it has an important constituent of security. It involves the security of the businesses, the security of the nation, or security of planning any strategy.



The ownership of a robust communication system lies on consumers who should demand no compromise on quality and on suppliers who should make it available at the cheapest cost for the best quality.

Alok Singh



The share of Chinese communication devices in the Indian market is something to be explored for personal interest, for business interest and for the national interest. The share of Chinese devices is an intrusion or infringement or encroachment or just another item to provide us convenience. Is it the price or the capability or government policy?

If it is price then it's worthless to compromise on the price for the sake of security. If there are tradeoffs between safety-security and price then it's obvious that price has lower pecking order among all objects of safety-security-price. That's the principle based on which the insurance company runs their business- price versus risk; higher the risk so higher is the insurance premiums. The price is paid for quality and quality is subjective in nature. For someone, timely delivery is quality, for others, the product features are quality, for someone the post purchased service is quality, and so on. Standalone quality is difficult to judge. Quality is comprehensive and people need to understand it.

We have learnt it hard way during Doklam crisis when the Chinese communication devices suddenly didn't work in favour of its owners i.e. for our soldiers. Nowhere anyone can say that safety-security is lower in the pecking order with reference to price. The users of telecommunication devices need to be made aware of the security issues and the tradeoffs which they are making with price by compromising their security. It can be of immediate or short term or long term disadvantage. The unaware customers in general and the end-user in particular need to

be educated about the tradeoffs of price and safety-security while purchasing a telecommunication device.

The capability is owned by us. We are capable enough to match anyone including Chinese. We have demonstrated that during the Covid-19 crisis itself. The government of India banned 59 mobile-based applications of Chinese origin and within no time we are flooded with alternatives of domestic applications to do the job with the same level of ease but with robust security features. The nation responded with the same speed in accepting domestic applications.

There are a plethora of examples in mobile applications. The concern is the hardware component of the telecommunication devices. The printed circuit board is an important constituent of mobile phone device and it is the most important value addition, comprising more than fifty per cent of value to the device. The printed circuit board fabrication is a high-end technology and it's not about capability but about the opportunity. There are a lot of Indian companies capable to do fabrication of printed circuit boards but the price pressure and lack of government orientation in supporting the fabrication of printed circuit board is the culprit. It's not about capability rather it's about commitment. Many private players in telecommunication business with a deep pocket are serving the national interest by launching newer and newer substitutes for Chinese products.

The policymakers are rising to the occasion in a giant way. The government demonstrated its agility in banning the Chinese applica-

tions as well as promoting 'vocal for local' at a mass level. The Indian manufacturers are planning in a big way to substitute the Chinese hardware businesses in the telecommunication sector. The tenders are being cancelled, the 5G is being postponed and the publicly owned companies in the telecommunication sector are on a revival path. The policymakers are rationalizing the trade policies, and are plugging the holes in the customs duty and other import-related taxes. At the same time, it is expected from the government to stimulate the manufacturing of most valuable component of the hardware part of the telecommunication devices in favour of the domestic manufacturers. There is an urgent requirement to work on fabrication unit for printed circuit boards.

The profile of the telecommunication sector has changed. It's related to the national interest, it's related to an individual's privacy, it's related to data localization and it is related to all the businesses, as well as related to other characteristics of operations management like efficiency, productivity, agility, privacy, mass access and a lot more. The new Bharat is an aspiring Bharat. The whole world is looking at us for business policy, trade policy, health policy, fundamental research as well as applied research and waiting to see us emerge as an alternative to the global value chain. It's no more about 'us' only but it's about 'all of us' the whole new world. The ownership of a robust communication system lies on consumers who should demand no compromise on quality and on suppliers who should make it available at the cheapest cost for the best quality. □□

Yamraj is scared of Corona

Total number of deaths decrease during Corona

Yamraj is more scared than the humans due to corona. Although, the World Health Organization is telling that by the end of the year, there will be a large number of deaths due to corona in India, but Yamraj's concern is different. Despite the speed at which the corona is spreading, the deaths due to it are not enough to meet the annual target of total deaths. As the several causes of death-sare lockdown, there is a decrease in the total number of deaths. Death toll has dropped significantly compared to the number of deaths projected in India this year or the previous years during the corona period.

However, what is the truth? Is the claim of decrease in the total number of deaths true? If this is true, then this study will help remove the fear of corona in people's minds. Here we will try to investigate the claim of decrease in the death toll.

Based on the data obtained from the government, the deaths in Amravati city, Amravati district, Maharashtra state and India during the period April to June of last year have been compared with the deaths during the same period this year. Prior to the study, it must be noted that there is some difference between the worldometer and government figures for the total population and the total death-sand secondly, only 70 per cent of the deaths in India are recorded every year.

The estimated population of Amravati city in 2020 is 7.52 lakhs. In Amravati, 1938 deaths were registered in April, May, June 2019 and 1546 deaths were registered in 2020. That is, in these three months of corona, there are 392 less deaths in 2020 compared to 2019.

The workers at crematorium in Amravati city say that less dead bodies were burnt during corona than in last year. Their statement confirms the decrease in the death toll of the city.



It is indeed encouraging that death toll has dropped significantly compared to the number of deaths projected in India this year or the previous years during the corona period.

Vivekanand Mathane



The estimated population of Amravati district in 2020 is 32.92 lakhs. The entire district registered 4944 deaths in April, May, June 2019 and 4117 deaths in 2020. That is, in these three months of the corona in Amravati district, 827 less deaths were registered in 2020 as compared to 2019. Whereas in Amravati district till June 30, the number of corona infected was 569 and the death toll was 23.

The estimated population of Maharashtra in 2020 is 12.62 crores. According to the available data, there were a total of 678706 deaths in Maharashtra in the year 2018. 105743 deaths were registered in two months April and May. In the same period of 2020, only 70424 have been registered. That is, there has been a decrease of 35319 in 2020 as compared to 2018 in two months of corona. While in Maharashtra, until 31 May, 2286 had died from covid19. As of 30 June, the number of corona infected are 174761 and 7855 deaths.

According to the Worldometer, India's population in 2020 is 138 crores and last year a total of 97 lakh deaths occurred. The death rate of 2020 is estimated as 7.3 / 1000, according to which a total of 1 crore deaths have been estimated in 2020. This means an average of 821190 deaths per month and an average of 27397 deaths per day. According to the government report, the registered death toll in 2018 was 69.50 Lakh.

The first corona infection in India occurred on 30 January and the first corona death on 12 March. According to the Worldometer, until 30 June, the number of corona infected in India was 5.85 lakh and the death toll was 17410. This death toll is much lower than the

average monthly deaths in India during the same period.

Corona infection is continuously increasing in India. Nowadays, one will see the highest number of infections and deaths every coming day. If calculated according to infection and death rate of Corona, two months later, India could reach number one in the world in corona infection and three months later, number one in deaths.

It is estimated that by December of this year, about 5 crore people in India may be infected and 9 lakh people may die. This is a very large number. Despite this, the total deaths will be much lower than last year.

Initially, the doubling rate of corona in India was 3.4 days. Now it is 21 days and if this trend continues then after some time the speed with which corona is infecting people is likely to decrease and then stabilize. Scientists say that people will continue to die due to corona despite the vaccine, as millions of people die of TB even after being treated for TB.

The top ten causes of death in India include heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diarrhea, stroke, lower respiratory infection, tuberculosis, deaths of new borns, suicides, road accidents, etc. Every year more deaths occur due to viral infection than deaths from corona this year. In India, every year about 1.5 lakh people commit suicide, more than 2 lakh people die in road accidents, 4.5 to 5 lakh people die from TB.

Due to the unavailability of updated data from government of India, essential information was not received. However, based on the figures of Maharashtra, the total death in India can be estimated.

Maharashtra's population is around 17-18% of India. Despite the highest number of deaths due to corona in Maharashtra, overall death has decreased significantly. This study proves that this year in India, there will be a significant reduction in the total deaths compared to the estimated deaths due to Covid 19.

Thus, the claim of decrease in total number of deaths is correct. Number of deaths has been much less during corona than previous year. Now humans are busy in strengthening their immune system. They are taking good care of their health. Therefore all diseases have reduced. Unnecessary travel is not taking place. Industrial accidents are decreasing as factories are closed. Road accidents have reduced. Pollution is also decreasing. As the causes of deaths are lockdown, there is a decrease in the total number of deaths.

Yamraj also told that he got help due to the Kali. Otherwise, if the lockdown would have been put in India at the proper time and with prior notice and the migrants returning home would have been sent home at the right time and some money would have been put in to the pockets of people, Yamraj would have stayed far away from his target.

Now a number of measures are being taken to meet the annual target. Kali has entered into all the kings in the world. So all the countries are challenging each other for war. Corporate media anchors and people sitting at home in fear of the corona are daily challenging the neighboring countries for war. Even this time also, if Kali does the right thing, World War III could help in ending Yamraj's worries. □□

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Legitimation and Patronage of the Bishnoi Movement in Medieval Rajasthan



The popular environmental cum philosophical movement of the Bishnois that originated in medieval Western Rajasthan drew motifs and icons largely from the cult of Vishnu and its Avatars. They connected their teachings and principles to God Vishnu.

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur

We continue with the series on the historic roots of Bishnoi movement. If agriculture was essential to sustain and sedentarize a desert society and to meet the increasing revenue demands of the Rathaur states of Jodhpur and Bikaner, then pastoral activities was the lifeline of the desert economy. The Bishnois not only uphold preservation of cattle wealth but also relate cattle and dairy farming to the worship of their chief deity Vishnu. Vilhoji instructs his disciples to strain the water before they drink to save micro-organisms. He condemns those who eat meat instead of good food (meaning vegetarian food) in the same context. For the same reasons, Vilhoji warned against lighting fire without regard to micro-organisms; if a fire burns organisms, then it becomes inauspicious. He also encouraged people to walk less to minimize the killing of small organisms. In Kathâ Avatârpât (the story of Jambhoji birth), the predominance of pastoral wealth over agricultural activities is clearly evident. Jambhoji father, ParamarLohat, who cultivated his field and irrigated it with water drawn from a well, had plenty of cows and goats. His agro-pastoral activities are vividly described by Vilhoji Lohat grazed his cattle and spent money on his animals while procuring grains during the monsoon.” It is when he had gone to the forests to graze his cows that the divine Vishnu appeared before him and foretold the birth of avatar Devji (Jambhoji). Jambhoji drew from the Puranic tradition performance of havan by pouring ghee into the fire; fasting on Amavasya, controlling kam, and krodh (desires and anger), giving up theft and ill speaking. He believed in incarnation of God but decried idolatry. He respected the Vedas and drew a lot of his philosophy from Bhagavad Gita. In propagating SagunMukh-Nirgun Bhakti. To quotes very briefly from one of his famous shabad: A mere vision of Gorakh does not make one siddh. Only purity of heart and deeds bring salvation. Kaliyug is on. Beware, all those awakened in soul. The Satguru has shown you the path of righteousness and acquainted you with the substance of the Vedas Liberation from the cycle of material and physical attractions is central to Bishnoi philosophy. Soul and its lord reside in the body of a human being and not outside in pilgrimage. Brahmagyân and importance. Of the ‘guru’ (preceptor) find echoes in the teachings of every prominent Bishnoi saint. Perhaps the most innovative aspect of Bishnoi philosophy and religion is the deification of Jambhoji. Comparisons of Jambhoji with the gunas (qualities) of Vishnu, prasasti (eulogies) of Vishnu/Krishna-like Jambhoji abound in the writings of Vilhoji, Surjan Das Ji, Alam Ji and Parmanand Ji, etc.

It is significant that disciples as early as Raidas (born in Olvi village, Jodhpur, in 1473), Surjanji and his disciple Alamji began the process of deification through the concept of Krishna avatar (incarnation of Vishnu). Vilhoji is his composition, Katha Dharabandh Channajugi identifies Jambhoji as the avatâr of adi Vishnu. Surjani series Machcha, Kachcha, Varah, Narsingh, Vâman, Paracêrâm and Buddha avatârs of Vishnu.” He connects Krishna with Jambhoji by claiming that

what Krishna could not accomplish Jambhoji did—though the showing of ‘heaven’ to his disciples. And Jambhoji disciples came from Hindu and Muslim communities. Alamji sings in praise of Vishnu and Krishna and connects Satguru Jambhoji darshan (vision) with that of Krishna. He claims that Jambhoji was born as Krishna in Dvâpara Yuga. Mathura-Dwarka is the same as Jambhoji seat. Sambharathal. Gokul’s gvâla (cowherd) and Vrindavan king are omnipresent in earth, air, water and sky. Alamji also draws a parallel between Jambhoji and the kind-hearted Buddha.

Kesoji Godara too equates Jambhoji with Vishnu and Krishna. Surjanji Puniya focuses on the importance of Vishnu. “Remembering Vishnu is the highest form of ‘rest’. One must remember the Almighty for He listens to the prayers of the poor devotees. He liberated Dhruva, Prahlad, Harishchandra, and Yudhishtira and inspired kings to give up the material world for moksha. Vilhoji, one of the early and prominent saints of the Bishnois encouraged the spread and popularity of Vishnu and identified Jambhoji as the tenth avatar of Vishnu. He appealed to the devotees of Bishnois to remember Vishnu, Jambhoji along with Vishnu’s disciple Prahlad liberated five crore human beings. Vishnu, who liberated seven crore humans in Tretâ Yuga and nine crore in Dvâpara Yuga, appeared as Jambhoji, the tenth avatar of Vishnu in Kali Yuga. Now Jambhoji would liberate 12 crore devotees.

Deification and identification with Vishnu helped the saints in popularizing the founder, Guru Jambhoji. Vilhoji opines that due

to the good deeds of the rural folk of the desert, Vishnu was born as Jambhoji in Bagardesha (Thar Desert in western Rajasthan). “The God of Gods Vishnu became established in Sambharthal. A large number of Vilhojichhandas and sakhis compare Jambhoji with Vishnu. By calling Jambhoji an avatar of Vishnu, Vilhoji not only sanctified Jambhoji and his legends but simultaneously insured popular acceptance of Jambhoji. It seems that the popularity and hegemony of the Nath-panthi had discarded the element of bhakti and the cult of Vishnu in western Rajasthan in this period. The early Bishnoi saints not only restored the element of bhakti and the cult of Vishnu in popular religion, but utilized this strategy to establish Jambhoji, his teachings and Bishnoi philosophy in the domain of popular religion.

Vilhoji composed Manjha Ashra Dua Avatâr kâ and Kathû Avatâr pât to sing the praise of Jambhoji and to legitimize his legend. Manjha Ashra Duhâ narrates Jambhoji simplicity, accessibility and popularity and yet his knowledge. Vilhoji popularized the concept of avatâr for Jambhoji in Manjha Ashra Duhâ Avatâr kâ before he narrates the story of the avatâr’s (Jambhoji’s) birth in his next composition, Kathû Avatâr pât. Jambhoji is the foundation of soul and hence, he is the creator (interesting comparison with Brahma, the creator). He is omnipresent on this earth and he is ‘Parabrahma’. He is immortal and nurtures every being. He is kind and generous. He liberates his devotees and settles them in heaven. Jambhoji’s name washes away sins and he sustains the worldly order.” Jambhoji willingly appeared as an avatâr in this desert

to remove sorrow and poverty. He dislikes ignorant people who do not recognize the right preceptor.” He does not help the proud priest who criticizes the knowledgeable.

Having introduced Jambhoji as an avatâr and knowledgeable ‘satguru’, Vilhoji narrates the story of the birth of avatâr Jambhoji in his next composition, Kathû Avatâr pât. Vilhoji initiates this story by introducing the qualities of the ten avatârs of Vishnu with special reference to Vasudeva Krishna. Avatârs slayed asuras (demons) with swords. Vasudeva killed and won battles against demons. He reincarnated in many forms and lived on this earth to conquer lust, anger, and ego with his knowledge. Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita teaches us follow the precepts of satgurus and the truth, which only can bring salvation.” Guru Jambhoji examined the truth in Gorakhnath’s yoga. Dattatreya’s sanyas, and non-violence in Jainism and Islam before he arrived at the right knowledge and substance. Jambhoji precepts soon get enmeshed with Krishna’s knowledge as Vilhoji links the Satguru’s vâni with Krishna’s sayings. Jambhoji was born to a Parmar Rajput named Lohat and his Bhati Rajput wife Hansa. An agro-pastoralist, Lohat received divine message (akashvani) that a Krishna-like avatâr would be born to him to liberate 12 crore human beings. It was forecast that this son would be a yogi (sage). Hansa gave birth to Krishna like Jambhoji.” In fact, Jambhoji, like infant Krishna, performed miracles and surprised visitors to his home.” He like Krishna was born with an aura. Like Vishnu, he Jambhoji lit lamps with water and not oil. Hence, Vilhoji adapted Krishna’s

childhood deeds to a significant extent to highlight the avatar status of Jambhoji. Vilhoji repeats that Jambhoji is the Vishnu reincarnate in Kali Yuga.” All the Vishnoi saints, including Alamji, legitimized Jambhojiavatâr and divine status through appropriation of Vishnu’s and Krishna’s characteristics. Vilhoji makes another interesting identification of Jambhoji, with Lakshmana of Râmâyana who killed Ravana and rescued Sita from Lanka.” But Bishnois also adopted motifs of sin merit and dâna (gift) from Brahmanical religion. If we have noted the concepts of ‘sin’ and ‘merit’ as functional to the spread and legitimation of the Bishnoi philosophy, the fact that Jambhoji

donated cows to those Pandits he defeated indicates Bishnoi preference for adaptation of respectable’ Brahmanical practices for legitimation and patronage. In

Katha Pulhajiki, the Bishnoi convert Pulhaji gives gifts of cows, money, clothes, ghee and animals to Jambhoji.” It is also interesting to note that in spite of Bishnoi rejection of religious conformity and Brahmanical standards, Vilhoji respects Vedas and Purâôas to legitimize Krishna’s might. He quotes Vedas and Purâôas to claim sahasra (thousands) forms (bodies) of Krishna.” To enlarge popular patronage, Vilhoji opines that an ideal village is one where the name of Vishnu is chanted.” Everybody should abandon that village where Vishnu is not remembered. While Katha Dunapurki narrates the story of conversion of Bida-JodhavatRathaur, thakur of Dunapura, into Bishnoi, Kathâ Jaisalmer ki refers to the royal patronage of Jambhoji by the Bhati Rajput court of Jaisalmer (Vilhoji refers to them as Yadus: Bhatish claim

origin from the Yadavas). Jambhoji performs a series of miracles to teach lessons to Bida, rebukes him and finally, wins over Rathaur-Bida. Vilhoji in Kathâ Jaisalmer ki eulogizes RâvalJaitisi, the ruler of Jaisalmer, as a kind, patient, knowledgeable person who is also a generous donor.” Jaitisi invites Jambhoji to grace the yajña organized at the inauguration of the newly constructed Jaisamand Lake.” Jambhoji receives a royal welcome and patronage at Jaitisi’s court and successfully convert Jitsi into a Bishnoi. Jambhoji presence at RâvalJaitisi’syajña is compared with Krishna’s auspicious presence at the famous yajña organized by the Pandavas at Hastinapur. Significant comparison is made between Krishna’s attitude towards Yudhishtira in Dvâpara Yuga and Jambhoji attitude rewards RâvalJaitisi in Kali Yuga. □□

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SJM demands complete ban on use of Glyphosate



Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has demanded a complete ban on the use of Glyphosate in India, claiming that the herbicide is subject of thousands of litigations in the United States courts “primarily due to its risk of causing cancer”.

“Other health implications and ill effects on farming and environment have been clearly documented,” said the SJM in its objections to the recent government’s draft order on ‘restriction on the use of Glyphosate’. In a formal objection, sent to the Agriculture Ministry the SJM said that the entire concept of the order was “ill-conceived and what is needed is a total ban on Glyphosate use in India”.

The ministry in its draft order, issued on July 6, proposed restriction on the use of Glyphosate and formulated many dos and don’ts for its continued use in a restricted manner through pest control operators (PCOs). Responding to the draft order, SJM said, “It is our view that the proposed measure of allowing the use of Glyphosate through pest control operators is meaningless and ill-conceived as it will be impossible to implement and control illegal practices by which Glyphosate is presently being used.”

Also, the proposal would result in increased damage to consumer health, farmer interests, farmworkers’ livelihoods and ecology.

SJM had last year launched an online petition, demanding a complete ban on the use of Glyphosate in the country. The petition addressed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has so far been signed by over two lakh people.

Enlisting 14 points to strengthen the SJM’s demand, through a letter to the ministry said, “In terms of conception, the Order does not restrict sale but the only usage to be done by PCOs. Once a sale takes

place, there will be no means of controlling usage by lakhs of farmers who may or may not use a PCO.”

Noting that there is already a restriction under existing law on the use of Glyphosate other than for tea plantations and “non-crop areas”, SJM said, “Yet, Glyphosate is blatantly being used for illegally grown Herbicide Tolerant (HT) cotton and this has been going on for years with the full knowledge of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (a central regulator under environment ministry).”

Referring to pending lawsuits in the US courts, SJM said, “At present in the US alone there are more than 1,25,000 lawsuits against the company producing herbicides with Glyphosate as major ingredients, for having caused the rampant spread of cancer. It’s notable that even the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) had declared Glyphosate to be probably carcinogenic.”

Kerala, which is a major tea growing state, has asked for a ban on Glyphosate and West Bengal has restricted its use to only six tea-growing districts. Glyphosate is essentially a weed killer. Farmers prefer to use it to cut labour costs.

SJM said that the proposed order was also at complete variance with the central government policy of promoting natural farming, organic farming and traditional farming.

Besides SJM, several other organisations including Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) too demanded a complete ban on the use of Glyphosate in the country and submitted their formal objections to the ministry.

“It is not out of place to point out that scientific evidence exists of Glyphosate compromising the human immune system and in these tumultuous times of the Corona pandemic, where the human ability to withstand infectious diseases is clearly demonstrated as being vulnerable, a decisive ban on a deadly chemical like Glyphosate is the only right thing to do,” said Kavitha Kuruganti, co-convenor of the ASHA.

On the proposed restricted use of Glyphosate through PCOs, Kuruganti in her formal objection on the draft order said, “... the hitch with this order is that the government has not a restricted sale of Glyphosate and has sought to regulate ‘usage’ of Glyphosate. A usage, which happens after the pesticide is purchased at the retailer end is not regulated and not in control of the government in terms of its capabilities to regulate.

“In the absence of end-use regulation, it is unlikely that the government will be able to check whether usage after purchase by farmers is happening through PCOs or not, that too in the case of lakhs of farmers who are currently using Glyphosate indiscriminately, without full information on the chemical.”

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/rss-affiliate-sjm-demands-complete-ban-on-use-of-glyphosate-cites-us-lawsuits-against-use-of-the-herbicide/articleshow/77419443.cms>

SJM opposes India-US trade deal in present form



Swadeshi Jagran Manch has opposed the proposed India-US trade deal in its current form stating that New Delhi can't meet Washington's asks on e-commerce, data flows, dairy and patents. “How can we allow what the US expects on e-commerce, free flow of data, intellectual property rights, lifting the price caps on medical devices? I don't see the Indo-US trade deal to see the light of day in its present form... We should not engage,” said SJM's official, at a webinar organised by civil society and farmer organisations.

India has said it is close to sign a “quick trade deal” with the US and that the two sides should also look at a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with 50 to 100 products and services before moving to a free trade agreement (FTA) in the long term. Explaining that e-commerce, IPR, agriculture, dairy, price caps on medical devices and duty cuts on Harley Davidson motorbikes is on the menu, he said it was because of the concerns raised by India's dairy and agriculture sectors that the country came out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement last year.

“When Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to the US, there were many things on the menu but he only had water,” SJM said. “we are hopeful that the government will not go ahead. We, at SJM, are not against international trade agreements but they should

be in the best interest of the country. How can we allow (section) 3(d) and 3(j) (of Patents Act) go be abolished?” SJM said. Section 3 (d) of its patent Act denies patents on items that are not significantly different from their older versions. As per section 3 (j), plants and animals and their parts are not covered under inventions in the Act.

“We have raised the issue of non-veg milk and no one has a legislation as strong as India's Patent Act. We can't think of joining UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants),” he said. Mahajan said the country is aware of its strengths and strategic position. “It is not India which needs the US but the US which needs India in strategic deals. Both need each other to deal with China,” he said. On the issue of restoration of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to India, SJM said there is pressure on the Donald Trump administration to restore it because after GSP was withdrawn, India's exports in those lines to the US increased.

“We should keep on bringing these issues because there is lack of transparency in international trade deals and negotiations,” SJM said, adding that in some cases, there is a problem with Indian bureaucracy which favours foreign partners but this is not government's policy or the declared intent of the government. “When we enter and exit from a deal, the fault is not with the political leadership,” SJM said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/rss-affiliate-sjm-opposes-india-us-trade-deal-in-present-form/articleshow/77351662.cms>

'India Marching Towards Self Reliance' hits stands

“Swadeshi Swavalamban Abhiyan (Self-Reliant Bharat Campaign) by Swadeshi Jagran Manch is a great step in reviving the spirit of economic nationalism among the masses of country.” These were the comments of Dr. Vikrant, Prant Karyvah of J&K unit of RSS while speaking on the occasion of online release of the booklet ‘Swadeshi Swavalamban Ki Aur Bharat’ (Hindi) and ‘India Marching Towards Swadeshi and Self Reliance’ (English) written by Satish Kumar, coordinator of nation wide “Swadeshi Swavalamban Abhiyan”.

He said that Swadeshi Swavalamban Abhiyan (Swadeshi Self Reliance Campaign) was started since May 20, 2020 by Swadeshi Jagran Manch. In the first phase of this programme, an exercise was started for digital signatures, with people taking pledge to boycott Chinese goods. Up to now more than 10 lakh



people have already taken pledge in this regard and number is fast rising.

The objective of the 'Swadeshi Swavlamban Abhiyan' is to create the awakening and commitment for Swadeshi and self-reliance. Self Reliance would be achieved by rejuvenating indigenous industry, including small scale industries, small businesses, artisans, rural industries including food processing industry and other non-farm activities with an aim to generate inclusive growth with impetus on employment.

Government had already imposed restrictions on Chinese investments, by making it mandatory to follow approval route. After that several restrictions have been imposed on imports from China, tenders by Chinese companies are being cancelled in big number and a few days ago 59 Chinese apps have been banned with immediate effect.

In the last nearly one and a half months of the Abhiyan, a process has started involving people from all walks of life including workers, farmers, small scale entrepreneurs, academicians, technocrats, and industry and trade leaders, for the purpose of rejuvenating small industries. With the cooperation of various organisations and associations, we are reaching out to people and will make them aware of the benefits of promoting Swadeshi/local products and distribute lists of Swadeshi/local products. District level committees are being constituted involving people from industry, trade activists for this purpose. There is general awakening that it is a time to revive those local industries that were taken for granted in the era of Globalisation. It is also time to usher in economic policies that produce welfare, sustainable incomes, help job creation and all in all, put faith in the people.

Prof. Ashutosh State coordinator, Vijay Johar, State media Incharge, Karnail Chand, Jammu district coordinator, Dr. Vishal Sharma and Sewa Ram Rathore were present on the occasion.

<https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/india-marching-towards-self-reliance-bits-stands/>

PETA against Indian culture, says SJM asks Amit Shah to probe animal rights body

Swadeshi Jagran Manch asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for a probe into the activities and funding of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) after the latter called elephant rides at Rajasthan's Amer Fort an example of animal cruelty.

In a post Friday, the PETA India proposed battery-operated cars in Jaipur's Amer Fort in place of elephant rides for visitors.

SJM responded to its tweet by saying that PETA raised questions against Indian culture and killed traditional employment avenues in the name of animal rights. SJM gave the example of Jallikattu and also tagged Shah in his response.

PETA had released videos and awareness campaigns against the Jallikattu sport of Tamil Nadu. It had also opposed the Tamil Nadu government's 2017 decision to permit Jallikattu, later challenging it in the Supreme Court.

<https://theprint.in/india/peta-against-indian-culture-says-rss-affiliate-asks-amit-shah-to-probe-animal-rights-body/472145/>

More steps likely to check China re-routing goods into India

India is looking at ways to restrict inward shipment of goods from China which are being re-routed through other countries such as Singapore and Malaysia with which New Delhi has trade agreements. Experts have suggested that India must make it mandatory for companies that are supplying goods to India to disclose their ownership pattern in detail.

New Delhi has already imposed stringent measures including the 'rule of origin', which implies that all global suppliers of goods will have to mention the



country of origin to restrict cheap imports from other countries including China. However, authorities said that there is “enough evidence” to suggest that the dragon nation has conveniently circumvented the rule book. Based on the country of origin, goods either attract tariff concessions or duties.

Sample this. Chinese manufacturer Xinyi Glass is one of Malaysia’s largest flat glass producers, which is also into exporting to other countries. It also has a plant in Canada. The Malaysia plant has a total installed capacity of 3,200 tonnes per day. Industry experts said that Malaysia’s requirement a day is about 400 tonnes.

According to Glass Worldwide Official Journal, Malaysia exported \$240.2 million worth of flat glass products in 2018—a jump of 149.7 per cent over the previous year. <https://www.glassworldwide.co.uk/sites/default/files/afgm-articles/Malaysia.pdf>

Kibing Glass Malaysia, also a Chinese company, has set up manufacturing facilities in the southeast Asian country. While New Delhi’s imports of glass products increased—Malaysia being one of the countries which exported to India—domestic manufacturers have been complaining of oversupply. This is severely hurting glass manufacturers.

“Xinyi Glass began investing in Malaysia in 2014. Its phase-I project, which started commercial production in May 2017, included a 1200 tonnes/day line for float glass at Malacca,” the journal said.

India and Malaysia signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in 2011. Imports from Hong Kong, especially for electric and electronic items, too have been steadily increasing.

“We need to have a well thought-out mechanism to curb dumping. We must boost our manufacturers. Due to lopsided trade policies of the past, the manufacturing sector has been systematically destroyed,” Swadeshi Jagran Manch national co-convener Ashwani Mahajan said, adding that Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat must be the thrusts to generate jobs and become self-reliant.

Nirupama Soundararajan, senior fellow and head of research, Pahle India Foundation, said that it is critical for India to reduce its dependence on China. “Indian manufacturers have the required capability but due to the cost factor—imports from China are cheaper—the manufacturing sector has suffered,” Soundararajan said.

She underlined the need for bringing in measures which will stop indirect trade between India

and China. It is no secret that finished imported goods are priced less compared to those made in India due to the skewed trade agreements. Most experts have acknowledged that the free trade agreements have not benefited India and that they need to be revisited.

Even before the government put in place stringent measures to restrict imports from China, the dragon had started using other countries such as Singapore and Malaysia besides Hong Kong to ship goods into India.

<https://menafn.com/1100541783/More-steps-likely-to-check-China-re-routing-goods-into-India>

Chinese companies demand full advance payment for Diwali LED lights



Indian buyers are keen to import festive LED lights for Diwali in the absence of reliable local supply but Chinese companies are demanding full advance payment as they are concerned about changes in India’s trade policy or tariffs, traders said.

Import of other festive products such as idols and gift items from China is likely to fall as Indian products are available, although at a higher price, they said.

Chinese items are usually imported in July and August in major Indian ports. According to industry estimates, India annually imports festive lights valued at over Rs 1,000 crore and gift items at Rs 3,500 crore, with 70% to 80% of the sale during the Diwali period.

The domestic market depends heavily on China for decorative lights, especially the LED ones, said Bharat Ahuja, president of traders’ association in Delhi’s Bhagirath Palace that has 3,800 shops.

“Quality and pricing has kept Chinese lights in the forefront,” said Niren Dharia, past president of Electric Merchants’ Association at Lohar Chawl in Mumbai. “This year also people are importing, although Chinese traders are asking for full payment in advance, unlike the past when they gave one-month

Swadeshi Warriors Meeting on 2 August 2020



The Swadeshi Warriors had a three-hour-long meeting on the digital platform, Google Meet on 2 August 2020 from 4 PM onwards in which more than 26 people participated. The meeting was moderated by Phool Chand Jee and coordinated by Pooja Madan Jee and Govind Tripathi Jee.

Every participant introduced themselves and there was an open house in which everyone participated for the first hour. It was followed by a discussion lead by Dr. Ashwani Mahajan Jee about the important challenges and opportunities knocking at the door of the nation and the role of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. In the last leg of the meeting, Ashwani Mahajan Jee conducted a question and answer session and this continued for almost an hour.

Phool Chand Jee elaborated the Dr. S. P Gupta report on employment and pinned that the focus of the growth be job oriented, village oriented, farmers oriented and not GDP oriented but rather overall growth-oriented. Naresh Sharma Jee expressed happiness that New Education Policy is being planned and it will be useful to bridge the gap between qualities of education of our academic institutions with that of European academic institutions. Alok Jee referred to a recent thought expressed by the director of an IIM that the established assumptions on which the businesses, economics, and management are run is questionable today. Govind Jee expressed happiness that over a small duration of time the number of Swadeshi Warriors has crossed 120, and few of the new members were attending the meeting.

Ashwani Mahajan Jee suggested that we should be careful about the languages on social media platforms and it should be decent and rich in vocabulary. He introduced the audience to the philosophies of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jee and Rashtra Rishi Dattopant Thegadi Jee. He said that the light shown by these two great men can be summarised in Integral Humanism and Third Way. The world is looking at these options to attain sustainability. He also shared success stories of SJM in RCEP, Air India privatization, the rollback of ordinances related to Land Acquisition bill, pushing entry of Wal-Mart in the retail sector apart from safeguarding the interests of traders and creating firewall with the objective of saving jobs.

In the end all the participants thanked Govind Jee and Pooja Madan Jee for organizing the meeting. □

credit. Domestic production is largely in the unorganised sector and very seasonal.”

He said traders were waiting for policy clarity. “It usually takes two weeks for ships to arrive, so we can import by August,” Dharia said, adding local industry is seasonal and unbranded, while Chinese imports worth an estimate Rs 1,000 crore dominate the market.

For idols and gift items, Swadeshi Jagran Manch and Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) hope to replace Chinese imports with local products. “We are in talks with manufacturers to make other gift items for Navratras and Diwali,” said Mahesh Bakhai, co-convenor of Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

There is a big demand for idols and diyas during Diwali, said Ashish Goyal, an importer of idols and gift items. “Purchase from Moradabad, Jodhpur, Meerut, Mumbai and Delhi will increase this year by 20% to 25%,” he said, adding about 1,500 containers worth Rs 25 lakh each were annually being

imported in the country.

Meerut-based idol and gift manufacturer Deepak Singhal of Royal Art Collection said demand for Indian idols and other gift items has started rising. “We are expecting domestic sales to definitely increase by 25% this year, with Indian traders not keen to import from China. Our prices will be 15% higher than China, but we assure quality to our buyers,” he said.

Colourful stones, beads and sequin rakhis from Kolkatta, Ahmedabad and Jodhpur are currently being sourced for the rakhi festival, which falls on August 3, said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general at CAIT. “Imports of dori, beads, rubber figures and LED light rakhi from Thailand and China have not taken place this year. People who have old stock of the previous year, may sell this year too but our target is to push for Indian products for a stronger Atmanirbhar Bharat,” he said. □□

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/chinese-cos-demand-full-advance-payment-for-diwali-lights/articleshow/77115925.cms?from=mdr>

Swadeshi Activities

Corona warriors were greeted by SJM by tying Raksha Sutra

Pictorial Glimpses



Entrepreneurship Facilitation Ceremony



Tree planting by Solan (SJM)

Swadeshi Sankalp Divas



Jabalpur, Mahakaushal



Murshidabad, West Bengal



Panipat, Haryana



Pakur, Jharkhand

Swadeshi Activities

Protest against China & Chinese goods

Pictorial Glimpses



R.K. Puram, Delhi



New Delhi



Murshidabad, West Bengal



Indore, Madhya Pradesh



Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Bhind, Madhya Pradesh



Karnataka



Nagpur, Maharashtra