

▶▶ VIEW POINT

▶▶ AGRICULTURE

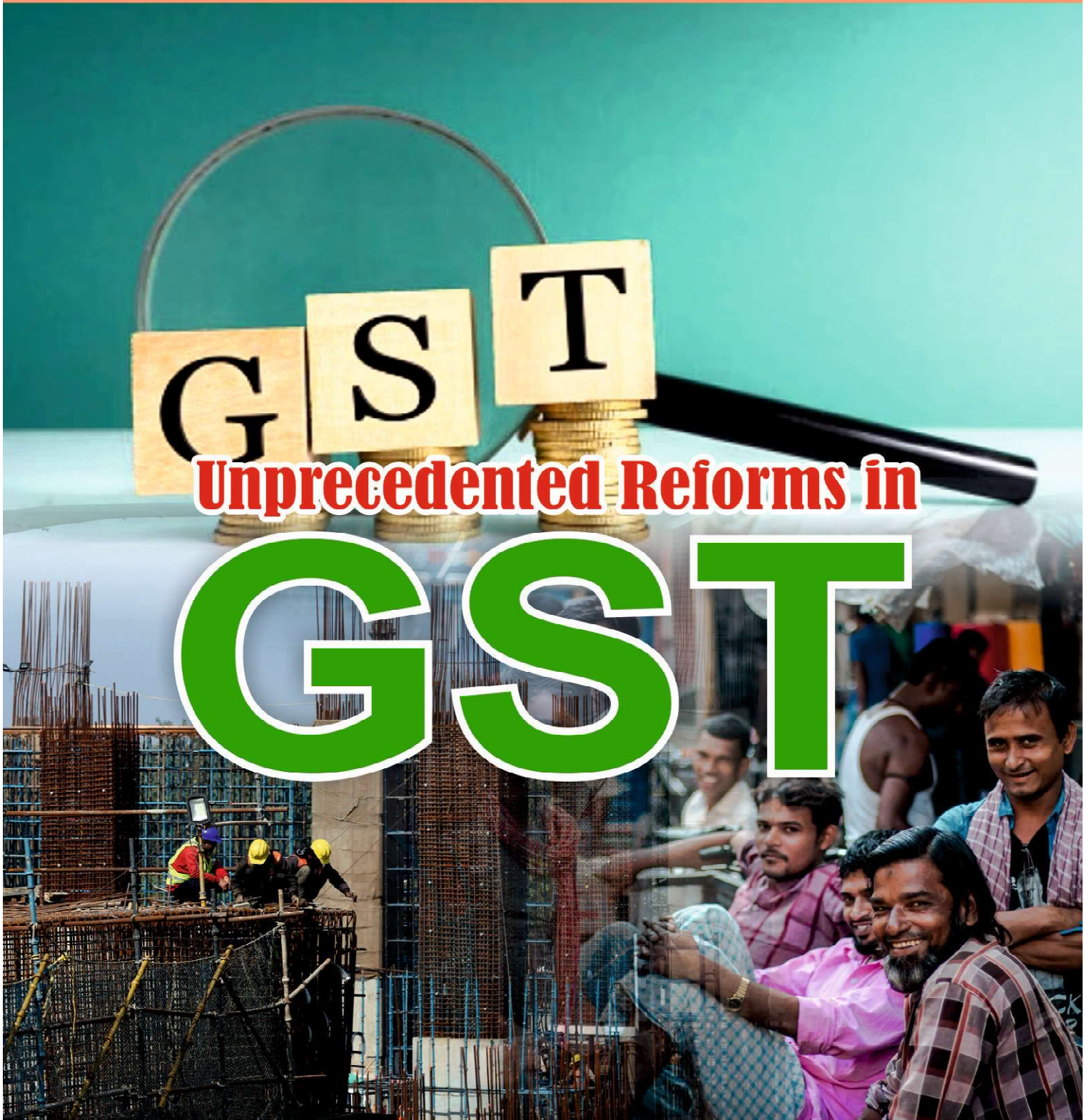
▶▶ ANALYSIS

Rs 15/-, Page-40

Swadeshi

PATRIKA

September 2025



Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Meetings

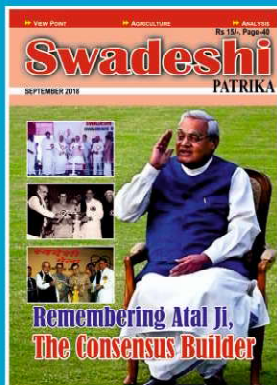
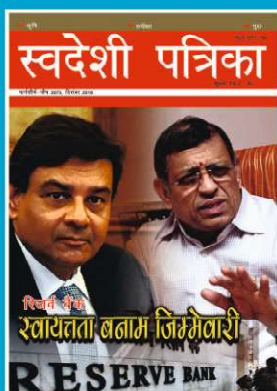
Pictorial Glimpses



Swadeshi Goshti, Bhopal, MP



Kshetriya Baithak, Jodhpur, Raj.



VOICE OF

SELF RELIANT INDIA

SWADESHI

Patrika

स्वदेशी

पत्रिका

पढ़ें और पढ़ायें

View Point AGRICULTURE ANALYSIS
Rs 15/- Page-40

Swadeshi

PATRIKA
September 2025



Vol-30, No. 9
Bhadrpad-Ashwin 2082 **Sept.-2025**

EDITOR
Ajeay Bharti

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR
Dr. Phool Chand

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

COVER & PAGE DESIGNING
Sudama Dixit

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

LETTERS

3

NEWS

36-38



CONTENTS

COVER STORY

6

Unprecedented Reforms in GST

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



- 1 Cover Page
- 2 Cover Inside Page
- 08 GST**
GST blending Hindu Economics Alok Singh
- 10 TRADE WAR**
US Hegemony: Legal and Financial Toolkits Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal
- 14 ANALYSIS**
'Mohan Bhagwat Ji embodies clear vision, decisive action in abundance' Narendra Modi
- 16 BIOFUEL**
Biofuel - Economic and Environmental Impact Vinod Johri
- 19 DISCUSSION**
Why the world still needs a multilateral trade regime Abhijit Das
- 21 IDEA**
Money! Money!! What is that Glory of Money!!! Mahadevayya Karadalli
- 23 SCRUTINY**
A 10-Point Plan to Survive the US Tariff Shock Ajay Srivastava
- 25 ATAMNIRBHAR BHARAT**
Why Allowing Data Exclusivity is Against National Interest Swadeshi Samvad
- 27 IDEA**
Politics of Provocation Sandhya Jain
- 29 OPINION**
Tiding over tariff storm Biswajit Dhar
- 31 VIEW POINT**
Next prosperity round demands human capital Rathin Roy
- 33 FARMING**
Is Urea Shortage An Opportunity To Move Towards Microbe-Based Nutrition For Our Farms? Indra Shekhar Singh
- 39 Back Inside Cover
- 40 Back Cover



GST Simplified: How 2025 Reforms Empower Everyday Indian Lives and Economic Growth

Recent GST reforms in India have profoundly impacted common life, aiming to make goods and services more affordable, simplify the tax structure, and stimulate economic growth across all sections of society. The government transitioned to a two-slab GST (5% and 18%), further exempting or reducing rates on essential daily items like soaps, bread, and toothpaste to 5% or nil, which directly lowers household expenses and increases disposable income, especially for the middle-class, farmers, and MSMEs. Life-saving medicines, health insurance, and basic farm equipment have also seen dramatic rate reductions, ensuring wider social coverage and healthcare affordability.

These reforms were initiated because the previous GST structure was complex, with multiple slabs ranging up to 28%, causing confusion, frequent rule changes, and high compliance burdens for small businesses and consumers. MSMEs, often struggling with classification errors and technical hurdles, faced higher expenses, which stifled entrepreneurship and depressed local consumption. Rate rationalisation now offers easier compliance, boosts consumer demand, revitalises key sectors like autos and consumer electronics through affordability, and is timed to coincide with India's festival season, amplifying its "Diwali gift" effect for the whole nation.

Government's core objective is citizen-centric reform: increasing ease of living, stimulating demand, supporting manufacturers, and ultimately aligning with the larger vision of economic self-reliance ("Swaw-lambi Bharat"). In essence, GST reforms make everyday essentials accessible, support national growth, and respond to past system flaws, offering genuine financial relief and empowering ordinary families to participate in India's evolving prosperity.

— Vijeet Kumar, *Delhi*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

'Dharmakshetra', Sector-8, Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi-22

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

For subscription please send payment by A/c payee Cheque/Demand Draft/Money

Order in favour of 'Swadeshi Patrika' at New Delhi, or

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

IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)

Annual Subscription : 150/-

Life Membership : 1500/-

Kindly write your full name and address in capital letters.

If you do not receive any issue of Swadeshi Patrika, kindly e-mail us immediately.

Disclaimer

The views expressed within are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of Swadeshi Patrika. Swadeshi Patrika often present views that we do not entirely agree with, because they may still contain information which we think is valuable for our readers.

Quote-Unquote



The world trusts India. The world believes in India. The world is ready to build the semiconductor future with India.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Bharat



Our country is fundamentally a language-oriented nation. Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions, knowledge, science, philosophy, and spirituality from generation to generation.

Amit Shah, Home Minister, Bharat



When India works together as a united family, supporting each other across sectors, inclusive growth will naturally follow.

Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister, Bharat



Swadeshi is not about stopping imports or exports-it is about producing goods efficiently and innovatively so that they can compete globally.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan, National Co-convenor, SJM

Deendayal Upadhaya Is More Relevant Today

In the last hundred years world has made a very significant material progress in terms of technology, production of material goods and expansion of economic services like never before. If we try to measure this progress in terms of GDP, we see GDP of the world has increased - fold in the last hundred years. Industrial revolutions at different stages, have contributed to this material growth. Generally people are consuming more goods and also of better quality. Progress in the field of infrastructure, automobiles, aviation, space, communication etc. has been most notable. But at the same time humanity sacrificed its very basis of survival with environment deterioration economic inequalities and societal disintegration. Our society and the economy have reached to a level where, we see that the humanity is facing a real danger of extinction if something is not done to cure these ills. The root cause of the present day ills is that we have assumed that if there is a material progress in terms of production of more goods and services if there is more of an energy consumption if the GDP increases, it means development is taking place. It was assumed that problems being created by such material progress will automatically be taken care of, as the benefits of this increased production will automatically percolate down to the masses, making their lives better. But what we see on the ground, inequalities increasing exponentially, where a few enjoy luxuries and masses reel under poverty. Perhaps, no thought was given to the deterioration in environment. We see that there is a continuous increase in the greenhouse gases emissions over the decades, global temperature rising as never before, and increased by nearly 2°C, causing glaciers to melt, sea level to rise, endangering habitations around sea, air quality getting worst, making it difficult to even breath, water and soil getting polluted like never before and thereby making earth unlivable. With material progress, humanity suffered another blow in the form of lust and greed to achieve material progress, with societal and family disintegration. This deterioration in values got further accentuated with rise of individualism.

Today, GDP growth is considered an important measure of development. But does GDP represent the well being of all and protection of environment; perhaps not. GDPs of the nations can increase also with increased production of war goods, deforestation, increased incidence of diseases etc. Therefore, we cannot consider increase in GDP to be an equivalent to more happiness. It is even more unlikely that increase in GDP would help improve the lives of the people at the bottom of the pyramid. Alternatively, Deendayal Upadhaya provides an alternative philosophy of development. Where is philosophy what we call Philosophy of Integral Humanism (Ekatma Manav Darshan). Upadhyay ji's philosophy states that true development is one that brings happiness and comfort to the last person in society, that is, Antyodaya. The benefits of economic growth are incomplete unless they reach the most vulnerable sections of society. This same idea can also guide today's policies of social justice and inclusive development. India's cultural tradition has always been based on the idea that man is not merely an economic entity, but represents a holistic entity comprised of body, mind, intellect and soul. Based on this profound understanding, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya presented the Integral Human Philosophy. This philosophy was a guidepost for India's development journey even then, and its relevance has increased even more today, when global economic inequality, social fragmentation, and environmental crisis are deepening.

Today's policies are primarily based on material progress. Even in education, health, and technological advancement, the goals are often considered to be "competitive advantage" and "economic gain." However, humans are not merely physical entities; they possess mental, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions. If development is limited to the body and material resources, society becomes unbalanced and stressed. Upadhyaya's philosophy reminds us that development is only real when it nurtures all these aspects of a person in a balanced manner. Social and economic inequality has long been a challenge in India. Caste, religious, and class divisions still try to divide society. Upadhyaya sees society as a "living body," where each organ has its own specific role, and no organ is more or less than another. This vision establishes harmony, not equality, in society, where everyone enjoys equal dignity and importance. This idea has become even more essential in today's fragmented society. The biggest challenge of the 21st century is climate change and the environmental crisis. Continuous industrialization and consumerism have led to excessive exploitation of nature. At such a time, the Integral Human Philosophy tells us that humans and nature are not enemies, but rather in a symbiotic relationship. Unless development is environmentally friendly and balanced, it cannot be sustainable. This vision is deeper than modern sustainable development because it is based not only on resource conservation but also on the Indian culture of considering nature as family. In the era of globalization, economic policies revolve around multinational corporations and market forces. This has increased the threat to cultural identity and economic independence. The Integral Human Philosophy calls for a return to 'Bhartiyata', that is, Indianness. It says that policies should be based on our cultural consciousness and local conditions. Today, this philosophy can prove to be a guiding light in national campaigns like "Self-reliant India" and "Developed India".

Unprecedented Reforms in GST

The GST system, launched in 2017, has seen significant ups and downs over the past eight years. The GST system was implemented in the country after nearly a decade of discussions and debate. From the very beginning, concerns, doubts, and expectations about GST have been expressed. While the main opposition party, the Congress, criticized it, calling it the "Gabbar Singh Tax," and trade organizations also initially opposed it due to implementation issues, a large number of economists and experts considered it be a major reform.

State governments and the central government were also not fully confident about this new tax system, and they insisted on the compensation for any loss in revenue, which obviously was provided to them by the centre. Although the government implemented the system in July 2017, generating sufficient revenue initially did face a major challenge.

What is GST?

GST, or "Goods and Services Tax," is a unified indirect tax system. Before GST, the central and state governments levied various indirect taxes, including sales tax, state excise duty, central excise duty, service tax, customs duty, and many others. All these taxes were unified into a single tax, GST. The rationale for this unified tax was that imposing multiple taxes make it difficult for taxpayers and collecting taxes, while also contributing to government revenue, and the cost of collection was high. Furthermore, imposing multiple taxes had unintended effects. For example, taxation at different levels resulted in the same item being taxed twice, thrice or multiple times. This resulted in lower revenue for the government, while the price of the item increased by more than the tax revenue. This unintended effect is also known as the 'cascading effect'.

Indirect taxes are generally considered unsuitable as a source of revenue because they are levied on goods and services consumed by both the rich and the



Economists believe that the reduction in GST rates will also increase the purchasing power of the middle class, which will boost not only consumer demand but also investment demand in the country.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



poor. Therefore, to make indirect taxes progressive, it is considered necessary to impose different taxes on different items while implementing them. For example, five GST rates of 0, 5, 12, 18, and 28 percent were implemented. Certain essential goods, including agricultural products, were taxed at zero, and different goods were taxed differently, with a 5 percent GST on essential goods. Subsequently, based on this criterion, GST rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28 percent were imposed, with a 28 percent tax on luxury and harmful goods.

Why different rates of GST?

Generally, regardless of the type of tax – indirect or direct – all taxes are levied at different rates to achieve progressiveness. For example, income tax is levied at zero up to a certain level, and then at increasing rates based on the scale of income. Similarly, in case of indirect taxes, goods and services consumed by the general public, mostly by the lower income groups, are taxed at zero or very low rate. Similarly, when GST was implemented, five rates were introduced to make it more progressive. Since then, economists have been divided on this issue. One group of economists argues that a single GST rate should be implemented to make it more efficient. This type of system exists in many countries, including Singapore, but they are all developed countries. However, in a country like India, where inequalities are so stark, a single GST rate would be inappropriate. On the one hand, a single GST rate is applied to everyday essential goods like milk, curd, cheese, packaged food items, and bicycles, while on the other, a single GST rate is not ap-

propriate for expensive cars. For this reason, five rates, including zero, were introduced to make the GST progressive. However, a frequently expressed view is that multiple rates lead to greater confusion, especially when the rates for final goods and intermediate goods differ. Therefore, it was believed that less number of rates lead to efficiency in GST administration. However, to maintain progressiveness in GST, two minimum rates, in addition to zero, are appropriate. It appears that the decision to have two rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent has been taken based on this principle.

Alongside, special GST rates have been imposed on luxury goods, such as highly expensive cars, and items considered harmful to health, such as carbonated beverages, cigarettes, and gutkha. Many products previously subject to a five percent GST rate have now been brought under zero GST. These include most food items, including dairy products. Additionally, many products previously subject to a 12 percent and 18 percent GST rate have now been put under 5 percent GST rate. Products previously subject to a 28 percent GST rate have now been reduced to an 18 percent rate. It can be argued that GST rates have been significantly reduced across the board. Similarly, considerable efforts have been made to rationalize GST rates.

The Vision Behind the Reduction in GST Reforms

While GST reforms are a popular move, it is important to understand the objectives behind the reduction and rationalization of GST rates.

First, the reduction in GST rates comes at a time when US President Donald Trump has imposed

a 50 percent import duty on most Indian products. The Prime Minister's speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15th and his insistence on Swadeshi (indigenous products) can also be seen as a link to this. The reduction in GST rates will make domestically produced products cheaper, which will not only increase the consumption of indigenous products but also make our products more competitive.

Second, the reduction in GST rates will make common consumer goods cheaper, reducing inflation. Reducing inflation has a positive impact on economic growth. Low rate of inflation pushes interest rates downward, which helps investment. This helps boost to the housing sector and consumption of durable goods.

Third, the reduction in GST rates aims to provide relief and encouragement to the renewable energy sector. The GST on solar and wind energy equipment has been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent. It is expected that not only will the establishment of renewable energy plants be encouraged, but the cost of renewable energy will also come down significantly, leading India to greater self-reliance in this sector.

Fourth, the reduction in GST on agricultural equipment and inputs will reduce the cost of agriculture. This reduction in costs will not only improve the condition of farmers but will also make our agricultural production more competitive globally.

Fifth, economists believe that the reduction in GST rates will also increase the purchasing power of the middle class, which will boost not only consumer demand but also investment demand in the country. □□

GST blending Hindu Economics

The Hindu Economics, authored by Dr. M. G. Bokare, studies economics in search of a sustainable system and recommends democratization of economics on the foundations of Hindu philosophy. The goods and services tax (GST), an indirect tax structure, is to democratize the contemporary business system from a tax perspective.

Hindu economics believes in an ideal system that provides interest-free loans, considers loans a burden, and promotes the free movement of resources, including people, goods, and services. The perfect situation is far away today in the era of benchmarks of geopolitics, in the era of technology and money driving politics, and in the era of the speedy transition phase of world order.

The GST was implemented in 2017 by the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. The act was necessary to provide a level playing field among big and small, among separated and integrated businesses, and sufficient scope for small players to compete with the big players for offering the same products.

GST also intended to examine the micro-scale enterprise's disadvantage vis-a-vis a small-scale enterprise, a small-scale enterprise's disadvantage vis-a-vis a medium-scale enterprise, and a medium-scale enterprise's disadvantage vis-a-vis a large-scale enterprise.

The policy makers offered GST, and GST provided a level playing field as far as taxation is concerned. Further, the micro, small, medium, and large enterprises succeed on their own culture, innovation, financial capital, human capital, and many other resources.

The GST framework democratizes taxation. The well-known tools engaged are the input tax credit, and the area of concern is the inverted duty structure. The



Hindu Economics is comprehensive, and many standalone economic philosophies that originated in the Western world have failed. It is the duty of all of us to practice economics that makes our neighbourhood wealthy and promotes abundance for all.
Alok Singh



input tax credit is the reimbursement of taxes paid by businesses on the raw materials and services they procure in the process of delivering the final product. The inverted duty structure is a situation where the taxes paid on raw materials are higher than the tax that needs to be paid on the final product. The sequence of taxpayers matters.

The micro enterprise manufacturer of the final product pays taxes on the input, i.e., raw materials, and gets it reimbursed. However, there is another relatively larger manufacturer that produces its own raw materials and pays taxes only on the final product, which is then collected from customers on behalf of the government. This system was in place before the GST regime. Now, the GST framework has brought customers on the same level as far as taxation is concerned. In that sense, the GST is promoting good democracy.

But as soon as the situation of an inverted duty structure arises, where the taxes on the final products are less than those on input materials, then it gives birth to arbitrage opportunities. The GST is a success when all the enterprises are fair and transparent in disclosing their volume of consumption of input materials and taxes incurred on such materials.

Unfortunately, today it's a matter of survival due to global trade rules, which also require us to rely on large players to achieve self-reliance. At the same time, we advocate for Hindu Economics, which demands a level playing field for both large and small enterprises.

The product quality, the product pricing, the processing methods, the organizational culture, the innovative practices, the consistency in

research and development, the customer loyalty, and many intangible factors determine the rise and fall of businesses. Taxation is just one among many factors, and the GST aims to diminish the discrimination between big and small.

The bone of contention is, of course, the inverted duty structure, as many constraints put small businesses at a disadvantage in claiming the input tax credit. For instance, if the final products attract no taxation, but the input materials were procured by paying taxes, this creates a complicated design. The manufacturer will be paying the taxes, whereas the end-user customer will not. This situation is akin to raising the production cost.

Our manufacturers are competing in an environment of economies of scale from highly subsidised foreign players. Micro enterprises need time to compete, and the clarity on the inverted duty structure has a significant role to play.

The two-slab GST is an improvement over the earlier format. The state governments are also concerned about their share of the GST revenue. The ultimate aim of GST is to formalize the Bhartiya economy, and the input tax credit is intended to discourage unfair practices. However, such dishonest practices are often glorified as an arbitrage opportunity.

The GST Council has also established the GST Appellate Tribunal, GSTAT, which is expected to be operational this calendar year.

The onus of Hindu Economics is not solely on tax inspectors. Hindu Economics is a comprehensive economic philosophy. Apart from external agencies, such as the World Trade Organization, interna-

tional climate and human rights-related organizations, and foreign capital and investment banking institutions, there are significant internal agencies responsible for blending their practices with Hindu Economics.

The most crucial agent in promoting the Hindu economy is the customers. Customers must believe that their purchases are making their neighbourhood wealthy. The sequence of customers has to feel the same way. Every manufacturer is a customer of its input raw material suppliers, every human resource has to share and train their expertise among themselves, and every stakeholder has to behave in a climate-friendly manner.

The Hindu Economics is a self-regulatory economic design that cares for all the stakeholders, whether external or internal. It believes in the philosophy of abundance. It discourages concentration of businesses in a few hands.

The policymakers are consistently blending the GST framework with Hindu Economics. GST has blended many alignments, and many more will surely be achieved. But taxation is just one component, and all other elements have to act and follow the path that leads to Hindu Economics. It is more about social and environmental economics rather than standalone political economics. Hindu Economics is comprehensive, and many standalone economic philosophies that originated in the Western world have failed. It is the duty of all of us to practice economics that makes our neighbourhood wealthy and promotes abundance for all. □□

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

US Hegemony: Legal and Financial Toolkits

The United States today wields immense global influence not just through military and economic strength, but through a web of legal and institutional mechanisms that allow it to regulate international trade, finance, and investment. These toolkits confer what is sometimes called “legal power” or “jurisdictional leverage,” and they underpin U.S. hegemony more durably than raw force alone.

In the early post–World War II era, the United States championed multilateral cooperation. Under President Franklin Roosevelt and his successors, the foundations of the modern global architecture — the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and trade institutions — were built to manage international relations, economic development, and trade rules. Over time, however, many countries have come to view these institutions as serving American interests under the guise of universality; meanwhile, the U.S. itself has sometimes flouted the rules it once championed.

Historically, the U.S. has oscillated between isolationist impulses and active global leadership. After World War I, the U.S. retreated into isolationism; but by World War II and afterwards it embraced global engagement and institution-building. In the post-colonial era, the U.S. actively promoted globalization, liberalization, and open markets — benefiting in large part from privileged access, capital, and intellectual property frameworks. Having reaped the gains from this order, the U.S. now sometimes pivots toward protectionism, asserting national interests in tariffs, immigration controls, and supply-chain restrictions. Indeed, this pendulum swing is not new: the Smoot–Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, the Nixon administration’s 1971 termination of dollar–gold convertibility, the Washington Consensus of the 1990s, and the “Make America Great Again” agenda all reflect this tension.



*Amidst the global
turmoil and the
economic
uncertainties,
Swadeshi is the
only panacea for
global peace and
prosperity.*

**Dr. Dhanpat Ram
Agarwal**



What underlies this apparent “flip-flop” is not a principled ideology but a pragmatic calculation of dominance. The consistent element is not always free trade or autarky, but legal and institutional leverage. Two broad categories of power stand out: trading powers and financial powers. The U.S. uses these to impose costs and shape behavior globally, often unilaterally and irrespective of broader consensus.

Financial Powers: OFAC and SWIFT

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is a central arm of U.S. financial influence. As a bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department, it administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions. It maintains the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list, which names individuals, companies, banks, and vessels with which U.S. persons and institutions are prohibited from transacting. OFAC’s powers include freezing assets within U.S. jurisdiction and blocking U.S. dollar transactions. Because most cross-border payments funnel through U.S. banks or American correspondent banking relationships, OFAC effectively exercises extraterritorial reach. Even non-U.S. banks risk secondary sanctions for dealing with SDNs, thereby propagating U.S. influence across global finance.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), headquartered in Belgium, is the messaging backbone for international interbank transfers. While SWIFT is not a bank itself, its infrastructure is essential to settle cross-border payments. Though in principle neutral, SWIFT comes under intense U.S. and EU pressure in practice. Notably, Iran’s banks

Together, OFAC and SWIFT form the financial foundation of U.S. sanctions. They allow Washington to choke off capital, restrict liquidity, freeze foreign holdings, and disrupt global commerce — all without firing a shot.

were expelled from SWIFT in 2012, and Russia faced disconnects in 2022. Without access to SWIFT, sanctioned countries struggle to execute trade and financial flows, even if alternative channels exist. Because most banks globally rely on dollar-based clearing corridors, the U.S. has substantial indirect influence over SWIFT’s enforcement decisions.

Together, OFAC and SWIFT form the financial foundation of U.S. sanctions. They allow Washington to choke off capital, restrict liquidity, freeze foreign holdings, and disrupt global commerce — all without firing a shot.

Trading Powers: Section 301, IEEPA, and More

Parallel to financial leverage, the United States uses statutory tools to impose trade restrictions and sanctions. A central tool is Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Under Section 301, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) may investigate foreign trade practices deemed “unjustifiable, unreasonable, or discriminatory,” and, if unresolved through negotiation, im-

pose countermeasures including tariffs — unilaterally and without the need for WTO approval.

The operation of Section 301 is sequential: the USTR initiates an investigation (either proactively or in response to domestic industry complaints), identifies trade barriers, recommends actions, and, failing resolution, implements retaliatory measures. Historically, the U.S. used Section 301 aggressively against Japan in the 1980s and 1990s over auto and semiconductor access. More recently, it has been wielded against China over intellectual property practices, market access, and trade imbalances.

Beyond Section 301, U.S. law grants powerful authorities to its executive branch through statutes such as:

- *International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA, 1977)*: Allows the President, once a national emergency is declared, to regulate commerce and impose sanctions.
- *Trading with the Enemy Act (1917)*: Historically used during wartime, still a foundation for certain sanction regimes.
- *Magnitsky Act (2012, expanded globally 2016)*: Enables sanctions against individuals and entities for human rights abuses or corruption.
- *Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA, 2017)*: Imposes consequences on Iran, Russia, and North Korea, and penalizes third countries that engage with them.

In combination, these statutes constitute a robust arsenal with which the U.S. can project coercive pressure beyond the bounds of simple diplomacy.

Legality and International Norms

From the vantage of U.S. domestic law, sanctions pose no problem: Congress and the President possess broad legal authority to restrict commerce, freeze assets, and penalize foreign actors. But under international law, the picture is more contested.

The United Nations Charter vests authority to sanction member states in the Security Council (Articles 39–41). Actions taken by the U.N. in response to threats to peace are binding under international law. In contrast, unilateral sanctions — those imposed by one state outside a Security Council mandate — lack explicit sanction in the Charter. Critics argue that such measures breach principles of sovereignty, non-intervention (Article 2(7)), and sovereign equality (Article 2(1)). They may also conflict with human rights norms when they disproportionately harm civilian populations.

It should be noted that US has imposed heavy import duties on Indian imports to the extent of 50% effective 27 August including 25% punitive duty for import of Russian oil. Then again it has announced imposing 100% import duties on branded pharmaceuticals effective October 1st. If we add together all the draconian steps by US Administration in Trump2.0 era, being the exorbitant tariffs, H-IB Visa restrictions, indirect sanctions on Chabahar port activities it appears that India is being harshly put under pressure to sign the bilateral trade agreement at the gun point towards US trade advantage unilaterally for which We should be alert and determined in our own national interests.

Trade restraint adds another layer of complexity. Many U.S. trade-based sanctions potentially

conflict with WTO obligations. The U.S. commonly relies on Article XXI (“national security exception”) of the GATT to justify measures it deems necessary for its security. WTO panels have sometimes examined these claims, but enforcement is weak in practice, especially against a major power like the U.S.

In pragmatic terms, the unilateral legal authority of the U.S. overrides many objections. Because of the dollar’s dominance and the dependence of global finance and trade on American systems, few countries risk defiance. Whether or not the sanctions are legally “legitimate,” their practical effect is near-absolute compliance in many cases.

Illustrative Case Studies

Cuba: The U.S. embargo on Cuba, initiated in the 1960s, is among the longest-running unilateral sanctions regimes in history. Each year, the U.N. General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to condemn it: in 2024 the tally was 187 in favor of ending it, two against (U.S. and Israel), and one abstention. The embargo has inflicted severe economic hardship on Cuba, restricting trade, investment, and travel. Yet it has achieved little in terms of political transformation, making it more a symbol than a success story.

Iran: Between 2006 and 2015, the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Iran’s nuclear and missile programs under binding U.N. authority. After the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), many of those were lifted. But in 2018 the U.S. withdrew from the deal and re-imposed sweeping unilateral sanctions targeting Iran’s oil exports, banking sector, shipping, and foreign enterprises. These extraterritorial sanctions go beyond U.N. man-

dates and have been criticized as violations of international law. Their economic effects were dramatic: oil exports collapsed, currency devalued sharply, inflation soared, investment dried up, and ordinary Iranians bore the brunt.

Russia: Russia presents a special challenge to whole-of-world sanction regimes: as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, it can veto efforts to sanction itself. Therefore recent sanctions — first after Crimea in 2014 and more intensively after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine — have been unilateral or coordinated among Western allies rather than U.N. mandates. These measures target Russian banks, oligarchs, technology imports, energy exports, and central bank reserves. The effects have been serious — restricted access to Western finance, capital flight, technology gaps — but Russia has mitigated through pivoting toward China, India, and alternative trade networks. The legality of these sanctions remains contested, but their geopolitical and financial impact is undeniable.

Venezuela: Venezuela’s crisis is multi-causal (mismanagement, collapse of oil prices, political dysfunction), but sanctions have amplified the pain. U.S. measures have restricted access to foreign currency, cut off oil sector financing, and limited investment. Analysts estimate billions in lost oil export revenue annually attributable to sanctions. The suffering is profound across a struggling population.

North Korea: North Korea has faced both binding U.N. sanctions and additional U.S. unilateral measures. Sanctions have squeezed its foreign trade — particularly exports and imports — and isolated it from much of global finance.

Though its regime survives, sanctions have limited its economic options, making it heavily dependent on a few partners like China.

Recent Addition: H-1B Visa Restrictions & Immigration Levers

In the broader toolkit of U.S. leverage, immigration and visa policy are increasingly used as instruments of control and bargaining. The H-1B visa program — which allows U.S. companies to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations — has recently come under stricter scrutiny and tighter rules. These restrictions function as both domestic (protecting U.S. labor) and foreign policy (discouraging outsourcing or tech dependency).

Recent changes have included higher scrutiny of applications, increased demands on employers, more denials or requests for additional evidence (RFEs), and policy proposals to cap or reduce available slots. While not sanctions in the classical sense, these immigration controls can discourage foreign talent mobility, tighten tech transfer flows, and impose additional compliance burdens on foreign firms.

By restricting the mobility of human capital, the U.S. adds another layer to its dominance toolkit. Companies in other countries that depend on access to U.S. talent or R&D exchange may find themselves constrained. These visa levers complement trade and financial tools, reinforcing U.S. exceptionalism not just in capital flows, but in knowledge flows as well.

India's Stakes: Chabahar Port and Strategic Exposure

Though India has not been a principal target of U.S. sanctions in most recent decades, it has experienced spillover effects from U.S.

policies — especially when sanctions on third countries impact Indian investments and trade corridors. One prominent example is the Chabahar Port in Iran, intended as India's gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.

The U.S. at times granted India waivers to pursue its Chabahar commitments, but the revocation of such exemptions or tightened sanction enforcement directly threaten India's investment in port infrastructure, rail links, and transit corridors. Indian firms and the government may struggle with financing, insurance, transaction clearance, and contractual risk if U.S. secondary sanctions or financial restrictions bite. Thus, even when India is not the direct target, U.S. legal toolkits can intrude on its strategic autonomy.

Concluding Reflections

In the 21st century, American hegemony is as much about jurisdictional control as it is about military bases or economic scale. The U.S. has built and continues to expand a legal-technical architecture — OFAC, SWIFT influence, Section 301, IEEPA, the Magnitsky Act, visa rules and more — that lets it regulate global trade and finance almost at will.

These tools empower the U.S. to shift between globalist and protectionist postures as circumstances demand, maintaining dominance even when rhetorical commitments to multilateralism fade. They impose significant costs on target states, often with minimal recourse under international law. And they



extend influence over countries that may not be directly targeted but whose strategic projects intersect with the domains of American financial or legal reach.

While critics decry the humanitarian, legal, and sovereignty implications, the practical reality is that many nations and corporations must comply regardless. The ongoing debate — over de-dollarisation, alternative payment systems, digital currencies, regional trade blocs, and visa sovereignty — reflects the struggle to reduce dependence on U.S. legal and financial supremacy. As the global order evolves, resisting or reshaping this dominance may become one of the great strategic challenges of our time.

Amidst the global turmoil and the economic uncertainties, Swadeshi is the only panacea for global peace and prosperity. It is high time that the global community comes together under the leadership of India to collectively create an alternative global system and establish an innovative legal framework whereby to fight against the unilateral coercive legal structure of USA for long term peace and harmony around the World. □□

The Author is National Co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

‘Mohan Bhagwat Ji embodies clear vision, decisive action in abundance’

Today is September 11th. This day evokes two contrasting remembrances. The first dates back to 1893, when Swami Vivekananda delivered his iconic Chicago address. With the few words, “Sisters and Brothers of America,” he won the hearts of thousands present in the hall. He introduced the timeless spiritual heritage of India and the emphasis on universal brotherhood to the world stage. The second is the gruesome 9/11 attacks, when this very principle came under attack thanks to the menace of terrorism and radicalism.

There is something else about this day which is noteworthy. Today is the birthday of a personality who, inspired by the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, has dedicated his entire life to societal transformation and strengthening the spirit of harmony and fraternity. For lakhs of people associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, he is respectfully referred to as Param Pujya Sarsanghachalak. Yes, I am referring to Shri Mohan Bhagwat Ji, whose 75th birthday is, incidentally, falling in the same year when the RSS marks its centenary. I would like to convey my best wishes to him and pray for his long and healthy life.

My association with Mohan Ji’s family has been very deep. I have had the good fortune of working closely with Mohan Ji’s father, the late Madhukarrao Bhagwat Ji. I have written extensively about him in my book, Jyotipunj. Along with his association with the legal world, he devoted himself to nation-building. He played a pivotal role in strengthening the RSS across Gujarat. Such was Madhukarrao Ji’s passion towards nation-building that it groomed his son, Mohanrao, to work towards India’s regeneration. It is as if Parasmani Madhukarrao prepared another Parasmani in Mohanrao.

Mohan Ji became a Pracharak in the mid-1970s. Upon hearing the word ‘Pracharak’, one may mistakenly think it refers to someone who is simply doing Prachar or campaigning, propagating ideas. But, those familiar with the working of the RSS understand that the Pracharak tradition is at the core of the organisation’s work. Over the last hundred years, thousands of young people, inspired by a patriotic zeal, have left their homes and families to dedicate their lives to realising the mission of India First. His early years in the RSS coincided with a very dark period of Indian history. This was the time the draconian Emergency was imposed by the then Congress government. For every person who cherished democratic principles and wanted India to prosper, it was natural to strengthen the anti-Emergency movement. This is exactly what Mohan Ji and countless RSS Swayamsevaks did. He worked extensively in rural and backward areas of Maharashtra, especially Vidarbha. This shaped his understanding of the challenges faced by the poor and downtrodden.

Over the years, Bhagwat Ji held various positions in the RSS. He performed each and every one of those duties with great dexterity. Mohan Ji’s years as the head of the Akhil Bharatiya Sharirik Pramukh during the 1990s are still fondly remembered by many Swayamsevaks. During this period, he spent considerable time work-



Today is the birthday of a personality who, inspired by the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, has dedicated his entire life to societal transformation and strengthening the spirit of harmony and fraternity.
Narendra Modi

ing in the villages of Bihar. These experiences further deepened his connect with grassroots issues. In 2000, he became the Sarkaryawah and here too, he brought his unique way of working, handling the most complex of situations with ease and precision. In 2009, he became the Sarsanghchalak and continues to work with great vibrancy.

Being Sarsanghchalak is more than an organisational responsibility. Extraordinary individuals have defined this role through personal sacrifice, clarity of purpose and unshakable commitment to Maa Bharti. Mohan Ji, in addition to doing full justice to the enormity of the responsibility, has also brought to it his own strength, intellectual depth and empathetic leadership, all of which is inspired by the principle of Nation First.

If I can think of two attributes Mohan Ji has held close to his heart and imbibed in his work style, they are continuity and adaptation. He has always steered the Organisation through very complex currents, never compromising on the core ideology we are all proud of and at the same time addressing the evolving needs of society. He has a natural connect with the youth and thus, has always focussed on integrating more youngsters with the Sangh Parivar. He is often seen engaging in public discourse and interacting with people, which has been very beneficial in today's dynamic and digital world.

Broadly speaking, Bhagwat Ji's tenure will be considered the most transformative period in the 100-year journey of the RSS. From the change in uniform to the modifications in the Shiksha Vargs (training camps), several significant changes occurred under his leadership.

I particularly remember Mo-

han Ji's efforts during the COVID period, when humanity battled a once in a lifetime pandemic. In those times, continuing the traditional RSS activities became challenging. Mohan Ji suggested increased usage of technology. In the context of the global challenges, he remained connected with global perspectives while developing institutional frameworks.

At that time, all Swayamsevak made every possible effort to reach out to those in need, while ensuring the safety of themselves and others. Medical camps were organised in several places. We also lost many of our hardworking Swayamsevak, but such was the inspiration of Mohan Ji that their determination never wavered.

Earlier this year, during the inauguration of the Madhav Netra Chikitsalaya in Nagpur, I had remarked that the RSS is like an Akshayavat, an eternal banyan tree that energises the national culture and collective consciousness of our nation. The roots of this Akshayavat are deep and strong because they are anchored in values. The dedication with which Mohan Bhagwat Ji has committed himself to nurturing and advancing these values is truly inspirational.

Another admirable quality of Mohan Ji's personality is his soft-spoken nature. He is blessed with an exceptional ability to listen. This trait ensures a deeper perspective and also brings a sense of sensitivity and dignity to his persona and leadership.

Here, I also want to write about the keen interest he has always shown towards various mass movements. From Swachh Bharat Mission to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, he always urges the entire RSS family to add vigour through these movements. In order to fur-

ther social well-being, Mohan Ji has given the 'Panch Parivartan', which includes social harmony, family values, environmental awareness, national selfhood and civic duties. These can inspire Indians from all walks of life. Every Swayamsevak dreams of seeing a strong and prosperous nation. To realise this dream, what is required is both clear vision and decisive action. Mohan Ji embodies both these qualities in abundance.

Bhagwat Ji has always been a strong votary of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', a firm believer in India's diversity and the celebration of so many different cultures and traditions that are a part of our land.

Beyond his busy schedule, Mohan Ji has always found time to pursue passions like music and singing. Few people know that he is very versatile in various Indian musical instruments. His passion for reading can be seen in several of his speeches and interactions.

This year, in a few days from now, the RSS turns 100. It is also a pleasant coincidence that this year, Vijaya Dashami, Gandhi Jayanti, Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti and the RSS centenary celebrations are on the same day. It will be a historic milestone for lakhs of people associated with the RSS in India and the world.

And, we have a very wise and hardworking Sarsanghchalak in Mohan Ji, steering the organisation in these times. I will conclude by saying that Mohan Ji is a living example of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, showing that when we rise above boundaries and consider everyone as our own, it strengthens trust, brotherhood and equality in society. I once again wish Mohan Ji a long and healthy life in service of Maa Bharti. □□

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2025/Sep/11/mohan-bhagwat-ji-embodies-clear-vision-decisive-action-in-abundance>

Biofuel - Economic and Environmental Impact

What began under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, as a promising idea lay dormant for years until Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reignited the mission on Biofuels with full force and national purpose. Today, ethanol is not just fuel; it is a symbol of self-reliance, rural empowerment, environmental commitment, and national pride. As the world searches for practical climate solutions, Bharat is offering a blueprint: a model where energy, ecology, and economy move forward together.

A nation that was once heavily dependent on crude oil imports is now emerging as a global torchbearer in the biofuel revolution. Through a series of well-crafted policy reforms, strategic investments, and forward-looking initiatives, Shri Narendra Modi government has not only strengthened Bharat's energy security but has also empowered rural communities, reduced foreign dependence, and elevated the country's position in the global clean energy map.

Bharat is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and the third-largest consumer of primary energy after the United States and China. With its share in global energy consumption expected to double by 2050, the country's rising demand poses significant challenges. Over 87 per cent of Bharat's crude oil needs are imported, exposing the economy to volatile global prices and geopolitical uncertainties. Furthermore, the excessive use of fossil fuels leads to increased carbon emissions and environmental degradation, resulting in rising health concerns.

To secure its energy future, Bharat needed a sustainable, indigenous alternative. Ethanol blending with petrol has emerged as a potent solution. Ethanol, derived primarily from sugarcane and other biomass sources, reduces carbon emissions, saves foreign exchange, and boosts rural income.

The National Biofuel Policy was comprehensively amended in 2018 to include more feedstocks for ethanol production. It advanced the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol from 2030 to 2025 to align with Bharat's vision of energy self-reliance. This amended policy also aimed to promote the production of biofuels under the Make in Bharat programme by including units located in Special Economic Zones and Export Oriented Units. It allowed for the controlled export of biofuels and introduced critical administrative reforms, such as restructuring the National Biofuel Coordination Committee to ensure dynamic implementation.

The results of these initiatives have been outstanding. Ethanol blending increased from 188 crore litres in 2018-19 to more than 700 crore litres in 2023-24. The blending percentage rose from five per cent to approximately 14.6 per cent during the same period. The initial target was not only achieved ahead of schedule but was followed by an ambitious target of 20 per cent blending by 2025. As of January 2025, Bharat has already achieved around 19 per cent blending and is on track to reach 20 per cent blending ahead of the October target date.

The implementation of the E20 programme is expected to save around 4



Biofuel has the potential of transforming the national economy and the lives of the entire population.

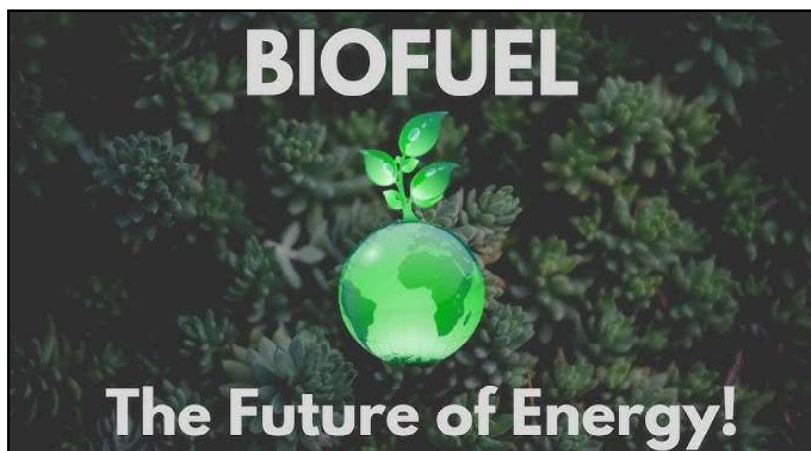
Vinod Johri

billion USD annually in crude oil imports. E20 programme refers to Bharat's initiative to blend 20% ethanol with 80% gasoline in petrol, creating E20 fuel. This biofuel program aims to reduce oil import dependency, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and support farmers by using ethanol derived from renewable sources like sugarcane and maize. More importantly, this success has already led to a crude oil substitution of about 193 lakh metric tonnes and saved foreign exchange worth over Rs1.13 lakh crore in the last decade.

One of the most transformative effects of the ethanol push has been on Grameen Bharat. Farmers are now seeing ethanol production as a new income avenue. Crops such as sugarcane, maize, and agricultural residues are being utilised not just for food but also for fuel. The increased demand has led to massive investments in distilleries and agro-processing units, generating rural employment and reducing migration.

Between 2014 and 2024, Rs 87,558 crore has been disbursed to farmers, while distillers have been paid Rs 1.45 lakh crore. The "Pradhan Mantri - Jaiv Indhan - Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran Yojana", shortly called PM-JI-VAN Yojana, modified in August 2024 and extended till 2029, now includes advanced biofuels made from agricultural waste, forestry residues, Syngas, and algae. This has further strengthened the agro-economy and promoted the idea of a circular economy in rural areas.

Bharat's biofuel success has not gone unnoticed on the global stage. During its G20 presidency, Bharat led the formation of the



Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). The Alliance now includes 28 countries and 12 international organisations. It aims to transform waste into wealth, foster international co-operation, and establish global standards for biofuel development. This is a monumental diplomatic and environmental achievement that underscores Bharat's leadership in clean energy.

Bharat has increased its solar power capacity 32 times, becoming the third-largest solar power producer in the world. The country's clean energy capacity has grown from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 228.28 GW in 2025, making it the fourth-largest in the world. The Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan is now the world's largest solar park with a capacity of 2,245 MW.

Under the UJALA scheme, 36.87 crore LED bulbs have been distributed, resulting in energy savings and a major reduction in CO2 emissions. PM-KUSUM is solarising 49 lakh agricultural pumps, further strengthening Bharat's commitment to clean agriculture.

The GOBARDhan scheme, launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission, is converting cattle dung and agricultural waste into biogas and organic manure. It is empowering gram panchayats and rural

entrepreneurs while supporting environmental sustainability.

Bharat has also made remarkable progress in conservation. The number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 in 2014 to 85 in 2025. Thirteen beaches in Bharat have received the prestigious Blue Flag certification. The village of Palli in Jammu and Kashmir has been declared Bharat's first carbon-neutral panchayat. The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign led to the planting of over 142 crore trees, reflecting the Modi government's commitment to environmental stewardship.¹

The Paris Agreement — a global treaty for limiting global warming — does emphasise transitioning to biofuels, substituting reliance on fossil fuels. Brazil's RenovaBio programme provides for an increase in biofuel production and consumption. Similarly, the UN Renewable Energy Agency encourages international cooperation in promoting biofuel production and trade. Bharat, being a signatory to the Paris Agreement, has been actively following the commitments to address the issue of global warming and defined five goals (Panchamrit) — announced by the Prime Minister at COP 26 in Glasgow. The larger goal is to achieve

net zero emissions by 2070 through identified action points. It is heartening to know that we have already achieved one goal before the scheduled date (50 per cent energy requirement from renewable energy) of 2030.

Recent Government data shows that our energy needs of more than 50 per cent are being met from non-fossil fuel resources. In this, solar-based power generation is emerging as a key player and contributor. Historically, Bharat has long depended on imported crude, with over 85 per cent of its oil coming from abroad. This economic reality ties Bharat's fate to the 'petrodollar' system: global oil transactions conducted in US dollars, a system that not only enriches oil-exporting countries but reinforces US financial hegemony. The consequences — Bharat's economy suffers due to supply disruptions,

OPEC+ cartel manoeuvring, and the price shocks as a result of geopolitical turmoil. The 2022-23 energy crunch triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which sent oil prices and inflation soaring, is only the most recent reminder that dependence on mineral oil can inflict swift and severe pain. The US Government's new move to impose 100 per cent duties on countries that are importing oil from Russia reflects the vulnerability of countries like Bharat who import a substantial quantity from Russia to meet their domestic demands. One has to wait and watch to understand the real implication of such a condition on our economy and geopolitical relationships.

But the true cost of fossil fuels goes far beyond the market price at the pump. Our continued reliance on oil exacts invisible but massive tolls — polluted air, oil spills,

respiratory illnesses, and the staggering reach of climate change. Globally, the International Monetary Fund estimated fossil subsidies (including hidden health and environmental costs) at a staggering \$7 trillion in 2023. Such externalities are never reflected in the price of petrol, but the public pays for them all the same — in hospital wards, in lost crops, in balance-of-payments crises.²

Biofuel has the potential of transforming the national economy and the lives of the entire population. It is existential issue turning into opportunity. There are far more complex issues which need priority handling not only by the Government but by the people who are the primary stakeholders. □□

1. The Pioneer 7 July 2025 - Ethanol and Biofuel Revolution under PM Modi: Bharat's Green Energy Leap by Aseervatham Achary.
2. The Pioneer 19 July 2025 - Biofuel or No Biofuel? Bharat's Hamletian Energy - Dilemma by Suman Bose/Dinesh Tyagi.

Vinod Johri: Former Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi

SWADESHI PATRIKA

Voice of Real Economy

**Dedicated to Swadeshi Movement in all its dimensions;
Battles threats to the economic sovereignty of the nation; and
Gives Voice to all sections of Economy**

SUBSCRIBE AND/OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

FILL THE FORM AND SEND IT TO US : Medium : (Hindi / English)

Name

Address.....

.....Contact No.....

City Pin

YEARLY Rs. 150/-

LIFE Rs. 1500/-

Website: www.swadeshionline.in Email: swadeshipatrika@rediffmail.com

For subscription please send payment by A/c payee Cheque/Demand Draft/Money Order in favour of 'Swadeshi Patrika' at New Delhi, , or Deposit the subscription amount in **Bank of India A/C No. 602510110002740, IFSC: BKID 0006025 (Ramakrishnapuram)**

Why the world still needs a multilateral trade regime

Unilateral actions by the US

A few months into his second term as US President, Donald Trump kicked off his tariff onslaught. The reasoning was that higher US tariffs are needed to counteract foreign trade practices that Washington considers unfair and thus, reduce US trade deficits. While some countries have accepted these higher tariffs, others have rushed to the negotiating table to sign bilateral agreements with the US even as some such as China have imposed counter-reciprocal tariffs on the US. On account of these recent actions, there is a growing perception that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has lost its relevance.

It is true that the rules of the WTO and its institutional mechanisms have failed to rein in Trump's unilateral economic coercive actions such as reciprocal tariffs, despite these breaching multiple commitments of the US at the WTO. Further, with the Doha Round being virtually pushed into cold storage, it cannot be denied that the negotiating function of the WTO is in a limbo.

Other members adhering to the WTO rulebook

While there may be considerable justification in concluding that the WTO has been rendered irrelevant in the current scenario, the reality is more nuanced.

With the exception of the US, the remaining 165 members of the WTO continue to abide by their commitments and adhere to the WTO rulebook.

Further, WTO member nations continue to remain engaged in negotiations in several areas, including fisheries subsidies, dispute settlement as well as WTO reform. The various committees of the multilateral trade organisation continue to meet regularly for overseeing the implementation, administration and operation



The recent surge in unilateral tariffs from the United States has fuelled a debate about the relevance of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Abhijit Das





of the various agreements.

It may, thus, be a bit premature and unwise to consign the WTO as an institution, and its rule-book, to history.

Origins of the current crisis

First, due to effective coalitions of many developing countries, the US and the EU were unable to secure most of their negotiating objectives under the Doha Round in November 2001. To escape taking new commitments, in December 2015, the US foiled attempts of many developing nations to move ahead on the Doha Round. This dealt a severe blow to the negotiating function of the WTO.

In late 2019, the Appellate Body of the WTO, which hears appeals from panel cases on trade disputes, ceased to function as the US refused to allow the process of nomination of new members to replace those retiring to proceed. Absence of rule of law has created space for the US to indulge in power play by resorting to series of illegal actions on the trade front.

Can bilateral deals replace multilateral rules?

Efficient conduct of global trade requires an overarching

India needs to ensure that a potential new trade order meaningfully addresses the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries and does not perpetuate the asymmetries and imbalances inherent in the existing rules at the WTO.

framework of rules applicable to a large number of countries. A web of bilateral trade pacts cannot be an effective substitute for multilateral rules. It is unlikely that the comity of nations can dispense with a common framework of multilateral trade rules to which a large number of countries subscribe. However, the jury is out on whether the WTO will contin-

ue to be the institution to provide the multilateral rules for international trade.

What lies ahead for WTO?

WHILE TRUMP HAS refused to abide by the WTO rule-book, it is likely that the US is using bilateral deals to pursue WTO-related trade objectives. This is evident from the recent trade deal between the US and Indonesia. Indonesia has also agreed to fully implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. These references to the WTO suggest that while the US continues to attach some salience to the WTO, it may simultaneously be laying the foundation of a new global trading order. This could build on most of the existing WTO rules. The emerging regime could also strike new ground on issues such as tariffs and non-discriminatory treatment. The new trading order may be housed in the WTO, or another institution could be created for it.

What India can do

A multilateral trade regime should be the preferred option for India to promote its national interest. Hence, India must continue to engage with other countries at the WTO. In parallel, its efforts must be directed at ensuring that if a new global trading order emerges, it is multilateral in character. India needs to ensure that a potential new trade order meaningfully addresses the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries and does not perpetuate the asymmetries and imbalances inherent in the existing rules at the WTO. □□

The author is an international trade expert. Views expressed are personal.
<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/why-the-world-still-needs-a-multilateral-trade-regime-3944790/>

Money! Money!!

What is that Glory of Money!!!

(The intoxication of money or wealth may lead to emotional poverty rather than true prosperity.)

No doubt money, is the most important item for people to full fill their daily needs and to lead prosperous life. Each one shall have a clear vision about earning Money. Money alone shall not able to determine the good future. People of all kinds, pursuing good, necessarily have much concern for others interests. Money is to be earned with honest, compassion, fairness, respect and with responsibility. The pursuit of wealth must be guided by Chaturvidha Purushartha. The Dharma (righteousness), “Artha” (wealth), Kama (desires), and Moksha (liberation). Artha is to be earned and Kama is to be fulfilled in accordance with Dharma. Money/ Wealth – Artha is a means for a comfortable life, but when the ego of possession (‘mine’) enters, it becomes ‘Anartha’ (disaster).

There is the illusion that “everything can be bought with money.” *Now a days young ones are behind the money without knowing its end use. They compare themselves with the relatives, friends, who lead luxurious life. At the cost of their health, happiness and family happiness they are unknowingly working with tension for 8-12 hours. Most of them either work for their children education in a famous institution, to acquire plot / flat at cities or for their lavish life, to pay hospital bills.* One shall love human beings not objects. Since everyone knows that Money can buy medicine but not health. Money can buy a bed but not sleep. Money can accumulate wealth but not satisfaction. In fact, many times money becomes the very reason for human downfall. For example, alcohol addiction, gambling, chewing gutka, or the obsession to educate children only in English medium school etc. Such habits may ruined the lives. If too much money suddenly falls into someone’s hands, it can destroy them. Wealth gained through lottery,



Money can never replace love, affection, or moral values. After all Money is money. It is to be used judiciously and for the welfare of members of family society and Nation.

**Mahadevayya
Karadalli**



sudden inheritance, or accidental windfalls often becomes a curse rather than a blessing. Studies show that more than half of those who come into sudden large sums of money end up bankrupt within seven years. This shows that prosperity with bad means or without effort is not sustainable.

What comes easy has no value

Whatever is abundant loses its importance. For instance, when food grains were easily available, their value was taken for granted. Just sixty years ago, with a small handful of money, one could return from the shop with a bag full of goods. Today, even after spending a bag full of money, we get only a handful of goods. In earlier times, children rarely saw coins. They enjoyed themselves without money in their pockets. Every shop transaction was accounted for down to the paisa. Today, such accountability is lost. The inflation is mainly due to abundant availability of money and often scarcity of goods. Agricultural land is being diverted for non-agricultural use, causing food production to decline. Once “Lakhpati” was considered as a symbol of richness. Today, even owning hundreds of crores does not equal the wealth status of the earlier lakhpatis.

Hoarded money is for others.

True happiness does not come from wealth alone. Money earned through corruption or greed eventually disappears, like sand washed away by floods. Even excessive wealth can create another kind of poverty. Wealth is dynamic; if it becomes stagnant, it decays. Money shall be always be in circulation through banks, farming, or business to contribute to national development. Hoarded wealth is just like

dog's milk. Black money often ends up in the hands of doctors when health fails, lawyers when disputes arise, or the government when it seizes.

It often reduces attention towards eternal values and cultural practices. True contentment comes with satisfaction and when needs are met moderately, wisely, and timely. Needs postponed may never be fulfilled. The intoxication of money/ wealth can lead to poverty of values.

Not only people receive unexpectedly huge sum but also during retirement, when people receive large sums of money, they often distance themselves from relatives and friends. The desire to safeguard and increase wealth breeds dissatisfaction, greed, and spiritual poverty. Rather than being masters of their wealth, they become slaves to it. They lead the life of emotional, spiritual, social, and moral poverty.

Money is not everything. It may also bring dissatisfaction.

In pursuit of material pleasure, true happiness becomes a mirage. The truly poor are those who are never satisfied and the truly rich are those who can say, “I have enough.” Money should not be chased; instead, it shall follow us through lawful and righteous means. Wealth often breeds consumerism to display wealth, people indulge in unnecessary purchases like luxury appliances, and reckless spending. Borrowing to maintain status has become common. Accumulated wealth encourages overconsumption i.e. buying things not needed becomes habit. Though the wealthy seem comfortable, they live in constant anxiety: fear of financial scams, fear of losing status, fear of failed investments, and dissatisfaction from comparisons with others.

Excessive greed ruins lives. So, Farmers are using chemicals and traders mixing products for profit end up harming themselves and their families. Thus, wealth can trap one in a vicious cycle of fear, greed, and restlessness.

The wealth of a family is to serve the society & Nation, not for destruction.

When money takes precedence over family, relationships weaken, moral values decline, and true joy disappears. Science and technology may provide material wealth, but true prosperity lies in health of body, mind, and spirit. Moral values, cultural traditions, and service to others are priceless wealth. Ancient wisdom advised the wealthy to practice charity and use wealth for the welfare of others. According to Bharatiya tradition, wealth should be earned through education, effort, and righteousness. True prosperity is contentment, self-reliance, and dignity. It is to be used for comprehensive growth of the society and nation.

Eternal Happiness

Money can never replace love, affection, or moral values. After all Money is money. It is to be used judiciously and for the welfare of members of family society and Nation. Moral values must be instilled within families for long-term well-being. Money is only a tool for happiness, not an end in itself. Wealth must be earned through righteous means, guided by eternal values. Profit, peace, and satisfaction must be the true goals. Each and every Bharatiya must strive for Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha to uphold the social, cultural, spiritual, and moral values and to achieve Eternal Happiness. ☐☐

Shielding India's Exports: A 10-Point Plan to Survive the US Tariff Shock

The sudden escalation of US tariffs on Indian goods, from barely 3% a year ago to 50% today, has exposed a critical vulnerability in India's export ecosystem. Unlike Brazil, which responded within weeks with credit support, tax breaks, government procurement, and WTO action, India has yet to announce relief for its exporters. Brazil, which faced the same 50% tariffs from August 1, 2025, responded quickly with a series of strong support actions. On August 12, President Lula launched the "Sovereign Brazil" plan, providing \$5.6 billion in export credit through BNDES, along with tax deferrals and expanded Reintegra credits. By August 14, Brazil's Agriculture Ministry announced government purchases of products such as açai, coconut water, mangoes, and Brazil nuts to protect farmers. On August 27, Brazilian beef exports to Mexico overtook those to the US, showing rapid diversification, and by August 28, Brazil had invoked its Reciprocity Law to consider retaliatory tariffs while also filing a WTO complaint against Washington.

For India, GTRI proposes a 10-point action plan—not only to cushion the tariff shock but to rebuild India's export competitiveness for a protectionist world.

Reinstate the Market Access Initiative

The Market Access Initiative, which helped exporters participate in overseas exhibitions, has not received any funds in 2024-25—the first such lapse in decades. As a result, exporters missed critical opportunities between April and August, and even if funds are released later, prime exhibition spaces booked 1–2 years in advance will no longer be available. With a modest budget of only Rs. 2.50 billion in past years, the scheme was already too small for an over \$440 billion export economy. It must be revived with a scaled-up budget of Rs. 25 billion annually, with funds released at least a year in advance to allow Indian firms to secure high-visibility slots at global fairs.

Revive the Interest Equalisation Scheme

The suspension of the Interest Equalisation Scheme since April 2025 has left MSME exporters struggling with high financing costs compared to the 5–7% lower rates they previously enjoyed under the scheme. This has eroded competitiveness for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, handicrafts, and engineering goods. To restore their cost advantage and ensure predictability, IES must be reinstated to cover all exports and with an expanded annual budget of Rs. 150 billion and a five-year commitment.

Operationalise the Export Promotion Mission

The Export Promotion Mission, announced in Budget 2025–26 with Rs. 22.5 billion, has seen no action on the ground. Designed to expand export credit, promote cross-border factoring, and support MSMEs in overcoming non-tariff barriers, the initiative has so far remained on paper. The mission should be immediately operationalised with a significantly higher allocation of Rs. 100–150 billion to have a meaningful impact.



With US tariffs on Indian goods surging to 50%, a 10-point plan outlines how India can cut costs, revive schemes, and protect exporters while building long-term competitiveness.

Ajay Srivastava

Launch Bharat Trade Net

Despite being announced as a transformative step, Bharat Trade Net—the proposed single digital window for all export documentation—remains stalled. Exporters still deal with 30+ separate documents across customs, DGFT, banks, and testing agencies, causing high transaction costs and delays. If launched as a fully integrated, exporter-centric portal, Bharat Trade Net could cut bureaucratic friction and enable 100,000 new small firms to start exporting each year.

Activate E-commerce Export Hubs

The policy to establish E-commerce Export Hubs, announced in February 2023, has not progressed, with no infrastructure or guidelines in place to allow shipments. Urgently operationalising hubs could unlock \$10–15 billion in additional annual exports in just a few years.

Streamline Customs Functioning at Ports

Exporters continue to face serious inefficiencies at ports. If a consignment comes under the Risk Management System of Customs, process is delayed by seven days even for compliant consignments. Arbitrary inspections at ports without digital records add uncertainty and cost. Also Customs' self-evaluated Time Release Studies cover only one week in January—an unrepresentative period when clearances are artificially sped up. Independent year-round monitoring could reduce logistics costs by 5–7% of export value.

Provide Certainty in RoDTEP Benefits

India's flagship export rebate scheme, RoDTEP, is undermined by its short-term, quarter-to-quarter extensions. Exporters cannot factor these benefits into costing or

contracts, defeating the purpose of neutralising hidden domestic taxes. RoDTEP should be notified for a minimum of five years with adequate budget allocation.

Simplify the Advance Authorisation Scheme

The Advance Authorisation Scheme, which allows duty-free import of inputs for exports, remains complex. A simpler, value-based entitlement system—similar to Bangladesh's model—should be adopted, allowing exporters flexibility as long as value addition requirements are met. This would make fabric sourcing easier for garment exporters and enhance India's apparel competitiveness.

Restructure Trade Missions Abroad

India's overseas trade missions remain underfunded, with an establishment budget of just Rs. 2.50 billion, and are staffed mostly by generalist diplomats with limited trade expertise. In contrast, countries like the US and China deploy large cadres of professional trade officers to aggressively promote their industries abroad. India needs to revamp this system by deploying trade professionals with sectoral knowledge, raising the budget substantially. A stronger and professionalised network can generate buyer linkages, market intelligence, and support exporters in tackling non-tariff barriers.

Expand Export Promotion Funding

Export promotion funding has steadily declined, weakening support for small and mid-sized exporters. The earlier MEIS scheme had a Rs. 450 billion outlay benefiting 40,000 exporters, but it was abolished in 2020 and replaced by RoDTEP and RoSCTL with barely Rs. 200 billion. The bulk of funds were shifted to the PLI scheme,

which has benefitted fewer than 100 firms, with limited disbursements. To restore balance, India must allocate higher amounts annually to broad-based export schemes, ensuring widespread support for MSMEs, while continuing PLI for large-scale sectors.

Diversifying Exports Not Easy

As India's exports to the US fall, finding alternatives will take time. Labour-intensive products like garments, shoes, and bags depend on large global retailers that demand years of proven compliance, quality, and reliability before shifting orders.

Many emerging markets lack the scale or organized retail systems needed to absorb large volumes—Latin America and Africa, with their fragmented small-shop markets, are examples. On top of this, global trade is slowing, the EU's tough environmental laws from January 2026 will raise barriers, and China undercuts competition by offering 30% discounts on many products and long credit periods in many markets. Unlike commodities, these exports rely on trust and relationships, making quick diversification difficult.

Diversifying exports to new markets will not happen overnight—Yet, by cutting costs by 5–10% through revived schemes, streamlined procedures, and expanded funding, India can buy time and space for exporters to gradually expand beyond the US market.

The reforms proposed here are not stopgap fixes but strategic investments in India's export future. If implemented with urgency, they can restore confidence, safeguard jobs, and make Indian products globally competitive, even in the face of mounting tariff wars. □□

https://basipointinsight.com/Story/shielding-india-s-exports-a-10-point-plan-to-survive-the-us-tariff-shock_b56200d70207.html

Why Allowing Data Exclusivity is Against National Interest

Recently while inking free trade agreements (FTAs), with different countries, especially UK and ongoing negotiations for FTA in countries like Switzerland, a demand is emerging from these countries under the influence of their multinational corporations (MNCs), especially in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors, to dilute the Indian patent system, by allowing data exclusivity, which is barred so far, which would create hurdles in rolling out the products, going off patent, in the name of data protection. Indications are there from official circles that government may concede to their demand and allow data exclusivity.

It's notable that India's patent system, even after the 2005 TRIPS-compliant amendments, is not only a balanced patent system, it also protects innovation while safeguarding public health and affordable access. Provisions like data exclusivity, Section 3(d) (which bars "evergreening" of patents) and compulsory licensing (to ensure affordability in cases of national emergency or public interest) have become models for developing countries.

But there has always been a constant demand, especially from multinational pharmaceutical corporations and governments of advanced countries, on India to amend its patent laws and to introduce data exclusivity for clinical trial data submitted to regulators.

What Data Exclusivity Means?

Data exclusivity grants originator companies exclusive rights over clinical trial data submitted for regulatory approval of drugs. If data exclusivity is allowed, then even after the expiry of a patent, generic manufacturers would not be allowed to rely on this data to get marketing approval for a fixed period (often 5–10 years). Therefore, it essentially means that practically, data exclusivity, if allowed, would create a second monopoly beyond patents, delaying entry of generics.

Why This is a Bad Idea?

India is and has been the "pharmacy of the world", supplying low-cost generics to Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the even the developed world. Patent term is already 20 years. Adding data exclusivity effectively extends monopoly pricing for several more years. India is a proud producer of generic medicines, helping the poorest of the poor, making medicines, affordable. Provision of data, exclusivity, will delay generic entry, keeping prices high, and restrict access for millions of patients in India and globally.

It is important to note that not only the domestic production of generic medicines will be delayed, even introduction of bio-similars, which have got huge potential and promise to cure many noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), may also be delayed.

For a country committed to affordable healthcare and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the current patent framework should be protected, not diluted in any circumstances.
Swadeshi Samvad

Against provision of affordable medicines

Though, even those who are pleading for data exclusivity provision, concede that ever-greening is against the spirit of providing affordable products especially pharmaceutical products. Section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act prevents “evergreening” of trivial modifications to old drugs.

We need to understand that data exclusivity is against the spirit of protecting national interest, as it would make it difficult for generic producers to start producing affordable generic medicines and other products. If data exclusivity is introduced, companies can bypass patent scrutiny and still block generics by invoking exclusivity rights on regulatory data. This would nullify India’s hard-won safeguards in its patent law. We need to know that these protections have been included in Indian patent system, after great efforts and meeting of minds of several people, cutting across party lines to safeguard the national interest in general and public health in particular.

Hampers Domestic Industry

India’s generic industry thrives on timely entry after patent expiry. With data exclusivity, small and medium pharma and other firms, especially chemicals, mainly agro chemicals, will face delays and higher costs for getting approvals. This will reduce India’s global competitiveness in generics and weaken one of our strongest export sectors.

Encourages Evergreening by Another Name

While government admits that allowing of evergreening of patents is against public health, but data exclusivity does imply ever green-

ing, though in a limited way. Even if re-patents on a drug are rejected or invalidated, companies can continue to enjoy monopoly pricing via data exclusivity. This undermines the principle that once a patent lapses or is denied, generics should be free to enter the market.

Unnecessary Duplication of Trials – Ethical Concerns

Without access to originator data, generic companies may be forced to repeat clinical trials to prove safety and efficacy. This is not only costly but also unethical, as it subjects human participants to needless risks just to reproduce already established data.

Adverse Impact on Public Finances

India’s public health system and insurance schemes depend heavily on affordable generics. Delaying generics means higher costs for government procurement and health programs (e.g., Jan Aushadhi, Ayushman Bharat). This shifts scarce public funds from broader healthcare access to inflated drug prices.

Strategic Dependence on Multinational Corporations

Data exclusivity strengthens the dominance of foreign MNCs at the expense of domestic players. India risks becoming a net importer of high-cost medicines, undermining the objective of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

We must understand that TRIPS-Plus provisions are being demanded, but in no way India is obliged to accept the same. TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) does not require data exclusivity, only protection against “unfair commercial use” of data. Data exclusivity is a

“TRIPS-plus” measure, pushed through trade negotiations (e.g., FTAs with US/EU). Accepting it is not a legal obligation, rather it would be a policy surrender.

International experience shows that the countries like US and EU grant data exclusivity, have been experiencing high drug prices, and it is not only increasing burden on people, directly or indirectly, but also burdening the public exchequer. Brazil, South Africa, Thailand and many other developing countries have resisted such provisions, recognizing the harm to public health. India’s resistance has been key in maintaining global access to affordable generics, especially for HIV/AIDS, TB, and cancer etc.

Amending the patent system and adding data exclusivity, benefits foreign MNCs, not Indian patients or domestic industry. It puts Public Health at risk as delayed access to affordable medicines would worsen disease burden, particularly among the poor. Accepting TRIPS-plus demands erodes India’s policy autonomy in favor of external pressures.

Therefore, while the government has shown its intent to allow data exclusivity in a recent remark on this issue, this may be harmful for public health, domestic industry and public exchequer. The argument that allowing data exclusivity would ensure significant R & D inflow, doesn’t have any empirical support, in fact the provision of data exclusivity may act against R&D in the country and fast indigenisation of production and would increase dependency on developed world for supply of costly patented products, especially pharmaceutical, endangering public health.

[Continued on page no. 28]

Politics of Provocation



India should learn from some of the Islamic countries in the Gulf, where Islam was born, that are supporting a liberal interpretation of the faith. These nations are pulling their youth away from the terror and cruelty of fundamentalists and inspiring them to become cultured and civilized citizens of their country and the world. What is the reason that India is lagging behind in this era?

Sandhya Jain

The presence of the national emblem on a renovation plaque at Srinagar's famous Hazratbal Dargah inflamed passions among Kashmiri Muslims who visited the mosque on Eid-e-Milad (Prophet's birthday, Sept 5) and the targetted vandalism of the Ashoka Chakra roused sentiments across the nation. The issue involves intra-Islam and inter-Islam sensitivities. As politics has entered the fray, a dispassionate examination of the subject is in order.

The renovation of the Assari Sharief Hazratbal Shrine was undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board. It was inaugurated on September 3, 2025 by Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board. Other members listed on the plaque include Syed Mohammad Hussain, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Haleem, board tehsildar Ishtiyag Mohi-ud-Din and engineer Syed Ghulam E Murtaza.

At the top of the plaque, there is an Urdu text in the centre, a representation of the mosque over a crescent moon on the right, and an Ashok Chakra of the same size was on the left. Neither the plaque or anything represented on it was or is an object of worship.

It is certain that the Ashoka Chakra was noticed on September 3 itself. Yet there was not even a murmur of dissent on September 3 or 4. It was only on September 5 that opposition was expressed in the form of physical erasure of the emblem with a heavy stone, first by a group of men, and then by a group of women. The action appears to be carefully planned.

The defense of the violence by political leaders who could have raised the matter with the Board or the Governor privately, has stirred emotions across the nation. The argument that the lions on the capital are figurative representations incompatible with the shrine's religious ethos rings hollow.

Hazratbal Shrine owes its fame to a sacred relic, a hair from the beard of Prophet Muhammad, called Moi-e- Muqqadas. It is revered as a personal symbol of the Prophet, though it is not formally worshipped with rituals. The question



arises, could not the Ashoka Chakra be respected as a symbol of the Republic, on a plaque which no one was worshipping?

Andrabi condemned the vandalism as a “terrorist attack” and an assault on the Constitution, the dignity of the shrine, and national symbols. She blamed National Conference activists for the mischief, linked it to their frustration over not controlling the Waqf Board.

There may be some merit in this statement. Former Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah had crafted his public persona as the pre-eminent leader of Kashmiri Muslims by controlling the mosques and shrines and binding them together under the Waqf Board. It was the core pillar of his power. The National Conference possibly regrets loss of the Board.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah supported the defacement, questioned placing the Ashoka Emblem at a religious site, and invoking the Public Safety Act (PSA) against those involved in the vandalism. He said Sheikh Abdullah had shaped the current Hazratbal shrine, and there was no stone (plaque) in his name.

Abdullah was supported by the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) leader and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. She said that placing the national emblem at the shrine amounted to blasphemy. She claimed that the protest was “not against the emblem,” but “against idol worship.” The CPI(M) leader and MLA M.Y. Tarigami and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq sided with the agitators.

This again raises the question why no one spoke up on September 3 or 4.

Some Muslims lambasted the

agitators stating that the Ashoka Pillar is a part of India’s cultural heritage, the national symbol, and its presence on a signboard outside a mosque neither disrupts prayers nor harms religion. Interestingly, the Ashoka Chakra is also on Hajj identification cards. And on the Indian passport.

Interestingly, on September 8, a picture of a green and white hoarding at the Hazratbal Dargah surfaced on social media. This hoarding, installed during the PDP-BJP coalition government (2017-2022), has the Ashoka symbol and the message of a Prasad scheme written on it. It was an initiative of the Union Ministry of Tourism (2014–15) for the development of pilgrimage sites of historical importance. The re-

verse image search tool of Google Images did not find any evidence of tampering with the photo.

Critics believe that the opposition to the national emblem by the National Conference and the People’s Democratic Party is purely political.

India should learn from some of the Islamic countries in the Gulf, where Islam was born, that are supporting a liberal interpretation of the faith. These nations are pulling their youth away from the terror and cruelty of fundamentalists and inspiring them to become cultured and civilized citizens of their country and the world. What is the reason that India is lagging behind in this era? □□

<https://www.jagran.com/editorial/apnibaat-hazratbal-shrine-row-controversy-over-ashok-chakra-sparks-outrage-24040345.html>

[Continued from page no. 26...]

Why Allowing Data Exclusivity is Against National Interest

Foreign countries having significant amount of patent rights, have been demanding that data exclusivity be allowed, but our country needs to reject the same, to uphold TRIPS-compliant position—protect against unfair use but no exclusivity. This would strengthen domestic pharma R&D and support Indian companies in innovation while protecting their ability to produce generics. Our nation needs to leverage global alliances and coordinate with other developing countries at WTO and in FTAs to resist TRIPS-plus provisions. Restricting data exclusivity would ensure ‘promote public health first’ principle and ensure that intellectual property policies are aligned with

national health priorities, not external corporate interests.

We shouldn’t forget that India’s patent system is globally recognized as a model that balances innovation with access. Amending it to weaken safeguards or introducing data exclusivity would jeopardize public health, hurt domestic industry, and compromise national sovereignty. Such changes would primarily serve multinational corporations, while undermining India’s role as the “pharmacy of the developing world.” For a country committed to affordable healthcare and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the current patent framework should be protected, not diluted in any circumstances. □□

Tiding over tariff storm

On August 6, President Donald Trump's issued an executive order announcing the imposition of an additional ad valorem duty of 25% on Indian imports starting from August 27 for "directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil". This was in addition to the 25% reciprocal tariff that took effect on August 7. The additional duty levied on India is unfair on at least two counts. First, energy industry consultants asserted that India began purchasing Russian oil in a major way at the behest of the US (bit.ly/3JUqRwU). Following the imposition of Western sanctions on Russia, the Biden administration asked India to buy Russian crude to prevent a major oil price spike that would have, in turn, resulted in high gasoline prices in the US which was already burdened with inflationary pressures.

Secondly, several other countries, including China, Türkiye, Brazil, and in the European Union (EU), have also been buying oil and oil products "directly and indirectly" from the Russian Federation, even after Western sanctions took effect. Since 2022-23, the EU emerged as a major importer of India's petroleum products. While its share in India's total exports before Russia's invasion of Ukraine was 12%, during the previous fiscal its share had almost doubled to 22%. What must be pointed out is that the US has also been buying petroleum products from India, even during the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Its share in India's exports remained almost constant at 7%, going up to 8% in the first half of 2025, the highest since 2022. The question is, how can President Trump and the US administration ignore the fact that China and the EU, among others, have been "directly and indirectly" importing Russian oil? More importantly, do they have the moral high ground to "punish" India for importing Russian oil for the reasons adduced above?



Impact on Indian businesses depends on extent to which govt can assist micro & small enterprises.

Biswajit Dhar



In the ultimate analysis, the impact of Trump tariffs on Indian businesses would depend on the extent to which the government can assist the micro and small enterprises on two fronts. One, it must provide necessary financial support to ride another difficult storm. ...

Export dependence on US raises risks

There is no doubt that the Trump tariffs would adversely impact the Indian economy on several fronts. The most direct one would be on India's exports to its largest trade partner. India's dependence on US markets consistently increased since the world's largest economy became its largest export destination, replacing the UAE in 2012-13. The US share in India's exports, which was then 12%, increased to 23% during the first half of 2025. The Trump tariffs could, therefore, have a major impact on Indian businesses not just because several key industries have large exposures to the US market, but also because the growth of India's exports to the US in the post-pandemic period has been almost four times higher than its overall export growth. For a country whose exports have remained sluggish in the recent past, restrictions on access to its largest market would adversely affect India's trade account and its current account deficit as well.

The 50% tariffs would adversely affect several sectors in which micro and small industries are prominent players. These include gems and jewellery, garments, carpets, leather and footwear, plastic products, furniture, and marine

products. These products accounted for nearly 30% of India's exports in 2024-25. The impact of the Trump tariffs could be quite severe for these labour-intensive sectors, risking livelihoods in India. Restricted market access for marine products would surely hit the coastal states, particularly Kerala, whose exports are hugely dependent on this sector. Among the larger industries, non-electrical machinery such as engines and turbines, automobile parts, and articles of iron and steel would be the most affected.

Sectoral impact varies sharply

The impact of the 50% tariffs on these industries would be quite varied, depending on many factors including the likely impact of higher prices of Indian products on consumer demand in the US and the presence of competitors in other countries. The extent to which the government is able to provide financial and other support, especially to the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector, to cushion the blow of the tariffs would play a vital role as well. Let us understand what this means.

Take for example the gems and jewellery sector, which has been unsettled by the 50% tariffs like most others. There are a couple of silver linings that may ensure that

the sector is less impacted than others. The first is the nature of the products, which are generally price-inelastic. Higher prices of gems and jewellery have hardly deterred the consumers, including the persons of Indian origin in the US. It is also important to note that India's share in the US's jewellery imports has always been high; it was over 37% in the first six months of 2025. No other country has the ability to supply these products as much as India has. Israel has been the second best over the past couple of years with a share between 12% and 13%. India's substantially higher supply capacities could stand it in good stead for keeping its market intact.

India's garments sector could find itself at the other extreme. China dominated the American market in the past with a share exceeding 37% during Trump's first term, though it has now reduced its share to 20%, in an attempt to decouple from the world's largest economy. Vietnam and India have benefitted from China's withdrawal, the latter gaining considerably more. India faces a losing battle to retaining its position as the third largest supplier, as its immediate competitor, Bangladesh, faces reciprocal tariff of 20%.

In the ultimate analysis, the impact of Trump tariffs on Indian businesses would depend on the extent to which the government can assist the micro and small enterprises on two fronts. One, it must provide necessary financial support to ride another difficult storm. And two, it should help Indian businesses to develop strategies for identifying new markets for propelling export growth. □□

The writer is Trade economist and former Professor of Economics, JNU
<https://www.financialscopress.com/opinion/tiding-over-tariff-storm/3959492/>

Next prosperity round demands human capital

India has been experiencing bilateral difficulties with the United States. The economic dimensions of these difficulties are expected to impact India adversely. First, the US is India's biggest export destination, and so tariffs, both economic and geopolitical, will adversely impact India's current account deficit and economic growth. Second, the Trump administration's nativist base wishes to limit foreign access to jobs. They see Indian skilled immigrants as a prime political target. Since the US is the favoured emigration destination for educated and upwardly mobile young Indians, this hurts them, especially at a time when their economic prospects within India are at their bleakest this century.

In my analysis, the macroeconomic impact is manageable. India has enough foreign exchange reserves to comfortably finance a temporary widening of the current account deficit if exports and remittances fall, offering temporary elbow room to diversify. There is also scope to moderate imports, especially of luxury discretionary consumption, which has been spiralling in recent years.

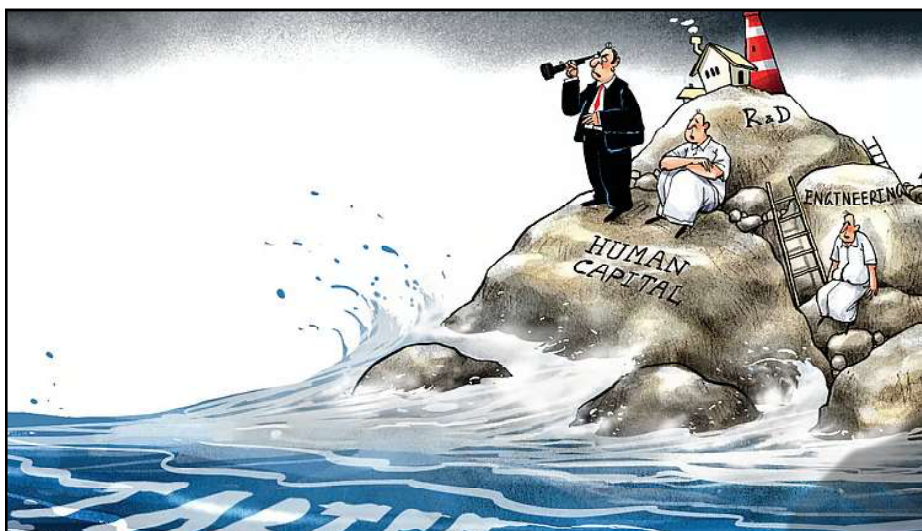
However, the picture is different for the peninsula—the five southern states.

As India's premier manufacturing state, Tamil Nadu will take a hit. Thirty-one percent of the state's exported output goes to the US. Thirty percent of Tiruppur's garment exports go to the US. The Tiruppur exporters association estimates that this will cost the industry ₹ 6,000 crore. Fresh orders have stalled; existing orders are on hold. With average margins of just eight percent, the sector cannot absorb the tariff shock and remain competitive. Tamil Nadu also accounts for 37 percent of India's electronics exports, a large chunk of which goes to the US.

The impact on Karnataka will be more in the services, especially the IT sector, though aerospace components, petrochemicals and hydraulic and electrical



Political and business leaders are confident of overcoming challenges by diversifying further, negotiating with customers on cost-sharing tariffs, and seeking ways to boost productivity rapidly.
Rathin Roy



machinery are also exported to the US. The IT services sector generates many jobs, so cutbacks in this sector will have a derivative recessionary impact on domestic demand as well, especially in the Bengaluru-Mysuru belt, which contributes 60 percent of Karnataka's GSDP.

For now, Telangana will be less affected than Karnataka, as it is more diversified. While IT exports are sizeable, pharmaceuticals, biochemicals, medical, and business process services exports are also important players in Telangana's growth story. These have also generated spillover effects in Andhra Pradesh (particularly Vishakapatnam). However, if tariffs begin to impact the medical and medical services industries, then the hit to prosperity will be sizeable.

Andhra Pradesh is the poorest state in the peninsula and, therefore, less hit by tariffs on goods, as is also the case with the wealthiest state, Kerala. They export spices (Kerala) and seafood (both) to the US. These are employment-intensive activities. However, the impact will be cushioned if suppliers are proactive, as these exports are highly geographically diversified.

Curbs on skilled migration will also impact the southern states. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana are major suppliers of H-1B visa labour to the US. Its consulate in Hyderabad is the largest in South Asia because of the volume of demand for its visa services. Telugu speakers are the largest pool of Indian immigrants in the US. With curbs on further growth, the direct and indirect (through remittances and investments) impact on the prosperity of

these three states could be significant. Kerala and Tamil Nadu will also be impacted, but their emigration flows to the US are smaller and higher-end. High-end emigration faces more relaxed barriers under the new US wage priority system.

There is also a silver lining that leverages the peninsula's high human development and investment in (relatively) attractive metropolitan cities. A consequence of restricting low-paid, insecure H-1B work in the US would be the reduction of huge earnings from investment in patented innovations in IT, fintech, aerospace, medicine, biotech, and business process engineering. These investments have driven the vast increases in wealth in the US in contemporary times. New York, Houston, Chicago and Silicon Valley are not going to give these up to Trump without a fight. Hence, they will try to offshore these activities to less costly locations. They know from the H-1B migration that the supply of cheap, low-end tech labour is abundant in India. Hence, the rapid rise of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in all peninsular cities, especially Hyderabad. This will replace export income with domestic income, which will temper the impact of Trump's policies on the peninsula (but not on India's trade balance).

The disproportionate impact of Trump's protectionist and nationalist policies on the peninsula is a result of its economic and human development success. The peninsula is, and has been, the most modern and forward-looking part of India for at least the past 35 years. Its prosperity is in no small measure linked to its success in main-

taining profitable relationships with overseas trading partners and the export of a skilled workforce, especially to the US. The rest of India is more insular, less skilled and less oriented to profitable overseas relationships and, therefore, will suffer much less from the ravages of Trump and his minions.

The peninsula is resilient to such adversity. I see great confidence among political and business leaders that they will be able to structurally overcome the challenges through increasing the range of diversification, negotiating with existing customers on cost-sharing these tariffs, and seeking ways to increase productivity rapidly. The governments of all the states have also responded with alacrity to the opportunity that GCCs afford.

In fact, Trump may have done the peninsula a favour. I have been arguing that the next round of prosperity will come to the peninsula not through competing on cheap labour but on demonstrating increased productivity and doubling down on investments in human capital, research and development, and process engineering, to produce—for India and the world—products at the higher end of the value chain.

This is not something in which the Indian government is interested, or even competent to address. If they can maintain macroeconomic stability (a big if) in the face of this shock, that is enough, thank you. It is for the business, political, and intellectual leaders of the peninsula to rise to meet this epochal challenge. □□

Rathin Roy / THE PENINSULA / Distinguished professor at Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad; visiting senior fellow, Overseas Development Institute, London
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2025/Aug/17/next-prosperity-round-demands-human-capital>

Is Urea Shortage An Opportunity To Move Towards Microbe-Based Nutrition For Our Farms?

India's current geopolitical and agrarian problems appear to stem from a common issue: an oil shortage. Whether it's US President Donald Trump sanctioning India and raising tariffs due to Russian oil or the scarcity of fossil fuel-based agri-chemicals like urea, India finds itself in a precarious position because of its heavy reliance on a fossil fuel economy.

The American-led Green Revolution further exacerbated this by steering Indian agriculture toward fossil fuel-based inputs. Consequently, India's agriculture is now held hostage by oil prices and global oil supply.

Geopolitical movements such as the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Israel-Iran conflict, or American pressure resulting in India's inconsistent stance on Iranian or Russian oil have led to significant price fluctuations in global fertiliser markets, impacting both the government and farmers. For instance, global urea prices surged from \$400 per tonne in May 2025 to \$530 per tonne within months.

Sanctions, combined with China's restrictions on urea imports, have resulted in India having a very low urea stock this August, reported at 37.19 lakh tonnes – 49.24 lakh tonnes less than the previous year. Consequently, states from Punjab to Karnataka are witnessing panic buying, hoarding, black marketing, and farmer protests demanding urea and other fertilisers.

The shutdown of two urea plants, Nagarjuna's Kakinada plant and Ramagundam's Telangana unit, due to technical faults has severely impacted domestic supply and production. What can be done?

First, it's important to acknowledge the outdated nature of Green Revolution technologies, which involve older-generation agri-chemicals and agricultural paradigms. While these methods increased cereal production, the heavy price paid



India's urea shortage exposes its dependence on oil, urging a shift to microbe-based nutrition and natural farming for sustainable, self-reliant agriculture.

Indra Shekhar Singh



includes major soil fertility losses, devastating water extraction and contamination, desertification, declining farmer incomes, loss of native seed varieties, and the destruction of traditional agricultural knowledge and practices.

On the human and societal side, over 4,00,000 dead farmers, rising farmer suicides, stubble burning, and a surge in food-related diseases such as cancer, diabetes, heart conditions, and neural disorders represent the dark side of Green Revolution-led agri-chemical-based agriculture.

In light of modern challenges like rapidly changing climate, water scarcity, dead soils, and diseased people, we must reorient towards a nature-based approach to farming. However, we cannot abandon the fossil fuel-based agricultural paradigm overnight.

What is needed is a short-term transitional plan and a long-term vision for our agrarian and food system. In the short term, India needs reliable partners to supply the necessary fossil fuels and derived fertilisers in ample quantities at a fixed mean price.

This requires domestic and international policies suited to potential partners in oil-rich Middle Eastern countries. As many of these countries lack fresh food, meat, and other edible foods, a binding 'food for oil and fertilisers' program between governments could be formalised for at least a decade, providing a safety net for regular supplies.

Diplomacy should be used to secure a pipeline from Iran or Russia for a regular supply of oil and natural gas, which will be a significant challenge but essential. Simultaneously, efforts must be made to

The real challenge for India is integrating natural farming with modern technologies. In the West and America, ecological technologies using various life forms and microorganisms are employed to produce nutrients organically in the soil by expediting natural processes.

strengthen domestic capacities and ensure that urea plants and fertiliser plants operate at full capacity.

For the long-term vision, we should focus on natural farming and microorganism-based nutrient research. Natural farming, rooted in local agricultural traditions and indigenous knowledge, is the only sustainable way for our country and communities. Control over seeds and agriculture should be reestablished by incorporating age-old practices.

Many traditional agrarian practices are either lost or dismissed as primitive by agricultural scientists, and there is no research budget within public institutions for archiving or studying native practices. Instead, all research and encouragement are directed towards developing western agricultural methods in India.

Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made a strong statement supporting native seeds, and even Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke in favour of organic farming, saying his own farm grows crops organically. So

why can't other farmers follow suit?

A national programme for natural farming should be initiated to aggressively promote natural farming in India. It is scientifically proven to be the future, and its adoption is crucial for addressing climate change and reducing the financial burden of fertiliser expenses on citizens.

The real challenge for India is integrating natural farming with modern technologies. In the West and America, ecological technologies using various life forms and microorganisms are employed to produce nutrients organically in the soil by expediting natural processes.

These microorganisms provide plants with nitrates and other micro-nutrients required for robust growth. They use no chemical fertilisers and are often very inexpensive to produce.

While American companies profit by patenting these microorganisms, India can deploy them cheaply due to its unique patent laws that prohibit patents on life forms. The public sector lags in research in this emerging field.

Thus, a militant pursuit of microorganism-based nutrition systems for agriculture is necessary, enabling a green leap towards ecological and economic sustainability. As a pilot project, the government could start with horticulture and plantations, where chemical fertilisers might not be required after one season if managed correctly. This approach, leveraging the right microbes to provide urea in the soil, can free India from dependence on oil giants and foreign nations.

The author is an independent agri-policy analyst and former director – Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India. He tweets at @Indrassingh. Views expressed in the above piece are personal and solely those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect News18's views
<https://www.news18.com/opinion/opinion-is-urea-shortage-an-opportunity-to-move-towards-microbe-based-nutrition-for-our-farms-ws-49537292.html>

SJM organises holds talk on US sanctions



The Swadeshi Jagran Manch organised talk on 'USA sanctions on Indian exports and its effect on the Indian economy' in Hanamkonda on 9 September 2025. Delivering his lecture, Ch. V. Sai Prasad, former director of INDT & CEA, emphasised that America is grappling with significant national debt, warning that if this trend continues, the stability of its economy could be jeopardized. He lamented India's current reliance on foreign products, highlighting a worrying trend where the country, despite its vast resources, has not taken the lead in manufacturing its own goods.

Freelance journalist K. Raka Sudhakar Rao asserted that the United States is making calculated efforts to undermine the economies of India, China, and Russia. He expressed optimism, suggesting that the ongoing tariff conflicts would be manageable.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/sjm-organises-holds-talk-on-us-sanctions/article70033633.ee>

BSF, AIIMS Bathinda & SJM join hands for Mega Medical Camp in Hussainiwala

A mega medical camp was organized at village Hazara in the Hussainiwala border region for flood-affected and rural communities under the joint aegis of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, AIIMS Bathinda, and the 155th Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF). More than 500 villagers availed themselves of medical services at the camp.

The camp was formally inaugurated by Commandant S. N. Goswami of BSF's 155th Battalion. The event was attended by BSF officials B. S. Rathore, B. S. Negi, Jaswinder Singh, Principal of Doon Junior School Mrs. Aamna Gupta, Civil Surgeon Dr. Rajwinder Kaur, Swadeshi Jagran Manch's District Patron Dharampal Bansal, State Publicity Head Arun Beri, Department Service Head Naresh, and other dignitaries.

On behalf of the Ferozepur Foundation, Shailen-

dra Shelly and Vivek Malhotra distributed drinking water, sanitary pads, and medical kits among villagers.

Specialist doctors from AIIMS Bathinda and BSF extended their services in ophthalmology, dermatology, orthopedics, gynecology, and other fields. The team included Dr. Sunil Kumar and Dr. Aastha Bedi from BSF, along with Dr. Prakash, Dr. Nikhil, Dr. Gagan-deep, Dr. Riya, four interns, and supporting medical staff from AIIMS Bathinda. Free medicines were also distributed to the patients.

Commandant Goswami emphasized that BSF, besides participating in relief operations, has been playing a crucial role in safeguarding the health of local villagers during this crisis.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch's State Publicity Head, Arun Beri, stated that the Manch prioritizes service while promoting the ideals of self-reliance and continues to carry out relief work. He added that dry rations, medicines, mosquito nets, diapers, sanitary pads, clothes, and other essential items have recently been distributed with support from various organizations.

District full-time worker Dr. Tarun Jain expressed gratitude to all supporting institutions for their active contribution in making the camp a success. The mega medical camp not only provided essential healthcare but also showcased a strong example of coordinated social service efforts by multiple institutions.

<https://www.babushahi.com/view-news.php?id=210508>

Trade associations to promote Indian-made products during festive season, set up separate counter

Several trade associations in Indore have announced plans to set up dedicated counters in their shops exclusively featuring Indian-made products to boost the sales of locally manufactured goods during the festive season.

Earlier, the garment retail stores of Indore announced they would ditch sales of imported garments from Bangladesh and China and deal in locally made garments. This announcement was made during a meeting with representatives of garments, footwear, machine components, furniture, grocery, cosmetics, and sports sectors, among others, with the Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Harish Nagar, secretary of the Association of Furniture Manufacturers and Trades, said, "The festive season marks a peak sales period, and setting

up separate counters will enhance the visibility of locally made furniture. This initiative will not only boost local sales but will also provide visibility to products made by local artisans.”

Traders and trade associations deliberated on various measures to promote local manufacturing and sales of Indian-made products in the markets. The retail garment sector in Indore has placed orders from local manufacturers in cities such as Ludhiana, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Tirupur for the festive clothes.

Akshay Jain, president of the Indore Retail Garments Association, said that their association has ceased dealings with imported garments and returned over Rs 20 crore worth of stock from Chinese and Bangladeshi suppliers in a bid to support Indian producers.

Furthermore, trade bodies expressed concerns over the impact of US tariffs on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Indore, which is home to more than 2,500 industries across various sectors.

Yogesh Mehta, president of the Association of Industries Madhya Pradesh (AIMP), said, “Many trade associations have come together to promote Indian-made products, enhancing their visibility and driving sales during this crucial demand period. It is very important to promote local manufacturers and their products to help them, especially small ones, survive.”

In addition to dedicated counters, the associations plan to display banners showcasing locally made products outside their shops, urging the community to support homegrown industries during the festive season.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/trade-associations-to-promote-indian-made-products-during-festive-season-set-up-separate-counter/articleshow/123771460.cms>

Big push for ‘Make-in-India’ & ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, says SJM



SJM welcomed Centre’s “bold” reforms in GST, calling the “sharp reduction” in rates a “concrete step towards PM Modi’s I-Day call to embrace swadeshi and strengthen the domestic economy”.

“Rationalisation of GST rates was not just a fis-

cal exercise but a reform rooted in self-reliance, with potential to empower MSMEs, traders and artisans, while strengthening the foundation of ‘Make-in-India’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’,” it said.

In a statement, SJM added that lower GST on clean energy equipment, such as solar and wind products, would help replace imports with domestically manufactured goods, boosting the drive for self-reliance and sustainable development.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/big-push-for-make-in-india-atmanirbhar-bharat-says-swadeshi-jagran-manch/articleshow/123728630.cms>

RSS coordination meet discusses centenary year programmes, women’s issues, social campaigns

The RSS has discussed in detail the programmes planned for its centenary year besides reviewing the work of affiliated organisations on women’s issues, agriculture, cooperation, de-addiction and social initiatives at its ongoing all-India coordination meeting here, Sangh officials said on Saturday.

According to the officials, during the first two days of the Akhil Bharatiya Samanvay Baithak, deliberations were held on programmes for the Sangh centenary year to be observed from Vijayadashami 2025 to Vijayadashami 2026.

Various affiliated organisations shared information about their activities and future plans.

RSS Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said the meeting discussed ways to strengthen the spirit of cooperation in society and empower the rural economy through dairy cooperatives.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad shared details of its public awareness campaign against addiction and its harmful effects, while Bharat Vikas Parishad outlined its campaign for an anaemia-free India.

Mahila Samanvay is conducting activities and training programmes to enhance women’s participation in social life, while Bharatiya Kisan Sangh discussed measures to encourage farmers to adopt organic farming. Swadeshi Jagran Manch presented its awareness drive to promote the use of indigenous products and economic self-reliance.

The organisation Saksham (Samadrishti, Kshamata Vikas and Anusandhan Mandal) informed the meeting about the Netra Kumbh organised during the Ramdeora fair from August 1 to September 2, highlighting its work on social harmony.

The three-day meeting (September 5-7) is being attended among others by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale. Around 320 representatives from 32 affiliated organisations are participating in the deliberations, which also cover national unity, security and social perspectives.

<https://www.dailycaller.com/rss-coordination-meet-discusses-centenary-year-programmes-womens-issues-social-campaigns/>

'Bold people friendly' SJM and BMS hail GST reforms



RSS affiliates on 4 September (Thursday) hailed reduction in GST rates as “bold and people-friendly” reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “visionary” leadership, and said it will encourage domestic industries, empower MSMEs and strengthen the foundation for making India self-reliant.

GST rates on common use items ranging from hair oil to corn flakes, TVs, and personal health and life insurance policies were slashed after the GST Council on Wednesday approved a complete overhaul of the tangled Goods and Services Tax regime.

The GST Council approved rate overhaul by limiting slabs to 5 per cent and 18 per cent effective from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

Welcoming the move, Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) national convenor R Sundaram said it is a “bold GST reforms” under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

“Reduction and simplification of the GST rates is not just a fiscal move but a Swadeshi-oriented reform that will encourage domestic industries, empower MSMEs, support traders and artisans and further strengthen the foundation of ‘Make in India’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat,’” he added.

Sundaram said the GST reforms are indications of a “structural change” in India’s development journey.

“Reducing the tax burden on households and MSMEs will increase their purchasing power and consumption demand, which will have a multiplier effect

on (India’s) GDP,” he said.

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) general secretary Ravindra Himte said it’s a “significant step” towards a “people-friendly and common man tax structure”.

Traditionally, the indirect tax regime was “heavily reliant” on taxing day-to-day needs of the citizens, he said. “This trend has now been reversed through the next-gen reforms which introduce a primarily two-rate GST system aimed at reducing the tax burden on people, while imposing higher taxes on luxury goods consumed by the high-income group,” he added.

“We hope that manufacturers, insurance companies and others will promptly pass on the benefits (of GST rate cuts) to the common man by lowering the prices of essential daily-use items,” the BMS general secretary said.

The Laghu Udyog Bharati hailed reduction in GST rates as a “landmark move towards ‘Atmanirbhar’ Bharat’ and said the rationalised rate slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent mark a “transformative shift” in India’s indirect taxation system.

“We commend the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the prudent guidance of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in ushering in this long-awaited reform,” Laghu Udyog Bharati’s president Ghanshyam Ojha and general secretary Om Prakash Gupta said in a joint statement.

The GST 2.0 reforms will not only benefit industries but also ensure that the consumers eventually enjoy the positive impact through lower prices and improved access to goods and services, they added.

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2025/09/04/del112-gst-rss-affiliates.html>

Using ‘Swadeshi’ is True Service of the Nation: CM Dr. Yadav

Chief Minister and Chairman of Jan Abhiyan Parishad, Dr. Mohan Yadav, said that ‘Swadeshi’ products are not merely commodities, but symbols of India’s national identity, heritage, and pride. He added that the ‘Vocal for Local’ campaign launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has carried forward this very spirit of Indian self-reliance. CM Dr. Yadav said that indigenous products are not only stronger, more affordable, and of higher quality than foreign goods, but also provide greater benefits when purchased. He made an earnest appeal to the citizens of Madhya Pradesh to use ‘Swadeshi’ products themselves and inspire others to do the same, as this love for the nation will strengthen the economy. He remarked, “The spirit

of 'Swadeshi' is the true path of national service".

The Chief Minister was addressing a state-level seminar on 'Self-reliance through Swadeshi' at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Center, jointly organised by Jan Abhiyan Parishad and Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

CM Dr. Yadav, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated the one-day seminar by lighting the lamp and offering floral tributes to Bharat Mata. On this occasion, he released posters and a brochure prepared by Jan Abhiyan Parishad for the 'Swadeshi' campaign. The brochure carries a list of indigenous products. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed and exchanged between Jan Abhiyan Parishad and Swadeshi Jagran Manch in the presence of the Chief Minister Dr. Yadav to promote awareness about 'Swadeshi' products. The program began with the singing of 'Vande Mataram'. The Chief Minister was welcomed with a tulsi plant.

CM Dr. Yadav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the Central Government is taking several steps towards building a self-reliant and prosperous India. He stressed that the wider use of indigenous products is both an expression of patriotism and true service to the nation. During the seminar, He administered an oath to all participants to stay committed to the use of 'Swadeshi'.

Extending greetings on 'National Small Industries Day', the Chief Minister said that small industries are the foundation of the economy. He highlighted that Indian products and technology are now in demand globally, boosting national pride. He added that both Jan Abhiyan Parishad and Swadeshi Jagran Manch share the same goal of promoting the spirit of 'Swadeshi'.

CM Dr. Yadav said that the state government has made significant efforts to promote religious, spiritual, and eco-tourism. In 2024, over 7 crore devotees visited Ujjain following the creation of Shri Mahakal Lok. Alongside tourism, the government is also focusing on MSMEs and mining through conclaves across the state. A Regional Tourism Conclave has already been held in Gwalior. He further said that the state is providing industrialists and investors with affordable land, electricity, water, and an incentive of Rs. 5,000 per worker for setting up employment-oriented industries. This will establish new enterprises in Madhya Pradesh, directly benefiting its citizens. At the end of the program, CM Dr. Yadav was presented

with a clay idol of Lord Ganesha as a memento.

MLA from Betul Shri Hemant Khandelwal said that 'Swadeshi' is a vast subject, and the state government is moving ahead with awareness and self-employment initiatives. He emphasised that adopting 'Swadeshi' in thought and conduct is essential for India's progress and prosperity.

Vice Chairman of Jan Abhiyan Parishad, Shri Mohan Nagar, said that this seminar was organized with the support of Swadeshi Jagran Manch. He announced that Jan Abhiyan Parishad will observe 'Swadeshi Awakening Week' from September 25 to October 2, 2025, as a people's movement. He shared that the Parishad has successfully connected millions of citizens with government campaigns—More than 40 lakh people participated in the 'Jal Ganga Samvardhan' Abhiyan (March–June 2025), over 17 lakh saplings were planted under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, and more than 1.5 lakh women were associated with it. For environmental protection, clay Ganesh idols were promoted, with over 10 lakh installed in households during Ganesh Utsav this year.

The program was attended by senior national functionary of Swadeshi Jagran Manch Shri Sudhir Daate, national organiser, Shri Kashmiri Lal, national convener, Shri R. Sundaram, Executive Director of Jan Abhiyan Parishad Dr. Bakul Laad and other dignitaries & stakeholders associated with the 'Swadeshi' campaign.

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

SJM urges Sitharaman to keep GST under 5 pc for plastic waste, beedi industries

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) requested the Centre to keep the GST on plastic waste and beedi production under the 5-per cent slab.

In a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ahead of a meeting of the GST Council, the SJM, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), said reducing the current rate of 18-per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on plastic waste and 28 per cent on beedi production will help protect and promote employment in the two sectors with better welfare of the workers. A reduction in the GST rates in the two sectors will also help achieve the objective of reducing environmental pollution under Swachh Bharat, it added.

□□

<https://www.prinews.com/story/business/sjm-urges-sitharaman-to-keep-gst-under-5-pc-for-plastic-waste-beedi-industries/>
2879388

Swadeshi Activities

Entrepreneurship Promotion Program

Pictorial Glimpses



Swadeshi Activities

Swadeshi Sanklap Yatra

Pictorial Glimpses



Darjeeling, West Bengal



Devghar, Jharkhand



Karim Nagar, Telangana



Medinipur, South Bang



Imphal, Manipur



Shahjahanpur, W.U.P.



Manipur



Ajmer



Tarn Taran, Punjab



Gwalior, MP