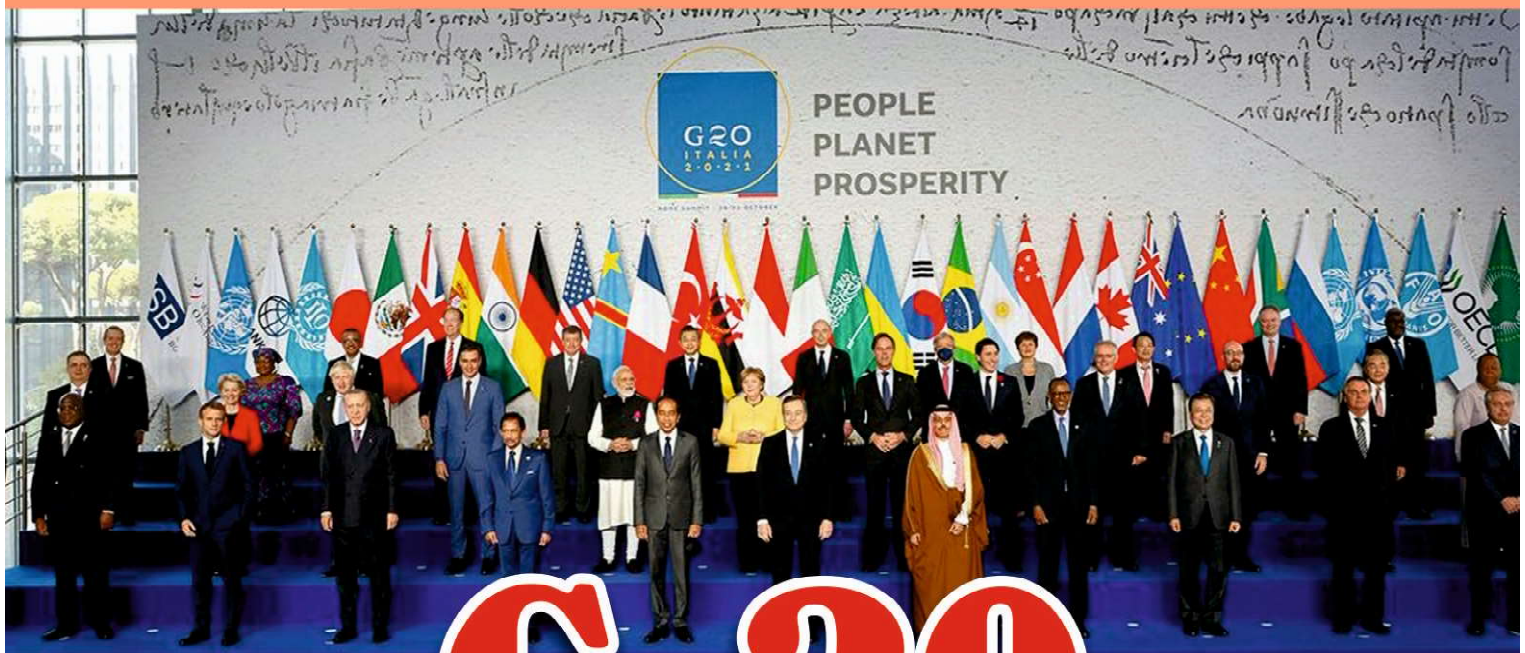


Swadeshi

PATRIKA

OCTOBER 2022



G-20

Opportunity for India



Swadeshi Activities
Swavlambi Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)
Akhil Bharatiya Yojana Baithak

Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi (30 Sept. - 1 October 2022)

Pictorial Glimpses



Central Working Committee Meeting, Delhi

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EDITOR
Ajey Bharti

ASSOCIATE-EDITOR
Dr. Phool Chand

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Sudama Dixit

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

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Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

At the present time, Amazon and Flipkart control around 60% of e-commerce trade that is estimated to reach \$200 billion in India. Similarly, in food delivery e-commerce, Zomato and Swiggy are dominant players. This leads to problems for small businesses and sellers of limited access to the market, preferential treatment of some sellers and a large squeeze on the supplier margins. The Indian Government tries to address these problems with the implementation of ONDC. ONDC stands for Open Network for Digital Commerce. This Government of India initiative aims to promote an open network for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. It is based on open source methodology, using open network protocols independent of any specific platform. It will benefit millions of small retailers (around six crores) for whom e-commerce platforms are still out of reach.

The benefits of ONDC are inclusive typically, interoperability, discoverability, scalability by implementing transparent rules, lightweight investment, lower cost of business acquisition, and lower time-to-market and time-to-scale. It will have a knock-out impact in terms of a massive formalization of the economy over the next few years. It is going to strengthen India's supply chain. Of course, there will be glitches and problems like logistical issues (courier, payment, return policy), legal issues (who will be the regulator?), large number of stakeholders (in UPI there is only three (Customers, NPCI as the regulator and the Banks)); but with the start of the Beta testing phase in Bangalore, these will be identified and resolved in a timely manner.

— Kumar Gaurav, Samastipur, Bihar

EDITORIAL OFFICE

SWADESHI PATRIKA

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

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

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Quote-Unquote



The government has also tried to strengthen the logistics sector with the help of technology. There should be a paperless EXIM trade process through e-accumulation, faceless assessment in Customs, provisions of e-way bills, FASTag.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, Bharat



NEP 2020 envisions skill and education as one. We are coming up with Digital University with multiple entry and exit frameworks along with an academic bank of credit to facilitate our workforce.

Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Education Minister



Ticket size should be regulated. It should not be more than 50 rupees. This is an addiction.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan
National Co-convenor, Swadeshi Jagran Manch

Will the West be able to bow down Putin?

Ever since Ukraine was invaded by Russian President Putin in February 2022, nearly 50 countries, including the US and its allies, have imposed economic sanctions on Russia. These economic restrictions include provisions to restrict economic transactions, including movement of goods and financial transactions. History is witness that except in some cases, these western countries have been working through these sanctions to cow down the rest of the world. Not only this, US and its allies in the West have been dominating the world even with the threat of these sanctions many times. Even before February 2022, many types of sanctions were being imposed on Russia by the US. But after February 2022 more restrictions have been imposed. US, along with its allies such as the European Union, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, etc., have banned the export of war technology to Russia, as well as banned Russian banks. Not only this, lending to government and non-government institutions of Russia have also been banned. The import of oil and gas from Russia has also been banned, and even Russian ships have been banned from entering US ports. Realizing this, President Putin has said in his recent statement that by imposing sanctions on Russia, European countries are not only sacrificing the welfare of their own citizens, but also endangering the food security of the poor countries of the world. The sanctions on Russia are not only affecting the food supply for poor countries that depend on the rest of the world for food, but rising food prices are also food unaffordable for poor countries.

Significantly, due to US and European sanctions, a large number of American and European companies are deserting Russia. However, Russia has closed the Nord Stream gas pipeline to Germany citing technical reasons and due to this European countries are forced to reduce their dependence on Russian gas and oil. But it is also true that due to shortage of oil and essential raw materials, European companies are coming to a standstill and employment in Europe is getting adversely affected. The Ukrainian foreign minister has also said that Russia is ruining the well-being of European households. It is worth noting that global transactions have been done through payment system named 'Swift'. Before the sanctions, payments could not have been imagined without SWIFT. Russia was debarred from this SWIFT system after February 2022. US and its allied nations expected that since Russia would not be able to receive payment for its exports, it would have to bow down to them. But USA and its allies could not succeed in their objective. Instead of decreasing, Russia's exports increased even more. According to the latest information, Russia is going to get 38 percent more receipts this year from oil and gas exports.

It is worth noting that half of Russia's export earnings come from the export of oil and gas. Russia is all set to generate an equivalent of \$332.5 billion this year, from oil and gas exports alone, thanks to increased quantity of exports of gas and oil from Russia, as well as rising global oil prices. It can be said that US and its allies couldn't harm Russia through their sanctions.

While Europe is being badly hit, Russia appears stronger than ever. Today America and European countries are going through the danger of severe recession and inflation, and Russia is being cited as one of the main reasons for this. GDP has been constantly decreasing in the US in the last two quarters and the situation in European countries is no different. But it is being said that due to the energy crisis and slowdown in Europe, the picture of recession is now more apparent. While the situation in the US is not the same as that of Europe, over the past two quarters, due to the contraction of GDP, rising inflation (which stood at 8.3 per cent in August 2022) and rising energy prices, in particular, interest rates have been increased by the Federal Reserve. Due to the policy of raising rates, America may also go into the grip of recession. It has to be understood that Europe depends on Russia for more than 25 percent of its oil needs. Last year, 40 percent of Europe's gas supply came from Russia. Now that oil and gas supplies from Russia are getting disrupted due to tensions between Europe and Russia, Europe is about to go into a serious energy crisis. European countries have decided to restart their coal-fired power plants, but it will not be that easy. In such a situation, concerns are also being expressed that for the first time this winter Europe may have difficulty in heating due to the lack of energy. It has to be understood that however, not only America and the countries of Japan, their other allies are also facing sanctions and other consequences of the war. But in the near future, Europe itself is going to have more impact of this crisis. Currencies of the European countries have devalued hugely, inflation is also increasing there and imbalances in the economies are also increasing. This is the first time that countries of the US block are themselves caught in the web of sanctions.

There is a need to establish peace in the world, but for that 'NATO' cannot be allowed to disturb the peace of other countries. Russia's attack on Ukraine is wrong, but the attempt by 'NATO' countries to enter Ukraine is at its core. If Ukraine and 'NATO' countries give up their dogmas, then peace can easily be established and economic crisis can be avoided.

G20 Presidency: Opportunity for India

On December 1, 2022, India will assume the Presidency of the G-20 countries and it will remain till November 30, 2023. It is noteworthy that G-20 (that is, Group of Twenty) is a group of large developed and developing countries of the world. There are at present 19 countries in G-20, which include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, England and USA. Not only two-third of the world's population lives in these countries, 85 percent of the world's GDP also comes from these countries. These countries account for 75 percent of the international trade. Due to the presidency of the group of such an important group of countries, about 200 small and big meetings are to be organized in India. It is being said that this will boost tourism.

But not only tourism, the Presidency of the G-20 group of countries is an opportunity for India to make efforts to find appropriate solutions of the challenges facing the world. For some time not only India, but the whole world has been going through some economic challenges. Many countries of the world are struggling with the global recession, rising prices and shortage of food items. However, tech firms, social media firms, new technology etc, though are making our lives convenient, many governments around the world are facing several problems due to the same. Internet technologies are facilitating businesses and are reducing the distance between the countries of the world. Old industries are waning and new businesses are taking birth. In the race to get investment, governments of different countries of world are moving towards competitive taxation, impacting the revenue. That is, every country is trying to show that they are facilitating investment by reducing the rate of corporate tax. But at the same time, tax revenue is also decreasing in all these countries, causing hardships to the governments.

Not only tech companies but even other multinational companies are also trying to avoid paying taxes while running their global business. Neither do they want to pay taxes in their country of origin nor in the countries where they are operating their business.



India can use its G-20 Presidency to solve the problem of exchequer of the countries of the world through agenda setting and facilitating deliberations in this regard among the G-20 countries.

Dr. Ashwani Mahajan



Simultaneously, private virtual currencies (Cryptos) have come into play. Cryptos are defying official currencies. Since these currencies are bought and sold through online, there is no barrier to their global movement. Collecting tax on these also remains a challenge. India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has also underlined that regulation of these currencies is not possible without global consensus and cooperation.

What is needed today is a consensus to deal with these problems at the global level and all the countries must work together find solutions to them.

Global Minimum Tax

In a race to attract more investment, most countries are competing to reduce the corporate tax rate. Whereas, today the marginal rate of personal tax in India is 33 per cent and in many cases even higher, the corporate tax rate was reduced to 25 per cent earlier and to only 15 per cent for new businesses. The stated objective was that this would attract new investments.

More or less the same is true of many other countries as well. That is, the competition to reduce tax rates has started in every country. Additionally, many tax havens offer different way of evading taxes. Hot monies and super rich people of different countries are also attracted to countries with lower tax rates. Super rich from many countries including India are moving to other countries of the world. Due to this competitive taxation, though there is hardly any gain in investment, but the revenue of the governments is definitely decreasing. US President Joe Biden says companies operating in more than one country should be man-

dated to be taxed at least at 15 percent. A consensus has also been reached in this regard among 136 countries. If all countries agree on a minimum tax, then it can be beneficial for all countries, which can increase tax revenue. For this work, India can use the opportunity of G-20 Presidency to move towards a global consensus in this regard.

Many virtual currencies are becoming increasingly popular today. There are many cryptocurrencies (that is, virtual currencies) in circulation, including bitcoin and lithium, and their prices have multiplied in last few years. Naturally, due to the huge fluctuations in their price, they are causing great attraction among the people (especially the youth), because the possibilities of speculation are very high. People's hard-earned money is being swallowed by these speculative activities.

The possibilities of regulation of virtual currencies by government of a single country are limited. Many a times criminals, including terrorists, drug dealers etc., are duping the normal banking channels by transacting in these virtual currencies. These virtual currencies are becoming a cause of concern for all governments.

Recently, India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that there is a need for international cooperation for effective regulation of cryptocurrencies. Reserve Bank of India believes that the country's fiscal and monetary stability may be at risk due to cryptocurrencies. While agreeing with this, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed the view that there will be a need to assess their risks, benefits as well as common taxonomy and standards at the international level.

India is more affected from cryptocurrencies as compared to other countries and at the same time India has also taken an initiative by taxing the profits of cryptocurrencies and has also developed understanding on the challenges of cryptocurrencies.

Tax on tech & e-commerce MNCs

Governments have to constantly find new sources of revenues to run their affairs and for the welfare of people. Generally, governments work towards collecting taxes from emerging sectors. But the irony of the present time is that the sectors where development is taking place, companies there, are avoiding taxes under the guise of their international business. Although various MNCs used to do this in the past as well, these tech, e-commerce and social media companies are doing in bigger proportions by avoiding paying taxes through various tactics.

In India, the government has moved towards imposing an equalization levy on their businesses. But the incidence of this tax is very limited. Companies like Google, Facebook are avoiding paying taxes on their advertising income and e-commerce companies are evading tax by showing normal business losses due to their cash-burning strategy to grow their business and increase their capital valuations. These companies need to be taxed differently. The special thing is that these companies are trying to avoid taxes even in their countries of origin.

India can use its G-20 Presidency to solve the problem of exchequer of the countries of the world through agenda setting and facilitating deliberations in this regard among the G-20 countries. □□

Indian Economy: Reality Check

According to latest OECD projections India is likely to grow at 6.9% during the current fiscal. But next year the rate will be 5.7% due to softer external demand. During the calendar year 2023 the world economy may grow at merely 2.2%. Indeed, the global growth is slowing rapidly but inflation is persistently high. During 2022 it is likely to be 8.2% while during 2023 it may go down to 6.6%. These figures too will hold only if covid does not rear its head again, Ukraine war does not escalate further, or energy prices do not soar up even higher. Central banks are hiking their interest rates.

All this has implications for India. There will be pressure on currency, with attendant pressure on financial conditions and other variables. Already during April-June quarter Indian economy grew 13.5%, at a rate lower than what markets and RBI had expected. Over the next few quarters, the growth is expected to slow further. The first contributory factor will be exports which have been major drivers of India's post covid recovery; these will slow down in view of impending global recession. Second, earlier there was a pent-up demand for services (and hence revenge buying and binging); this may begin to fade. Then, the supply chain problems, long term reconfigurations, and geopolitical tensions will continue to keep commodity prices, including those of energy, at elevated levels. Under such conditions broad based reforms are needed. Merely wondering as to why private sector is not investing will mean nothing. It is a little consolation that, as Morgan Stanley has predicted, India is likely to be the fastest growing Asian economy in 2022-23. Hiding behind faceless numbers is an exercise in vain.

India has overtaken UK to become the fifth largest economy in the world. But this is chimera. Let's look at what is available to each citizen, a mere pittance in comparison to on average UK citizen. The macro number does not reveal how the outcomes of economic activity are distributed (indeed how unequally!), nor does it talk about prevalent poverty and unemployment. It is also not a report on the degradation of natural environment. In short, the focus on GDP alone



Amidst the bevy of low performing economies India has outshined the rest. Yet it needs to grow stronger to alleviate such persistent ailments as poverty, unemployment, etc.
KK Srivastava



fails to highlight the true picture of the economic conditions of an average citizen. Nor does it reveal the environmental costs incurred in making material advancements.

In term of per capita incomes, India is ranked 144 out of 194 countries; in Asia itself it is ranked 33rd. The richest country in per capita income has an income 60 times higher than that of India. In terms of economic inequality, the world inequality report reveals that the top 10% of Indians earned 57% of all income and owned 77% of national wealth. The bottom 50% earned only 13% of income, according to a report in the Telegraph. IMF estimates India's per capita income in 2021 of nearly \$2200. But if we take into account the degree of inequality and exclude the incomes of the top 10% than the per capita income may actually be around \$1,000 only. Another estimate suggests that in textile industry (just an illustration) if a minimum wage earner were to wish to earn the salary of the CEO, it would take him nearly 950 years to reach there.

Recent estimates by OXFAM suggest that nearly 60 million Indians, are pushed back into poverty due to lack of access to health facilities alone. Lot of people slipped below poverty line due to pandemic. And, finally, India ranks at the bottom out of 180 countries on environment performance index.

All this is not to belittle what all India has achieved post-Independence. Rather, it is to caution that it is not time to gloat over the increasing economic size of the Indian economy. We need to grow at a minimum of 8% per annum for the next 25 years to make a real dent in our miseries and be count-

ed as a middle-income nation. Until then the fact that in purchasing power parity terms India, with a 7.24% share in world GDP in 2022, ranks 3rd in the world brings little solace. Yet, to be sure, the economy needs to grow at a fast clip. For this both consumption and investment are needed, especially when global demand is not likely to come forth to our rescue.

Exports have already slowed down and likely to remain subdued in near future. Then the government is also committed to meet tight fiscal deficit targets. In the event private capex is needed to help boost the economy. The finance minister was annoyed that despite a lower corporate tax rate and production linked incentives the private sector has failed to commit adequate investment numbers. According to RBI the FY22 private investments remained well below the peak level of FY13 or even FY20. Well, the reasons may be many.

Demand destructions caused by the pandemic and associated restrictions have moderated now; trade and mobility both have picked up. But even before covid, Indian economy in recent times has never touched the sustained high investment levels witnessed in high growth years of 2000s. Unless companies see demand returning to the economy, they will not commit fresh sums. While there is uncertainty about the actual path of domestic demand, the global headwinds in the path of demand, and therefore supply enhancement through fresh investment, are causing additional roadblocks. Already accumulated inventories need to run down first. Many large trading blocks have still not reached the

import figures earlier. Galloping inflation (in India and worldwide), geopolitical tensions, cuts in growth expectations (again, for India and for the world as a whole) and many other factors paint a less than rosy picture. Prices will likely be subdued in face of muted demand; this will mean reduced earnings prospects, which in turn is likely to negatively affect companies' incentives to invest. Add to this the legacy issues and industry specific challenges, and the picture becomes even more gloomy. Fresh capex boom partly depends on emergence of new promoters who should be financed by lending institutions. While PLI scheme is a positive step, private investors are still gauging the ROIs on the first set of such projects. Moreover, earlier capex cycles were driven by giants making big bets during commodity super cycles. But due to commodity collapse since 2011, these giants are now no more interested in greenfield projects; only consolidation and acquisitions are being undertaken. Third, in some sectors (automobile is one example) disruptions have made investment decisions difficult. Finally, foreign capital is now less interested in traditional manufacturing and more in areas like telecom, BFSI, retail, technology etc. We need to invest more in technology and talent, and less on land or machinery to invite capex. Policy environment has to change accordingly. All this and more is needed, but is missing, for an across the board surge that can not only ensure economic growth but also lift the boat for all the fellow travelers. But at present moment lack of confidence is overshadowing pep talk and animal spirits. □□

Legitimizing Ancient Wisdom

These are interesting but contentious times for asserting the ‘scientific’ basis of our ancient traditional knowledge systems. Patanjali Yogapeetha has set up a ‘vedic school board’ that will teach students the ‘original’ Manusmriti, Vedas, and Upanishads to promote ‘core values’. The Manusmriti is an ancient text on human affairs having codified laws; critics say it promoted caste system and inferiority of women in the society. However, the Yogapeeth says that the original text did not have these evils. Indeed these distortions took place around the seventh century. But where is the ‘original’ Manusmriti benefit of such distortions.

Bharatiya Shiksha Board (BSB) and other such boards, which have been recently granted equivalence by the government bringing them at par with other boards including the CBSE, have decided that these will teach modern subjects while integrating concepts from the Indian knowledge systems, say, for example Kautilya’s Arthashastra. Vedas’ concept of gravitational law will be taught alongside Newton’s. Science, geometry, physics, economics and all other subjects will have blended learning, borrowing very liberally from the ancient texts. For example, Geometry has its origin in the Rig Vedas. The aim is to equip students with ancient heritage knowledge & wisdom and thereby make them take pride in India’s cultural journey.

While no sane person will dispute that we have a rich legacy of traditional knowledge in all fields, including polity, economics, mathematics, and even sciences, it is equally true that overtime facts and fables have intertwined. Hundreds of years of foreign domination did lead to side stepping of such ancient wisdom, which eventually got faded and erased from our memory and learning system. Moreover, many distortions crept in overtime. For example, the Brahmanical system actively promoted caste system. What is needed is to weed out these infirmities on one hand and separate facts from fictions on the other. While the first imperative is value based and normative, certainly the criterion of applying scientific validity premise is practicable and must be enforced.

Recently the government has asked Patanjali Ayurveda to refrain from advertising certain products that claim to cure blood pressure, diabetes, high lipid levels, etc.



While Ayurveda has its strengths in prevention and cure of many ailments it must pass the test of scientific validation.

Dr. Jaya Kakkar



Notably, these advertisements were banned, not the products themselves, since the advertisements violate the country's drug laws which prohibit such advertisements promoting remedies for certain categories of health disorders, namely the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954. It is noteworthy that these Acts deal with Allopathy and don't think there is any cure for such ailments, in Allopathy – and in other systems of medicine. More importantly, the company has decided to withdraw the advertisements and not contested the government order. But the company 'claims' that these are evidence based medicines. But it is not clear whether this evidence has been shared with appropriate authorities.

Around the same time All India Institute of Medical Sciences has found that anti-diabetic ayurvedic drug BGR-34 is effective in cutting down obesity, along with improving metabolism mechanisms of the patient afflicted with the chronic disease. This drug, incidentally, has been developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Infact herbal based ayurvedic medicines are gaining increasing acceptance, especially in post covid times, among these who were more keen on taking preventive health measures. The government too supports these time tested products derived from medicinal plants as being immunity boosters. But are these products preventive or curative? Largely, their use is faith based rather than evidence based, since not much research has been undertaken which can pass the rigours of modern day scientific scrutiny.

Another example, in the domain of contentious issues, the NDA government has decided to permit practitioners of alternative medicines to perform surgeries and prescribe allopathic medicines. This has been challenged in the Supreme Court. As per recent amendments to relevant acts, the PG scholars of the shalya and shalakya streams have been authorized to independently perform the surgeries or procedures. The objections emanate from two factors, one legitimate and the other one not entirely justified. The legitimate question is whether the practitioners of alternative medicines are adequately qualified to offer modern medical treatment, including medicines and surgeries, without appropriate qualification or experience. The other dimension of the objection, however, is that many acts were passed recognizing only Allopathy system of treatment and not accepting the wisdom inherent in traditional systems of AYUSH. Moreover, it is a question of fighting the turf war by the practitioners of allopathy. An answer can be found only when the traditional systems pass the test of legitimacy of practice. No doubt these systems are dotted with outdated theories, implausible conjectures, and unestablished beliefs. The ancient texts must be sieved through dispassionately to distil only the knowledge which is scientifically established.

While the National Medical Commission has proposed that modern medicine be integrated with the traditional medicines to provide a more holistic and effective treatment, we must not forget that ultimately it is the welfare of the users that is the key issue; at no

cost it can be compromised. No doubt ayurveda has been in existence since several millennia and serves millions, its widespread adoption merely on the basis of faith is fraught with danger. Many scientific facts for example do not reconcile with ancient 'received wisdom', which was often based on speculation. For example, in ancient texts kidney played no role in filtration of waste toxins from the body. Where traditional medicines have failed is the non adoption of important findings from modern research. These practitioners more or less solely rely on ancient theories, some part of which may not even hold true, while remaining resistant to later day scientific developments. These tests have infact become dogmatic scriptures since they admit of no possibilities of scientific revisions; no reforms, even though long overdue, are tenable since the texts have 'timeless relevance'!

This in face of the fact that enlightened ayurvedic practitioners have themselves admitted that the anatomy and physiology contained in these classics may not pass the test of scientific scrutiny. The 'modern' preachers and practitioners, and that includes the ayurvedic educational institutions are trying to, at times, provide validity to ancient concepts by super imposing current scientific findings upon them. This is not merely travesty of facts; more ominously this is dangerous since it leads to wrong diagnosis and treatment. Let's admit the traditional wisdom, valuable for its observations but not for speculation, needs a thorough scrutiny before being integrated into the mainstream of scientific knowledge. □□

Environment, Climate Change and Road to COP 27



A few illustrations of the adverse impact of GHG are Land Degradation, Lower Soil Productivity, Forced Migration, Poverty, Drought, Disruption of Water Cycle, Poor Water Retention, Retention lack of Food Security. Some of the major concerns are Loss of bio-diversity such as, Loss of species, Loss of genetic resources, Agricultural vulnerability, Habitat destruction, Loss of ecosystems.

Dr. Dhanpat Ram Agarwal

The 27th Annual Conference on Environment and Climate Change, popularly known as COP-27 is going to be held at Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt on November 6-18 to take the stock of the development and the future commitments for meeting the target of maintaining the Earth temperature at 1.5 degree Celsius as per the decisions taken at the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and as agreed by the countries in 2015 as per the Paris Agreement signed in 2015. The last COP-26 was held in November last year at Glasgow, UK.

The major agenda for the conference is classified in four categories namely, Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Collaboration. Mitigation aims at the long term solution to maintain the earth temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius and to take the stock of National Determined Commitments for each member countries. There is no mandatory provision in the Paris Agreement, which was signed in 2015 at the COP-21 but each member country is supposed to follow a pattern of CO2 emissions whereby they can achieve the goal of Net-Zero by 2050. India has committed to achieve Net-zero by 2070. Our prime Minister made a declaration in COP-26 that We will generate our electricity to the extent of 50 per cent by 2050 through renewal energy or by non-fossil fuel.

The second agenda is for adaptation which means to create infrastructure which is required to adapt to the situation which will be arising or has arose due to the impact of the climate changes. We know that the global surface temperature is rising and the glaciers are melting resulting in rise in sea level and causing dangers for uncertainties in the weather conditions and the threats for droughts, floods and Climate Change due to hole in the ozone layer. According to the IPCC Report, this is largely due to the human induced irrational behaviour for undue exploitation of the natural resources including deforestation. However there is difference of opinion on this issue from some Geologists who believes that there is a law of nature known as thermodynamics which has the cyclical impact on glaciation and deglaciation or the disappearance of ice from the previously glaciated region especially in the polar region.

The third agenda is on finance which is a commitment made by the developed countries for annual contribution of US\$ 100 Billion to developing countries for adaptation for relief and rehabilitation work particularly to small island nations and to those who have been affected by the climate change. This commitment was made at a U N Climate summit in Copenhagen in 2009 at COP 15 but very little is being done till date on this account and it is a broken promise.

The McKinsey Report envisages the net-zero transition cost for capital spending on physical assets for energy and land use systems between 2021 to 2050 to the tune of US\$275 trillion or about US\$ 9.2 trillion per year on average. The decarbonisation process has already started with the renewable energy resources making a headway including green hydrogen, bio-gas, ethanol, solar energy, wind energy. The process of replacing the combustion engine with e-vehicle and sever-

al other measures have been undertaken at global level as well as in India. International Solar Alliance is an India initiative. The corporates are required to make additional disclosure about environment and social governance (ESG) in their financial statements.

Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published its 6th Assessment Report (AR-6) which says that the problem of global warming and GHG emissions have become more visible since the industrial revolution in the 19th century and a noticeable change has been found in the temperature from the pre-industrial level of 1850-1900 and thereafter more particularly 2006-2015 during which global average temperature rose by 0.91 degree Celsius. UN Secretary General Antonio Gutierrez has referred to it as Code Red for humanity. GHG gas mainly comprise of CO₂, (74.4%) Methane, (17.3%) Nitrous Oxide N₂O (6.2%) and Fluorinated gases namely HFCs, CFCs SF₆ (2.1%). The atmosphere has the CO₂ emission of about 40 Giga Tonnes (Gt CO₂). The residual global carbon budget is 400 Billion Tonnes from the start of 2020 till 2030 in order to remain within 1.5 degree Celsius.

The global community is very serious about these changes which are largely due to higher level of CO₂ emission which is referred to as Green House Gases (GHG) and several summits and meetings have been organised since 1972 first earth Summit in Stockholm leading to Rio-Declaration, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement has agreed for a legal framework in the Conference of Parties, COP21 in 2015 for a



maximum increase of 1.5 degree Celsius from the pre-industrial level by 2050 and has worked out a plan for sustainable development which includes Convention for Bio-Diversity and Poverty Reduction and several other steps to stop use of fossil fuels.

A few illustrations of the adverse impact of GHG are Land Degradation, Lower Soil Productivity, Forced Migration, Poverty, Drought, Disruption of Water Cycle, Poor Water Retention, Retention lack of Food Security. Some of the major concerns are Loss of bio-diversity such as, Loss of species, Loss of genetic resources, Agricultural vulnerability, Habitat destruction, Loss of ecosystems. Air Pollution is resulting into several infectious diseases, respiratory illness and several other problems. The increase in sea-levels has impacts on coastal areas such as erosion of beaches, inundation of coastal lands.

The biggest contributors to CO₂ emission is China 11.68 Gt. followed by USA 4.36 Gt. and India 2.41 Gt. However in terms of percentage, China emits 32%, USA 12.6% and India 6.5 per cent and when we consider the per capita emission, USA emits 13.68, China 8.2 and India only 1.74 tonne of CO₂. However India is very much concerned about the ill effects of

climate change and is well aware of the depleting water tables and its negative impact on crop yield.

To conclude some points need special consideration while negotiating at COP 27 and one of the important point is that we are still in the development stage and there has to be a trade-off between climate

change perspective as per the Paris Agreement and the ground realities where the actual implementation will take place at State level and City level and also at rural places where the awareness in this field is very low. Secondly the technology transfer for implementation of the commitment is very important along with indigenisation of the technology according to our own needs and the prevailing conditions. Energy security should be given the top priority and therefore lots of research activities have to be undertaken for renewable energy. Forestation and water management is very essential as trees need Carbon and provide oxygen in return. Prevention of single use plastic through legislation has been a bold step but many more legal compliances and policy implementation is the key to success for meeting the challenges of pollution and GHG gas emission. We should also emphasise on the life style issue at the COP 27 as disproportionate consumption and wastage of food and other consumables is a great challenge in the western countries. We should ask Government of India to make 28th August as the national Environment day to commemorate the sacrifices of Amrita Devi to save trees in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan on 28th August 1730. □□

(The author is a National Co-Convenor, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch & Director, Swadeshi Research Institute, Kolkata)

Will electric vehicles drive India's Economy environment friendly in the Future?

The international climate deals with public goods and necessitates the deployment of strategic resources involving the provision of public goods and strategic resources must be made available. Affecting both domestic and global politics and the economy. Responding to climate change means guiding the world civilization towards a low-carbon, environmentally friendly future. As a consequence, achieving long-term well-being will be beneficial to everyone. At COP21, the UNFCCC's member countries adopted the Paris Agreement, which demonstrated their willingness to cooperate and clearly signalled the need for global action to reduce carbon emissions and their greenhouse consequences. As one of the most significant outcomes of international multilateral progress, the Paris Agreement demonstrated member countries' willingness to collaborate and clearly signalled that global cooperation in the fight against climate change has entered a new phase.

One of the major air pollutants is toxic emissions from internal combustion engines. Pollutants and greenhouse gases of various sorts are generated as emissions from automobiles and are the causes of smog and air pollution. Particulate Matter (PM_x), carbon mono-oxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), NO_x, the volatile organic compound (VOC), SO_x, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants and greenhouse gases are examples of pollutants and greenhouse gases (Africa, 2009). Particulate matter refers to particles that are released during the combustion cycle. These particles are so tiny (in the micrometer range) that they penetrate the bloodstream and harm the heart, lungs, and brain. These particulate materials are carcinogenic in nature and are one of the leading causes of cancer caused by air pollution, with diesel engines emitting more PM_x than gasoline engines. CO, CO₂, CH₄, and other greenhouse gases are examples.

If the source of energy used for powering the vehicles is renewable energy and not fossil fuels like coal and the technological developmental needs be fulfilled for recycling of the batteries, then EVs can be seen as the future of India and helpful in the achievement of the goal of net zero emission.

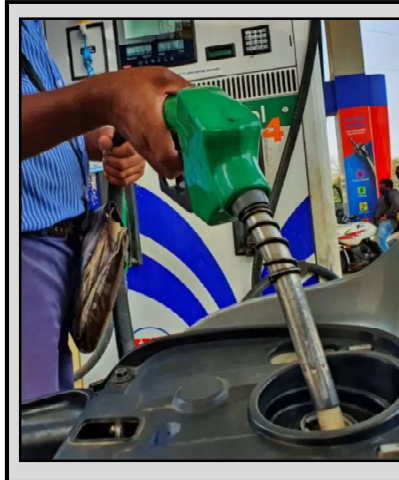
**Dr. S. Lingamurthy
&
Shivanjali Shukla**



Infrared radiations are trapped in the atmosphere as a result of the existence of these gases, causing global warming and climate change. These gases are mostly emitted by IC engine automobiles. NOx gases, volatile organic compounds, and total hydrocarbons are responsible for the formation of the ground-level ozone layer, which is very dangerous for humans because it can form linings in the lungs and cause major respiratory illnesses such as asthma and lung inflammation. NOx gases can be filtered using catalytic filters. However, catalytic converters are highly expensive.

In this particular juncture, electric vehicles (EVs) appear to be the favored solution for addressing environmental issues and mitigating the effects of fossil fuel emissions and are seen as a clean technology option due to benefits such as decreased air pollution in the short to medium term, lower CO2 emissions, high efficiency, and so on. Electric motors move electric vehicles, and a rechargeable battery or other portable energy storage device is utilized to maintain the power supply. There are three types of electric cars: hybrid electric vehicles (HEV), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), and battery electric vehicles (BEV). HEVs are powered by fuel & electricity and have an engine and an electric motor, PHEVs have a tiny engine and bigger batteries, while BEVs have no engine and utilize an electric motor for propulsion with batteries as the energy storage technology.

EVs are important facilitators of cleaner energy, Government of India has begun to accelerate the adoption of hybrid and electric cars under the Paris Agreement's



The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2019 reveals that India's oil consumption in total primary energy is growing.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The seeds of EV adoption were sowed in 2010, when the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy extended a portion of its subsidy to EVs, followed by the National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMMP2020) in 2013 with 200 billion investments to deploy 6.7 million EVs in India. To accelerate the targets of NEMMP 2020, the government announced the FAME-I program in 2015, with 8,950 million anticipated outlays mostly through subsidies, followed by FAME-II, with 100 billion investments expected over 2020-22. The Indian government has declared that all automobiles must be electrified by 2030. The Society of India Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM, 2017) followed up with a white paper claiming that EVs will account for 40% of new car sales by 2030 and 100% by 2047. This historic occasion coincides with the country's 100th anniversary of independence.

For the years 2014-15, India's reliance on oil imports has grown significantly, from 78.3% in FY15 to 80.6 percent in FY16 to 81.7 percent in FY 17 to 82.9 percent in FY18 to 83.8 percent in FY19,

according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MPNG). The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2019 reveals that India's oil consumption in total primary energy is growing. Additionally, this means that India's oil consumption may rise at a pace that is more than twice as fast as China's during the next five years, increasing the country's current account deficit.

Bharat is looking forward to Electric vehicles as a clean alternative over the ICEVs due to the reason that 14 out of 20 most polluted world cities are in India, 36% of NOx emissions are due to vehicles, 20% of PM 2.5 emissions in Delhi were due to the vehicles and petrol and diesel vehicle is the main source of this kind of air pollution. The other thing is what petrol and diesel vehicle do, it requires petrol and diesel, for that we as a country are dependent on import, which continues to push up our purchases and therefore a foreign exchange outgo, and this has become one of the prime reasons for Bharat's rupee to be weak in comparison to other developed countries. EVs are four times as energy efficient as Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles (ICEVs)

Discussion

and also have 50% fewer moving parts. So, we want to and are moving towards higher efficiency.

EV adoption has started, but people are still relying on fossil-fuel-powered vehicles. However, EVs have challenges in the areas of life cycle assessment (LCA), charging, and driving range as compared to conventional, fossil-fuelled vehicles. Electric car production produces 59% more CO₂ than an ICEV. The ICEV emits 120 g/km of CO₂ from the tank to the wheel, however it increases to 170-180 g/km from the position of LCA. There are no CO₂ emissions from tank to wheel with electric cars, yet we estimate that a vehicle's life cycle CO₂ is measured rather than its total CO₂ emissions. Accordingly, on the kind of power source utilized and where the automobile is manufactured and driven, the total CO₂ emissions from a

car might vary substantially.

Coal is a solid fossil fuel that is used to heat dwellings and produce power. Because coal is solid, it cannot be recovered like crude oil or natural gas; it must be dug out from the ground. Bituminous coal, sub-bituminous coal, or lignite are consumed in coal-fired power plants. The heat created by coal combustion is exploited to transform water into high-pressure steam, which spins a turbine and creates electricity. By 2020, two-thirds of coal burned will be utilized to create electricity. In 2020, coal accounted for 34 percent of total energy production. China was responsible for more than half of coal generation in 2020. Coal contributes to nearly 60 percent of electricity produced in China, India, and Indonesia.

The batteries used in the Battery electric vehicle are lithium-ion

batteries which have a life cycle of 10-12 years and will face the problem of dumping, they could be recycled to some extent but a lot of technological development is required to do that. The lithium used in the batteries if they come in direct contact with humans can cause many health issues and is dangerous for the human species. The life of solar panels and their dumping is also a big concern in the process of acceleration of electric vehicles in India.

If the source of energy used for powering the vehicles is renewable energy and not fossil fuels like coal and the technological developmental needs be fulfilled for recycling of the batteries, then EVs can be seen as the future of India and helpful in the achievement of the goal of net zero emission. □□

Dr. S. Lingamurthy, Assistant Professor of Economics, Central University of Karnataka.

Ms. Shivanjali Shukla, Doctoral Research Scholar in Economics, Central University of Karnataka.

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Let the rupee fall, Less \$ Parity, Faster Growth Likely

The surging dollar and falling rupee are the most difficult aspects. It should be considered an opportunity than a crisis. India has to think and act differently. Rupee hitting 81 to a dollar has made many have sleepless nights as stocks plunge 1021 points and RBI opens its purses to stabilize rupee and still it slipped to 80.99 after a brief rise to 80.87.

Let India not subscribe to the theory that rupee-dollar parity decides our economy. The Indian economy has strengths beyond the obvious in its still partially surviving mixed economy. Finance Minister repeatedly harping on the resilience of Indian economy but the ministry and RBI apparently remain panicky at rupee fall. Let the oddity be considered a favorable syndrome. The fall can be more profitable.

Thursday, September 23, RBI operations made it clear that interventions add to forex kitty losses and gains are restricted to one paise literally. The government cannot apportion the blame. It is beyond it. Is not there a way out? The government must realise it is not at all at fault, it cannot reverse the dollar trend even if the economy sprints to make a new record. In the present global scenario dollar would appreciate and India has to create the strength out of the falling rupee. It must get rid of the fad that rupee has to maintain a high level of parity.

Rather lower the rupee better it is for Indian economy. Trying to stabilize means as it is being said by Reuters, RBI preparing to lose \$100 billion and achieving little. It must not do that. Allow rupee to sink. Indian economy knows how to swim and do better. The domestic economy can thrive with the dollars saved. It could be used instead to bolster the economy than reinforcing the US economy. Every fall of a currency helps it. Since last January the US has gained by its maneuverings to snatch the best of the world economy for itself. India itself has deployed \$ 82.8 billion from its reserves. In September alone, it sold \$10 billion with the RBI inter-



In the present global scenario dollar would appreciate and India has to create the strength out of the falling rupee. It must get rid of the fad that rupee has to maintain a high level of parity.

Shivaji Sarkar



vention. The forex reserves have come down to \$550.8 billion compared with an all time high of \$642.4 billion last year.

The intervention is not helping India as dollar rates are decided by international factors and US manipulations. In reality, each dollar intervention subsidises the US economy and not the domestic. In other words the US gains at India's cost. Let the rupee fall and create new avenues.

When fall of rupee is orderly normally RBI allows the rupee to find its value. But when fall it is due to speculative activity RBI intervenes. RBI also acts when rupee crosses its comfort level which for many months had been 80. After the US Fed meeting raising rates by 75 basis point the fall in value of rupee is unprecedented. The recent RBI intervention could not control the abnormal fall.

The US was among the first ones to advocate movement away from gold standard in 1971, when President Richard Nixon closed the gold window in 1971 in order to address the country's inflation problem and to discourage foreign governments from redeeming more and more dollars for gold.

They built military might and hegemony across the world. Plus they controlled the oil trade hedging it to dollars. Further the consumer economy it created forced the most of the world to look at it and exporting to US. Most of the world also resorted to dollar denominated trading as they were all receiving dollars for goods exported to the USA. This accorded dollar a reserve status. And almost all Central banks would park their surplus money with US treasury. So

The kitty not lost on stabilisation exercises could be used to help incentivise and indigenise domestic products.

even though today US has a very high debt compared to its GDP, the dollars flowing in strengthen it.

China had been trying to challenge this status. It kept its currency artificially low. Russia and China are also trying to break the dollar stranglehold on oil trade post Ukraine war. Japanese currency is also undervalued but its economy thrives.

In case the rupee continues to fall with many global currencies, including Euro and pound sterling the advantages would be for the products like metal, pharmaceuticals, IT, host of cosmetics and products that are not import dependent. The products for the domestic market could even in the course of time get insulated from dollar-linked inflation. More so as crude prices have come down to around \$ 80 a barrel. If the taxes on petrol and gas are cut the advantages would be more than gains in GST collections.

A depreciating rupee would make the Indian exports more competitive though imports of essentials may be expensive. An exporter is to earn more in rupee terms. The advantage could be that larger forex would be earned and the outgo would be less. The kitty not lost on stabilisation exercises could be used to help incen-

tivise and indigenise domestic products.

There is a myth that foreign investors withdraw as the rupee falls. This is partially true of short-term foreign portfolio stock exchange investors who come for quick profits. But it makes little difference to long-term investors. They come with a different mindset and had been investing in many industries even before 1991.

It could also be great booster for checking uncertain technology and EV imports that is bound to raise India's dependence on import of lithium-ion battery technology and coal, causing enormous environmental hazard. Yes, India can put off the emission norms to make its industry more competitive and remove checks on cheaper diesel use.

Imports might cost a bit more. But if the trend in crude prices continues major outgo would be checked. Industries that import components for their products could see a surge in cost. But chemicals and automobile prices may have discomfort with some rise in their costs. So higher export volumes spur economic activity and pricey imports lead consumers to opt for local alternatives. The EU has raised duty on Indian textile imports. The rupee depreciation may partially set off the adverse impact on Indian exports.

The RBI is bound to increase interest rates to keep investment flow on with checking the rising inflation and boost the growth path. Overall a falling rupee is not a liability for India as managed properly it would maintain domestic growth and has not much to lose externally. □□

Yet, Another Surgical Strike - A Strike to root out Terrorism !

For the past few months, for all wrong deeds and unwanted reasons i.e. From Hijab Row to '2047 Plan, PFI Hogged Headlines. But Thursday it was the first instance PFI was caught for right reasons on news. We may recollect our memory of First ever surgical Strike. Yes! It is on September 29, 2016. India conducted Surgical strike against militant launch pads Yet another surgical strike! was conducted by Union Government on Thursday 22nd Sep 2022 midnight. "Largest Surgical raid ever conducted in NIA history with around 500 PFI raids at one time. This Surgical Strike was almost similar to the Surgical Strike conducted on Pakistan. We may call this surgical raid also part one of a major milestone of Swatch Bharat.

NIA officers were already aware that PFI and terrorist activities flourished in India especially in Kerala and that is why 200 NIA officers were sent with emphasis on Kerala. Once permission is received from there about 200 highly skilled officers of NIA, ED and other secret agencies arrive in many parts of Kerala and even the top police officers of Kerala do not know this. Within 4 hours of the Raid, PFI leaders were arrested and taken to custody from various areas and were brought to Delhi in a ready-made flight. By dawn the PFI leaders were in Delhi before the state governments knew what was happening. NIA has taken these terrorist leaders to Delhi with very strong evidence.

Ajit Doval's trade mark was also present in this operation. The Surgical Strike that took place in the state specially in Kerala to uproot the PFI was like the Surgical Strike that went to Pakistan and performed duwas!!!

WHAT IS PFI?

Three Muslim organisations — the National Democratic Front in Kerala, the Karnataka Forum for Dignity, and the Manitha Neethi Pasarai in Tamil Nadu

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Doval plan of "Operation Midnight Plan" was executed. Before of banning PFI, first destroy it. And make Biggest raid of Indian history by Arresting all PFI key decision makers at same time. Part of Strategy first cutting roots of PFI started well in advance.
Mahadevayya Karadalli



— came together to form the **Popular Front of India** in 2006. The decision was formally announced at a rally in Bengaluru during the “**Empower India Conference**” on February 16, 2007. PFI has clear evidences of terrorist activities in the past, acts of treason, money laundering, help from foreign countries to engage in terrorist activities, links between PFI leaders and their links with lashkar taiba and ISIS terrorist groups and from Azad maidan to Shaheen baag, from Kerala murders to Rajasthan n UP riots, one name that constantly coming in news was PFI. In spite of all these evidences no government has dared to raid PFI. So they are at leisure. But this time NIA has taken strong steps and taken the leaders to Delhi. NIA has raised the alarm that the arrested leaders could not come out so soon.

PFI crackdown is not a stand alone event. SIMI was Muslim extremists organization, active in late 90s and early 20s was responsible for lot of terror incidents. In 2001 it was banned by Vajpayee government and by Supreme court in 2008. So, PFI was formed in 2006 registered its growth in India. In 2019, Modi government brought CAA and PFI got tool to brainwash Muslims that BJP and RSS want to throw them out of country. PFI started propaganda to grow rapidly.

IB told to Ministry of Home affairs that “SIMI is back”. It is told “A united enemy is always powerful. Before attack, first make them weak”. Hence, strategy made to make PFI weak.

A joint team was made of IB and ED. IB was asked to crack how PFI works. ED was asked

Due to this precaution taken by Union Government there was no law and order problem and PFI did not get any sympathy and support from Muslims and their organizations.

to crack their funding. Both started working on it and collected lot of information well in advance.

NIA cracked down PFI cell in Bihar with help of Bihar Police and recovered an important document. Though they were aware about all PFI activities but this document exposed the plan of PFI in public.

Ajit Doval meets to Muslim dharma gurus in an interfaith meeting. A resolution was passed by Muslim dharma guru that all the anti national and divisive organisation must be banned.

PFI was aware that they can be banned any time so they already have made Plan B. They have made various other org SDPI, Campus Front of India, NWF, AIIC, All India Legal Council, HRDF, SDTU, Rehab India Foundation. So that if government ban PFI, they can carry by other name.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Doval plan of “Operation Midnight Plan” was executed. Before of banning PFI, first destroy it. And make Biggest raid of Indian history by Arresting all PFI key decision makers at same time. Part of Strategy first cutting roots of PFI started well in advance. President of PFI belongs to

Ashraf community and there is rivalry between Ashraf and Pasmanda. Prime Minister Modi reached to Pasmanda to further weaken their plan to become whole and sole leader of all Muslims.

Before Nationwide Crackdown on PFI, PFI leaders were under surveillance by NIA and other secret agencies especially PFI leaders in Kerala. A joint meeting was organized between NIA, IB and ED in presence of Doval and Amit Shah. As decision taken in meeting a Joint team of NIA and ED will raid of 93 locations of PFI on the midnight of 22nd Sep n will arrest all together. If they didn't arrested together then PFI second command leaders will create unrest in India and will hide evidences. Due to this precaution taken by Union Government there was no law and order problem and PFI did not get any sympathy and support from Muslims and their organizations.

Joint team entered in PFI leaders house and arrested within fraction of second. They did not even give them time to think and confiscated all necessary things. News spread about raid, PFI volunteers started to reach but stopped by police already present. Raid was over by before the dawn of Sun for succeeding day. PFI President, Secretary and State –in- charge, Hundred of mobile phones, laptops, Vision documents, Enrollment forms, Bank documents etc., were confiscated by NIA and ED Team. By morning of Thursday, PFI was disarrayed without banning. Thus SURGICAL STRIKE successfully performed. □□

Mahadevayya Karadalli, Girilham Rastrakuta road, Om Nagar University Road, Kalaburagi, Karnataka.
Courtesy: What sup notes, News 18.com; Indian Express & Times of India reports.

Jhoom cultivation, sustainable farming and mountain foods of Meghalaya



Aided by the mist, columns of stinging rain were attacking the green mountains of East Khasi hills. The green giants under pressure, bled from 11 places starting waterfalls that rushed to meet the river. They gave life and serenity to the scenery over Nongtraw, Meghalaya.

So what was I doing here? My mission was to know how this community which practices slash and burn agriculture aka Jhoom, has survived for centuries sustainably and healthily without destroying their environment. “Environmentalists” have been scornful towards Jhoom farmers,

but I distinguish facts from fiction. So set out 2,600 steps downhill to seek my answers. My guide into the green paradise was Bhogtoram Mawroh, an agrarian researcher and social development worker.

As we descended, I noticed very few trees, a rare thing for the mountain side. But even before I shout out ‘community driven deforestation’, Bhogtoram spoke up, “Each inch of soil on these mountains has been planted by this community. Over generations people have planted even the most inclined slopes. We aren’t going down the mountain, but rather entering a food mountain filled with edible herbs and foods.” Mawroh’s statement struck me like thunder in the rain. I remained silent, observing very turn and corner for edible plants and herbs. Occasionally, I would spot a yam or a squash leaf, but this wasn’t even the tip of the food iceberg.

After making a drying stop at the community hall in Nongtraw, we followed Pitrius, an elderly farmer into the ‘sash and burn’ fields. As we moved away from the village the forest began to grow dense but our conversation was only beginning. Pitrius moved to Nongtraw after marriage and since has farmed here. He was well-versed with jhoom traditions. “The first step in Jhoom is to identify the land. We lop all the branches take them for fuel wood, and then cut the trees down. We let them dry for a few days, before we set fire to them,” Pitrius explained.

After the plot is cleared, the village council allots lands to the villagers, who then farm it for a stipulated period of time. Once the time passes, any member of the village is free to harvest from the plots, as often after farming, wild edibles and herbs start fruiting naturally. Most of the farming is done using native seeds and organic manure. While the men are responsible for ploughing, cutting trees, the women take care of harvests, sowing, etc and lands are also allotted to women and not the men.

It also became clear while talking to Pitrius that Jhoom farming uses fire extensively, and communities are very particular about fire management. “Fire-breakers are created before the burning happens. Because one mistake and the whole forest can burn down. And children are initiated into the farming by the elders, it is the children who light the fires,” Pitrius explained.



The times were changing in Nongtraw from political to climatic but Jhoom cultivation has ensured a model of agriculture churning out nutrition and agro-justice at the same time.

Indra Shekhar Singh

“The ash acts as fertilisers for the fields too. But keep in mind we only return to farm again on the same plot after 25 years. Now some communities are returning after 12 years, but it’s vital to leave the land fallow after jhoom. This balance is crucial to maintain a healthy environment,” he said.

We were still far from the Jhoom fields and yet our path was surrounded by forest edibles. And the mud trail was held together by roots size of boa snakes. Grasses, shrubs, earthworms and snakes all lived around the path. From the shrubs, Bhogot picked out random leaves and handed them over to me. I quickly munched, it was a wild leafy vegetables and it tasted like “freshness”.

Pitrius smiled as it was his favourite vegetable. Here Bhogot began to explain, “These areas have over 87 types of edibles forest foods. They are super nutritious and help ameliorate many medical conditions. It is because of their diet that they suffer less from food style diseases.”

Now we have crossed six streams and three bamboo bridges, and for a city person this already was an adventure. One couldn’t stop marvelling at how these people have worked with nature to farm the mountains sustainably as on every available patch of soil there was wild vegetation or it was intercropped with at least 8-10 crops — maize, beans, pumpkin, cucumber, herbs, millet, taru (yam), potato and these are the only edible ones I could identify. But was it always this way?

Pitrius had some answers, “Earlier we grew potatoes, wild yam, sweet potatoes and other local edible crops. Most things we grew, we consumed. The men

made bamboo baskets and exchanged them for salt and cooking oil in the market. But today there are a lot of broomstick plants, and our community is also commercially selling it. Pig farming has also gone down.” It was visibly clear that broom sticks plants had overcrowded the mountain face and in the future could become an biodiversity risk.

We had walked a long way, and finally the lopped trees were visible. But the path ahead had broken off. Our next bamboo bridge was destroyed by the monsoon streams. But rains were destroying more than bridges. “Instead of April the rains have started since late February. Rain is now excessive and unpredictable. It rained in March but it was light rain. Now it’s heavy rainfall which is damaging crops and washing off minerals from the soil and also affecting growing cycles because if it rains, we can’t burn plots,” Pitrius added.

Having seen enough rain and Jhoom fields we turned back to the village where fresh pork, wild edibles and rice awaited us. After lunch, I sat with Bibiana Rani who has been practising Jhoom for the last 40 years. From millets, yam, sweet potato and tapioca, Bibiana grows over 40 edibles on her patch of land. As women are in charge here, from land titles to local administration, I wanted to understand how it all happens.

“The food forest has sustained us and we work to maintain the forest. It’s a symbiotic relationship. We also don’t use chemicals or pesticides. At best we use manure, but that too rarely, as the ash fertilises the soils. Now as for the land ownership, we get one plot of land to farm for four years,

after this time we have to return the land to the village council. There is no permanent land ownership here,” Bibiana said.

It started to pour again, and we ran to shelter under the blue church. I wanted to know more about this collective ownership of land. “Each time a villager requests for land two members of the council survey the land and then allot the land. And every member has equal right to the land and has to pay the village council the same tax. We have a fair system with no kings or big landlords. We all work equally,” Bibiana said.

Interestingly the village had a headman, but all land titles and other powers were vested with the women in this matrilineal village. The headman or any man could not have land titles to their name. Rather a smart way of preventing misuse of power and separating the political and economic. Only recently women have been allowed to play a role in the political space. Bibiana herself was one of the first members of village council.

The times were changing in Nongtraw, from political to climatic. But the Jhoom system was still going strong, apart from being ecological it is agro-biodiverse and also quiet egalitarian. I had never seen such a model of agriculture churning out nutrition and agro-justice at the same time.

My day at Nongtraw was over and by 3 pm I was on 2335 step up. But the rain hadn’t stopped, half drenched and musty, I looked one last time at Nongtraw, questioning myself why can’t we all produce food a sustainable way? □□

The writer is an independent agri-policy analyst and the former director, Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India.
<https://www.firstpost.com/living/jhoom-cultivation-sustainable-farming-and-mountain-foods-of-meghalaya-11089661.html>

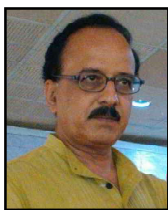
Lumpy skin disease becoming a nightmare for cattle farmers

It is generally believed that most farmers who do not commit suicide own cattle that compensates for the farm distress. Moreover, like the industry sector, which gets an economic stimulus or an economic bailout at the drop of a hat, cattle owners too need an economic stimulus package, which conforms to the number of cattle a farmer has lost, and in addition to cover up for the cost of medication and the fall in income a farmer suffers.

The picture is scary. The aerial shot taken by a popular Hindi newspaper shows thousands of cattle carcass littered along the highway to Bikaner in Rajasthan. Reminiscent of the ghastly images of human dead bodies lying buried along the river Ganges, near Allahabad, when the second phase of deadly Covid-19 epidemic had hit the northern regions of country, the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle has also grown in epidemic proportions.

The report says as many as 6,000 cattle have died in the urban parts of the city from the LSD virus whereas another 50,000 cattle have perished in the rural hinterland in the Bikaner region. Owners of these cattle are throwing the carcass in open fields, which serve as an open dumping ground. In another news report, more than 2,000 cattle have died in the hilly State of Himachal Pradesh, and another 53,000 bovine have reportedly contracted the viral infection. In both these cases, improper disposal of the dead bodies is causing health and sanitation issues.

Ever since it was first reported from West Bengal and Odisha in 2019, the viral disease has now spread to 12 States, right from Himachal Pradesh in the north to Kerala in extreme south, and as well as to Andaman and Nicobar islands. It is spread by blood-sucking insects, including mosquitoes and flies. The first time I read a report in Down to Earth (Jan 13, 2021) magazine on how the disease has spread to cattle in Kerala, and how it has the potential to leave a devastating impact in the country, I have followed the slow progress in taking adequate precautions and launch preventive measures. It left me wondering why as a nation, while we are still struck in the pandemic after effects, we have failed to



While the Centre dithers on the issue of declaring the contagion as an epidemic, an effective compensation plan is need of the hour for the cattle owners.

Devinder Sharma



see the urgency in controlling another viral disease which is equally contagious, and could be equally devastating or perhaps more.

The only difference being that the viral outbreak was in cattle, which have no voice. Media reports say the disease has inflicted more than 11.50 million cattle, and has killed at least 50,000. This is a grossly underreported number, and farmers claim that unofficially the number of cattle deaths would be several times more. But still worse, the disease load is on the small, marginal and landless farmers who have traditionally thrived by owning a couple of dairy animals. The economic fallout on these marginalised communities is far greater given the fact that most have reared a few cattle to somehow eke out a living.

Endemic across Africa and the Middle East, the vector-borne disease has now transgressed the national borders to spread into Balkan countries, Russian Federation and also to Asia. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) high-milk producing cattle of Europe and America are more susceptible compared to the indigenous cattle in Asia and Africa. Considering that most cattle in India are non-descript, and carry low immunity given the poor intake of nutritiously adequate feeds, the outbreak has been high among cattle that belong to small and marginal farming communities. But if the spread goes out of control, even the bigger dairy farms can be negatively impacted.

There is no evidence of the LSD spreading to humans. This is perhaps what keeps us disinterested of the pandemic proportions

that the disease has already spread among cattle in India. Given that the cattle population is about 300 million, and although many experts have said that the peak of spread is already over, the entire effort still has to be on containing any further spread of the LSD in bovine population, including buffaloes. Let us not forget, for a small and marginal farmer, the timely vaccination of the affected cattle means a livelihood saved. Remember, India is also the world's largest producer of milk, with domestic production touching 204 million tonnes. If the spread goes unchecked, milk production gets impacted, with small and marginal farmers facing a serious drop in incomes. At the trade level, countries can ask for LSD-free trade status.

At present, the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a control room. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has already announced an indigenous vaccine for LSD. The National Research Centre for Equines (NRCE) at Hisar and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) at Izatnagar – the two institutes that developed the vaccine – can produce about 2.5 lakh doses per month. Although a significant proportion of the affected cattle have been vaccinated with earlier available and equally effective goat pox vaccines, the new vaccine has to be quickly commercialised to make it easily accessible. This has to be reached to the affected regions as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, the Himachal Pradesh Kisan Sabha has in a memorandum to the State government made some important suggestions, which needs to be implemented even at the national level to deal with the contagion on a war foot-

ing. Calling for the virulent disease to be declared as an epidemic, the suggestion is to form an inter-department coordination committee to deal effectively with the epidemic. Once an epidemic is declared, the Disaster Management Authority will come into play. This will enable disaster management norms to become operative, including adequate compensation for the affected families whose cattle have perished or are affected.

Although the disease is reported to have spread to 165 districts in 12 States, but given the alarming situation, once the disease is declared as an epidemic, it will bring the entire country into being an affected zone. Prevention is better than cure, and like in the case of the Covid-19 pandemic, the effort on a war-footing should be to ensure that the virus is not allowed to spread to any new areas.

Even while the Centre dithers on the issue of declaring the contagion as an epidemic, an effective compensation plan should be announced for the cattle owners. This is important given the fact that dairy is the saviour when it comes to mitigating the severity of the farm distress. It is generally believed that most farmers who do not commit suicide own cattle that compensates for the farm distress. Moreover, like the industry sector, which gets an economic stimulus or an economic bailout at the drop of a hat, cattle owners too need an economic stimulus package, which conforms to the number of cattle a farmer has lost, and in addition to cover up for the cost of medication and the fall in income a farmer suffers. □

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture and hunger)
<https://www.bizbuggy.com/opinion/lumpy-skin-disease-becoming-a-nightmare-for-cattle-farmers-1165679>

Revisiting Auction for Public Goods

Public goods are those goods that are defined in economics as a good that has two characteristics of being non-excludable and non-rivalrous. Apart from public goods, the other classification of goods is private goods, common-pool resources, and club goods. The classification of goods that are based on two characteristics of excludability and rivalries results in four combinations. The first classification is of those goods which are excludable as well as rivalrous. The second classification of goods is those which are excludable but non-rivalrous. The third classification of goods is those which are non-excludable but rivalrous and the last classification is those goods that are non-excludable as well as non-rivalrous. The goods such as clothing and cars are private goods and are excludable as well as rivalrous. Satellite television and movie theatres are goods that are excludable but non-rivalrous and such goods are called club goods. Free public transport and coal are goods that are non-excludable but rivalrous and are called goods that are common-pool resources. The goods such as free-to-air television like Doordarshan and national defense are non-excludable and non-rivalrous and such goods are called public goods. Rivalry increases the barrier for others to use the goods simultaneously, anti rivalry does not create any barrier for other users to use it simultaneously. Anti-rivalry is a recently added variant of rivalry i.e. forms of rivalry have been extended recently to incorporate the concept of anti-rivalry; the open source software is an example of anti-rivalry as more people use the open source software it becomes easier and more powerful to use.

Auction is a complex game based on concepts of game theory. The other simple game is –Rock, Paper, and Scissors. Auction is difficult to explain. So, the simple example to understand the rules of the game of auction is to extrapolate the game of rock, paper, and scissors. In this game, paper can beat rock as paper can cover rock. The scissor can beat paper as scissors can cut paper. The rock can beat scissors as the rock can break scissors. So, no one player has a dominant advantage in every other strategy of the opponent. The role of information comes into the picture. In the game of rock, paper, and scissors an individual



The government is the custodian of public goods and these goods should be used only for the social and economic benefit of the public and allocated accordingly to the private contractors who should be motivated to bid truthfully.
Alok Singh



player doesn't know the strategy of the opponent player. It's a game of chance and not of strategy if played fairly. The scope of the winner's curse is also in an auction where despite winning the auction the winning player is at disadvantage to the losing player.

Auction is one of the many ways to sell or buy goods. The objective of the seller is to sell the goods to the highest bidder and the objective of the buyer is to buy at the lowest bidder. The commonly acceptable auction is to buy and sell paintings, real estate, antiques, and telecommunication spectrum among many other goods. Team building for sports like IPL also follows auction ways. The elective courses offered in a few business schools are also allocated to students through a variant of the auction process. So, the academics are also not untouched by the auction. Emission trading i.e. carbon trading is also done through auction. The role of auctions in various spheres of business and the public as well as private life is significant. The auction theory is well-researched in academics of mathematics and economics. The researchers keep looking for improving and developing auction models incorporating the concepts of game theory to optimize the objective. Auction is a game so there are players and the players have opposite goals. The win of one player is the loss to the other player. The win-win situation is tough to quantify measure and attain. So, all the auctions are not necessarily satisfying to all the participating players always. Moreover, replicating the same game repeatedly provides an opportunity for the players to come up with new-

er strategies. The same auction model if repeated other times for the same goods has difficulty to attain the objective. The players can create cartels, collaborate, and on occasion fail the auction process. This creates challenges for the executor of the auction. If the auctioned product is a public good then the stakeholders are many.

The telecommunication spectrum is one of the public goods which have a huge relevance in today's daily life. It is a public good and a necessary infrastructure which can't be excluded and can't be rivalrous. The access to services that rely on the spectrum has to be made accessible to everyone. Here the role of the auction in spectrum allocation needs to be discussed. The constraints of a product to be classified as public good need to be satisfied. To make the auction process successful the characteristics of public goods can't be diluted.

The recipient of the Nobel Prize of 2020 in economic science was Paul R. Milgrom and Robert W. Wilson for their work on improving auction theory. The challenges for auction models are many. An auction model which succeeded in auctioning a good on one occasion can't be assured that if the same auction model is repeated for auctioning the same good next time will also be successful. There are examples of spectrum auction model which is successful in one country but the same auction model is not successful in another country and there are examples where in the same country on one occasion a particular auction model is successful but on another occasion in the same country it is not successful.

The objective of the public

good is to maximize the social and economic benefit for the public. But the recent auctioning of the spectrum has emerged as a tool to bridge the gap of fiscal deficit. In doing so, it seems that success has a new definition whose objective has switched from maximizing the social and economic benefit to maximizing the monetary collection. The spectrum auction should be designed in such a way that there should be scope for a nascent player to enter the telecommunication sector, there should not be scope for encouraging monopoly, and the success is measured in terms of quantification of economic and social benefit to the public rather than measuring the quantity of money earned by the government. The reserve price and repeated changes in the reserve price to make the auction successful can be substituted by the revenue-sharing model for telecommunication operators. The separation of owners of the spectrum and the owners of telecommunication service providers can be explored. The spectrum exchange for trading the spectrum can also be practically executed. The artificial scarcity of spectrum and high prices of the spectrum can be controlled using spectrum trading.

The government is the custodian of public goods and these goods should be used only for the social and economic benefit of the public and allocated accordingly to the private contractors who should be motivated to bid truthfully and under not any circumstances should the allocation of the public goods be compromised to fix the fiscal deficit of the union government. □

(Alok Singh is a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Management Indore, a freelancer academician, and associated with AGET Business School, Jhajjar.)

Online Games and Indian Society

Technology advancements and the continually increasing number of internet users have caused a paradigm shift in the gaming industry. The legality of fantasy sports and online gaming in India is still largely unknown, even though rummy, poker, PUBG, and other games are played and watched online. The three primary categories of online gaming are real money games like poker, mobile games with pay walls to accelerate growth, and e-sports like FIFA. In recent years, fantasy sports have been increasingly popular among young working professionals and have distinguished themselves as a unique format unlike any other online game format now offered in India. The Indian Premier League (IPL) was sponsored by the fantasy sports website Dream 11 in 2020, which has significantly increased the popularity of fantasy sports in India. In addition to My 11 Circle, My Team 11, and Howzat Fantasy, Dream 11 is just one of several competitors on the Online Fantasy Sports Platform (OFSP). Sports fans used these websites to create virtual teams.

Any game played on an electronic device, such as a computer, mobile phone, tablet, or another device, is referred to as “online gaming” under section 2(e) of the law. Online gaming has seen a substantial upsurge in India at a time when the epidemic had a very bad effect on the majority of sectors, adopted in affordable data, accessibility to cellphones, and more free time as a result of the Covid-19 lockdowns. The entire online casual gaming sub-segment in India, with market size of \$60 billion in 2021, is expected to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 29 percent between 2021 and 2025 to reach \$169 billion. According to the study, with 300 million users worldwide, gaming app usage time increased by 21% during the first statewide shutdown. Although the gaming industry may benefit from the increase, gamers end up paying a hefty price because



The government should educate the public about online games and their losses via a variety of media, including counseling, dramas, movies, and other forms of entertainment.

Vinod Kumar



In India, real money online gambling must be regulated because it accounts for a sizable portion of the country's gaming market. According to a Statista survey conducted in 2021, the value of real money gaming in the Indian gaming sector is currently \$49 billion and is expected to rise by \$11 billion by 2025.

excessive gaming can lead to several addiction-related and mental and physical health problems.

Even though players and young people have access to thousands of games that can be downloaded, there is a need to expand the selection of games. Due to the rapid adoption of digital technology, the online gaming business in India is expanding at an astounding rate. According to a Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG) report, revenues more than doubled between 2014 and 2018, hitting \$43.8 billion by fiscal year (FY18). In India, the number of online gamers increased by 20% from July to January 2021, surpassing 50 cores. Ninety percent of gamers play on their cellphones or tablets. India was the source of 17% of all downloads of mobile games worldwide in the first three quarters of 2020. Indians now spend 218 minutes playing games as opposed to 151 minutes before lockdown, according to a BARC & Nielsen analysis. Gamers' growing popularity has led to increased attention from entrepreneurs and investors. There are now more than 400 gaming start-ups in India, and investors plan to invest over \$173 million there in the calendar year (CY2020). The Information Technology Act of 2000's guide-

lines for internet intermediary compliances and cyber law due diligence are not being followed by websites for online gaming, and lotteries. In a similar vein, virtually every online poker site in India violates one or more Indian laws. Even though India's online gaming market is growing, compliance with regulations must be upheld. There is little indication that the Indian online gaming and gambling sectors are operating their businesses there while taking regulations into mind. The issue has been brought before the Indian Supreme Court as a result of numerous legal proceedings and situations. However, there is a lot of misunderstanding about the nature of the current legal proceedings before the Indian Supreme Court.

In India, real money online gambling must be regulated because it accounts for a sizable portion of the country's gaming market. According to a Statista survey conducted in 2021, the value of real money gaming in the Indian gaming sector is currently \$49 billion and is expected to rise by \$11 billion by 2025. Several concerns, including addiction, user overspending, mental and social problems, etc., have also arisen as a result of the rise in real money gaming. It is therefore more cru-

cial than ever to have appropriate legislation in place for this area of the gaming business given the problems related to real money online gambling.

The union government should create an online gaming commission, according to clause 3 of the bill. This commission would have the power to regulate the operations of the online gaming sector, produce reports on issues about the sector, recommend actions to stop illegal online gaming, grant, suspend, and revoke licenses for online gaming websites, and set fees for license applications and renewals. The Sports (Online Gaming and Prevention of Fraud) Bill, 2018, which contains a similar section, was not enacted by the parliament due to the bill's unclear language. Clause 3 of the 2022 bill is problematic because it would be problematic for the center and the state to establish a central agency to control online gaming without being clear about what kind of game it would be regulating. Gambling and betting are state matters under rule 34, which grants states the authority to enact legislation on these topics. However, the central government is authorized by Article 249 of the Constitution to enact laws that serve the interests of the whole country about issues on the state's list. However, even if the union government used this authority to control gaming and betting, it would just create further uncertainty given the vagueness and ambiguities in the bill.

Since several states have already passed legislation regulating internet gambling, the commission's proposed rules may only make matters more complicated.

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National Logistic Policy 2022

On September 17, 2022, the National Logistics Policy (NLP) was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji. The backbone of Bharat's international trade is logistics, which facilitates the diversification of not only the country's exports but also of products manufactured in our country. The NLP thus aims to promote seamless movement of goods and enhances the competitiveness of our industries. The National logistics policy 2022 was deemed necessary because Bharat incurs higher logistics costs than other industrialised nations. We must drastically cut logistics costs if we want to increase the competitiveness of our exports and domestic products. It is a key decision since excessive logistical costs affect how competitive domestic products are on the global market. The primary areas of this National logistics policy 2022 will be process re-engineering, digitization, and multi-modal transportation. The policy envisages an extensive interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and multi-jurisdictional framework for the growth of the entire logistics ecosystem in an effort to solve concerns of high cost and inefficiency.

The objectives of the NLP are broadly aimed at enhancing efficiency across the logistics value chain by improving connectivity across destinations, adopting technology, simplifying procedural documentation and strengthening the warehousing sector. The programme aims to ensure that logistical problems are minimized, exports increase significantly and small businesses and the people who work in them earn profits. All this will augment the economy in various ways like employment generation, inter-state, and international exchange of goods. This policy move will bring Bharat closer to becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse and pave its way to becoming a logistics hub. The National Logistic Policy is a significant landmark for Atmanirbhar Bharat.



National Logistic Policy was much awaited to synchronize and synergise all resources of logistics – rail, road, waterways and air for co-ordinated seamless transportation and warehousing for our industrial sector to boost our economy

Vinod Johri



The NLP provides for development of two main portals, viz., the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and Dashboard for Ease of Logistics Services (E-Logs), to provide digital platforms that facilitate the regulatory and operational processes in the logistics sector.

While we rank 44th on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index of 2018, the NLP envisions improving our ranking to feature amongst the top 25 countries by 2030. At least it has to match the pace of South Korea. The NLP proposes to support this upward journey by means of various initiatives. Bharat aims to become \$ 5 Trillion economy by 2025. Our logistics sector provides livelihood to more than 22 million people and improving the sector will facilitate 10 % decrease in indirect logistics cost leading to the growth of 5 to 8% in exports. Further, it is estimated that the worth of our logistics market will be around US \$ 215 billion in next two years compared to about US \$ 160 billion at present. It also seeks to reduce the logistics cost from 16 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to a global average of 8 per cent by 2030. Investment Informa-

tion and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited (ICRA) estimates that the sector will develop at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10.5 per cent through 2025 after growing at a CAGR of 7.8 per cent over the past five years.

NLP provides the required boost for connectivity and robust infrastructure. This policy will augment warehousing capacity and enable faster communication to take products closer to their consumption points. NLP will also bring new energy to all other sectors. As logistics develop, manufacturing, production, automobile, and other industries like warehousing and infrastructure development will also develop. This will spur the growth of commercial real estate and industrial parks.

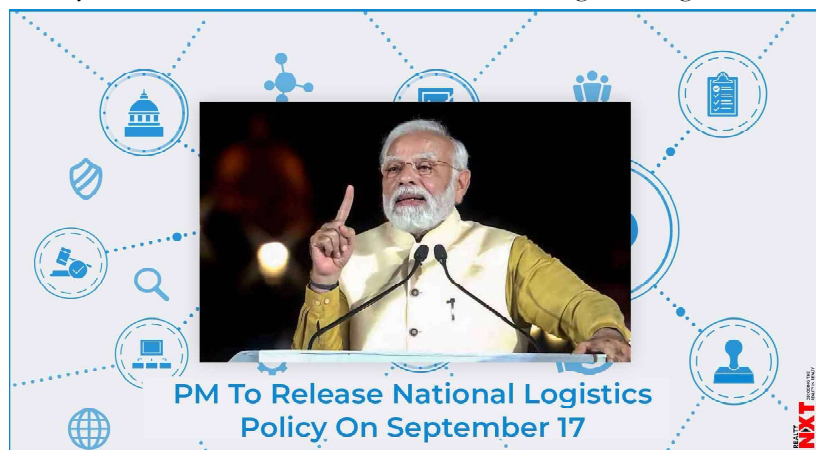
NLP will thus promote the facilitation of a unified regulatory environment and institutional framework governing the sector

that will set up multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) as key markets. This will ensure faster first and last-mile connectivity, and as logistics improve, the export-import, manufacturing, cold storage, and industries will also grow.

The Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan (CLAP) envisaged in the NLP identifies the following action areas wherein the policy aims to undertake interventions:

1. Developing an 'Integrated Digital Logistics Systems' to create a cross-sectoral database for logistics stakeholders.
2. Setting standardisation norms for assets and benchmarking quality of services.
3. Developing human resource and skill building aligned towards logistics by the ministries involved in different sectors.
4. Supporting state level logistics plans and institutional framework development.
5. Streamlining EXIM (export-import) processes to improve trade competitiveness and integration with global value chains.
6. Improving regulatory interface in the logistics sector.
7. Formulating 'Sectoral Plans for Efficient Logistics' in different sectors to complement the development of facilitative processes in logistics management.
8. Developing a network of logistics parks, including Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs), by providing framework guidelines for the development of these parks and encouraging private sector investment in the same.

The NLP provides for development of two main portals, viz., the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and Dashboard for



Ease of Logistics Services (E-Logs), to provide digital platforms that facilitate the regulatory and operational processes in the logistics sector.

The salient features of the NLP 2022 may be summarized as under:

1. The road, rail, customs, aviation, international trade, and commerce ministries are among the seven departments (like road transport, railways, aviation, commerce ministries and foreign trade) whose 30 distinct systems will be digitally integrated as part of the Integration of Digital System (IDS).
2. The shorter cargo movement will be improved.
3. Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP): This ensures shorter and smoother cargo movement and enables the exchange of information confidentially on a real-time basis. This National Industrial Corri-

dor Development Corporation (NICDC) Logistics Data Bank Project has been leveraged.

4. There will be Ease of Logistics (ELOG) present. The policy will be put into place to streamline the regulations and make the logistics industry easier.
5. The System Improvement Group (SIG) is tasked with periodically assessing all logistics-related projects & removing any barriers.
6. The goal of the policy is to give young people opportunity to work and develop their talents.

The NLP's transformational capacities further increase when combined with previous connectivity and infrastructure improvement programs -

1. The Gati Shakti Programme's goal is to implement infrastructure connectivity, including roadways and railways projects across the nation, in a coordi-

nated manner.

2. The Sagarmala envisions using the potential of the coastline and waterways to reduce the amount of infrastructure needed to reach their targets.
3. The Bharatmala focuses on reducing critical infrastructure gaps to increase the effectiveness of road traffic circulation across the nation.

National Logistic Policy was much awaited to synchronize and synergise all resources of logistics – rail, road, waterways and air for co-ordinated seamless transportation and warehousing for our industrial sector to boost our economy and ambitiously achieve target of US \$ 5 Trillion economy by the year 2025 and US\$ 10 Trillion economy by 2030. NLP 2022 will certainly achieve these targets. □□

(Source : Economic Times, Indian Express, NAMO APP, pmmodiyojana.in, jagranjosh.com, lexcology.com)

Vinod Johri: Retd. Addl. Commissioner of Income Tax.

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Online Games and Indian Society

Because there is nothing about a licensing policy for real money online gambling in the law's norms and rules, the bill also lacks clear guidelines for a licensing regime. Even while establishing a commission under the jurisdiction of the union government is a step in the right direction toward uniting the online gaming industry, the existing legislation being implemented by individual states has to be moderated and the bill itself needs to be more clear. By studying the nations that have central authority in this industry and developing appro-

priate rules and regulations, India might likewise set up a national gaming commission.

The 2022 law includes no mention of privacy, data protection, Know Your Customer (KYC), grievance redress methods, or several societal and mental health issues. It is essential to address these issues because the nation's gaming industry is booming. A robust regulatory environment would help to reduce illegal behavior and speed up firm expansion, which would also help to stimulate the economy. We also

recommend to the Indian Government and State Governments make effective rules to resolve such online gaming problems. There are many ways to find/stole data of users by an attacker via online ways.

It is a major challenge in front of us and the government. Additionally, these rules should provide data protection for users in public network systems. There will define the age of users to play such games for the new future of this country. Furthermore, parent to aware their children of the bad effect of online games. The government should educate the public about online games and their losses via a variety of media, including counseling, dramas, movies, and other forms of entertainment. □□

Mewar as the Locus of Guhila State (Part-V)

Occupations such as randhani” (probably refers to a feast held for the entertainment of the members of a community), dyûtamdharânâm (a gambler), etc., at Ahada also distinguished it as an urban centre, as does the list of grants made by different categories of residents of Ahada to the temple of Sara Geçvara. The list runs as follows: one ghatikapala (unit of measurement for milk) from every iron saucepan (of confectioners), one petaka (this probably means the amount of money won by a gambler at one venture) from each gambler, one pala (a ladle generally containing four tolas) of oil from every oil mill, one rupaka from randhani (for a feast held for the entertainment of the members of a community), one catuhsar (four-stringed garland) from flower-sellers everyday, one tula from the shop of seller of worn-out clothes and one adhaka (a measure of grain containing three-and-half seers) from a hâta (weekly fairs or a market place). Such a list of residents contrasts remarkably with the list we get from the village settlements in the epigraphic records of the seventh-century Guhilas. Grant of a specialized amount of grain from the haa is indicative of the fact that peasants from neighbouring villages converged on Ahada with rural produce and took back goods from Ahada. Thus Ahada must have accounted for the bulk of the income of the central exchequer both from non-agricultural and agricultural items. Donations of commercial levies for religious purposes did not necessarily mean ‘feudalization of trade and commerce 100 but indicates royal share in the proceeds of commercial transactions.



Ahada (modern Udaipur) had emerged as a hub of economic resources.

Thriving economic base prompted Ahada to become the capital town. The new political importance of Ahada prompted further economic growth of this locality.

Prof. Nandini Kapur Sinha

Strangely, this busy commercial scenario is not matched by an availability of a proportionate number of coins of the Guhilas. The few finds of the Cahamana coins in northern Mewar and Dhoda inscriptions of AD 1168 and 1169 (records that the ‘silver Ajaya Deva coins’ were subjected to careful scrutiny and examina-



tion and became legal tender) suggest that local transactions were carried out in Cahamana coins. John Deyell rightly states that commerce continued in the more popular denominations in a trans-territorial context.

The direct inscriptional reference to the establishment of King Úaktikumâra at Atapura should indicate the possibility of transfer of capital from Nâgda to Ahada and of a fortress being built at Ahada. Ahada seems to have been named as Atapura and acquired political and administrative importance as the capital of the Guhilas during Çeaktikumara's reign. The above suggestion seems plausible in view of the eulogy of this town for the first time in any Guhila record. The presence of the ruling elite in Ahada must have accelerated further demand for high-value items. Therefore, the new political status of Ahada might have been an additional factor in increasing the commercial traffic at this centre. We hear of Ahaadurga as an important political and commercial centre in the thirteenth century.

Resources were also mobilized from other areas of control such as Pratapgarh in southern part of upper Banas plain. Ekalingaji, Paldi, Jagat and Dariba with their temples and monasteries were emerging as important religious centres. Occasional fairs and festivals at these centres undoubtedly encouraged periodic markets which contributed to the resource base of the Guhila state. Chirava was a thriving rural settlement with new temples. Because of its proximity to Ahada, Chirava must have entered, by the thirteenth century, into the circuit of commercial

transactions centred in Ahada. Finally, continued mining at Zawar, evident from zinc smelting retort dumps dated between AD 1025-1280, and once again between AD 1325-1690, contributed towards the intensification of the commercial transactions at Ahada in our period of study and later.

Territorial extension in the eleventh century expanded the availability of land. Northward expansion of the Nâgda-Ahada, evident from Kadmal plates of Guhila King Vijayasimha (AD 1083), diverted some of Godwar's resources towards Mewar. The fact that the state was mobilizing resources from the Pali locality is evident from detainment of half of the taxes and income from the irrigational channels for the royal donor.

The accounts of Hiuen Tsiang, Chittaurgarh Inscription of King Mana Mori of AD 713, Chittaurgarh Inscription of Caulukya King Kamarapala of AD 1151 recording grants at Samaddhiçvara temple and Dhavagarta Inscription of Guhila Dhanika testify to the wealth of Chittaurgarh and the eastern Berach basin in the pre-Guhila period.

The Ghaghsha record of AD 1265 referring to the building of a bavri (step well) by a member of Dindu community in the reign of Guhila King Tejasimha, Jain records such as the Ghaghsha Prasasti of AD 1265 and the Chittaur Stone Inscription of AD 1267 referring to the âcâryas of the Caitragaccha, inscriptions from Menal and Bijolia recording the grant of drammas to a temple of Mahanal (Siva), and the grant of a village to a Jain temple of Parsvanath respectively point towards

the range of economic activities in Chittaurgarh locality in the Guhila period. Mobilization of resources by the Guhila state from the local commercial transactions is evident from the royal dues levied on the mandapikâ (custom houses) in Chittaurgarh belt. The Chittaurgarh Inscription of AD 1274 of Samarasimha records a royal grant of a few drammas and such items as ghee, oil, etc., which were made from the mandapikâs (of Talhatti, Aghata (Ahada), Khohar and Sajanpura to a Jain temple of Pârúvanâth. Except Aghata (Ahada, Mewar hills), the other places were all located near Chittaurgarh. Aghaa evidently came to acquire a mandapika for the first time in the thirteenth century (definitely after the tenth century).

Further, increasing mining activities in the Mewar hills, incorporation of important mining centres other than Zawar within the commercial network (evident from Kankroli road station inscription of the period of Samarasimha) and control of the Mount Abu region, accelerated the process of resource mobilization particularly in terms of commercial revenue for the Guhila state.

In contrast, the two Guhila houses of Unstra and Bagodia (Marwar region) clearly had poorer resources as they operated from a semi-arid locality. Although the grants made by the Nadol Guhilas consisted of agrarian and commercial levies, the limited area of control restricted their resource base. The Guhila chiefs of Mangrol in coastal Saurashtra were evidently able to tap greater wealth from the continuous flow of commercial traffic.

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RSS leader flags poverty, lack of jobs, inequality



RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale recently said unemployment, poverty and economic inequality which have challenged India as demons for decades are persisting as problems despite the country having emerged as the sixth largest economy in the world.

“India has attempted positively to be self-reliant and the world community has acknowledged its initiatives. Although the country has attained success in the economic sector in the recent past it needs to handle a few issues urgently,” Hosabale said and added, “After nine days of Navratri, the way Maa Durga slays the demons on the occasion of Vijaydashmi, the country also needs to get rid of demon like challenges it has been facing for decades and one of them is poverty, which must be eliminated urgently. We must win over this challenge.”

The senior RSS functionary was speaking at a webinar organised by the RSS-affiliated Swadesh Jagaran Manch (SJM) under its ongoing “Swawalambi Bharat Abhiyan”, which is an attempt to inculcate entrepreneurial skills amongst the youth.

The webinar was organised on the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Hosabale said that as per some data 20 crore people are still below the poverty line, which is quite disappointing. “As many as 23 crore people have less than Rs 375 income per day. The Labour Force survey published in June indicated that there are four crore unemployed in the country and the unemployment rate is 7.6%,” the RSS functionary said.

He said that situation has improved in the past few years as compared to 22 % of poverty in the country 10 years ago, it is 18 % now. “In 2020, the per capita income was Rs 1.35 lakh per annum, which has improved to Rs 1.5 lakh in 2022,” he said.

However, he said, that the issues of unemployment and poverty persisting for decades are intriguing and another major issue that the country ought to pay attention to was the prevalence of economic inequality.

“It is good that the country has been ranked as the sixth largest economy in the world. But the top one per cent of India’s population has one-fifth (20%) of the nation’s income. At the same time, 50% of the country’s population has only 13% of the country’s income. We must think about this economic inequality,” Hosabale said.

Referring to observations made by the United Nations on the state of poverty and development in India, Hosabale said, “The UN report in the context of India says that a large part of the country still does not have access to clean water and nutritious food. Poverty is also a reason for the tension in society and poor level of education.”

He said that the government has implemented the new education policy and it should be expected that it will yield the desired results.

“The flawed policies of decades resulted in migrations on a large scale from villages to cities. While villages were emptied, life in cities became like hell. The current government has taken several initiatives to make paradigm changes. However, the way challenges persist, there is a need to take initiatives to create more awareness and consciousness,” Hosabale said.

He said that the “Self Reliant India” campaign launched under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi was a true tribute to leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/rss-leader-flags-poverty-lack-of-jobs-inequality/articlehow/94606697.cms>

SJM Calls for Capping Entry Fee For Online Games

An influential Indian nationalist group will push for limits on entry fees for players of paid online games, potentially turning up the heat on a multi-billion-dollar industry that is preparing to lobby against tougher rules.

The growing popularity of real-money games, driven by backing from top figures in cricket, a sub-continental craze, has prompted regulatory efforts to combat the risk of addiction, and reports of financial losses and suicides among young people. Such games could make up as much as 53% of a gaming market that is set to reach \$7 billion by 2026, or three times its size last year, says research firm Redseer.

“Ticket size should be regulated. It should not



be more than 50 rupees. This is an addiction,” said, an official of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, which is seen as having significant influence on policy making.

“We will talk to all concerned ministries about this,” SJM told Reuters. Although equivalent to just 62 U.S. cents, the proposed cap represents a significant proportion of the 25 rupees, or 31 cents typically spent by 97% of the users on an app such as Mobile Premier League, for example. The tiny remaining share of 3% users contribute 30% of the platform’s revenue by playing higher ticket-sized games, one industry source estimated.

The measures, in a confidential draft reported last week by Reuters, have alarmed an industry in which Tiger Global and Sequoia Capital have invested in providers of fantasy sport games such as Dream11, MPL and Games24X7 that offer cricket and other paid contests. Dream11 commands a valuation of \$8 billion, while MPL and Games24X7 are valued at about \$2.5 billion each, Pitch Book data shows. Although the panel report did not fix any fee ceiling, four senior gaming industry sources who spoke on condition of anonymity have said such a move would affect revenues and the growth potential of platforms.

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/swadeshi-jagran-manch-calls-for-cap-on-entry-fees-for-online-games-amid-regulatory-push-3360621>

Oracle’s India unit used slush funds to bribe officials for business in 2019

Tech major Oracle will pay \$23 million to settle charges of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), which included charges of bribery in its India unit, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said. The company will pay the amount to resolve charges that its units in India, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) used slush funds — money that is improperly accounted for and is for illicit purposes — to bribe officials in return for business between 2016 and 2019.

According to the SEC’s order, Oracle India’s sales employees used “an excessive discount scheme” that pertained to a transaction with a transportation company, whose majority owner is the Ministry of Railways. The employees working on the deal cited competition from other OEMs and allegedly said the deal would be lost if a 70 percent discount was not provided on the software component of the deal.

This request, since it was a steep discount, had to be approved by an employee in France, but no documentary support was given for this request to be approved. However, since the company it had provided the discount to is a state-owned enterprise, the procurement website “indicated that Oracle India faced no competition because it had mandated the use of Oracle products for the project”.



As per the SEC order, one of the employees had maintained a spreadsheet that indicated that there was a buffer of \$67,000 to potentially make payments to a specific Indian official part of the state-owned enterprise (SOE).

“A total of approximately \$330,000 was funnelled to an entity with a reputation for paying SOE officials and another \$62,000 was paid to an entity controlled by the sales employees responsible for the transaction,” the order read.

The SEC order said the company’s employees used discount schemes and sham marketing reimbursement payments to finance slush funds. These funds, it said, were used to bribe foreign officials or provide benefits such as paying for these officials to attend tech conferences around the world, which was in violation of the company’s policies.

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/sec-says-oracles-india-unit-used-slush-funds-to-bribe-officials-in-return-for-business-in-2019-9241231.html>

RBI mulls steps to arrest rupee slide

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is said to be contemplating several bespoke measures, such as



opening a special window for oil importers and reducing hedging costs for foreign-currency depositors, to minimise the pace of decline in the rupee against the surging US dollar.

People familiar with the matter told ET that commercial banks have also suggested imposition of temporary curbs on imports of 'non-essential' goods, such as gold, to conserve dollars. An unabated surge in the dollar could prompt targeted interim measures from Mint Road.

"The RBI cannot allow a free fall in the rupee's value against the dollar. This is not good for any emerging-market currency," said Anindya Banerjee, currency analyst, Kotak Securities. "India, the fifth largest economy, needs to show resilience against the dollar strength, which in turn calls for more measures than plain-vanilla market interventions." The RBI did not respond to ET's mailed queries.

Market sources said even bilateral trade through 'rupee invoicing' or the rupee account can help bypass the dollar, limiting its demand. For instance, if oil companies import fuel from, say, Russia and meet its payment obligations in rubles, the demand for dollars goes down.

The rupee, which hit lifetime lows of 81.66 to the dollar Monday, climbed a tad to close at 81.58.

The dollar index, which measures the US currency's relative strength or weakness against a wide set of currencies, is at its highest since the turn of the millennium. Just shy of 114, the gauge has climbed more than a fifth in a year, with nearly half of that appreciation accruing in the past three months.

The RBI has used its forex stockpile across platforms - spot, futures, forwards and non-deliverable forwards markets - to prevent the rupee's rout in calibrated interventions. But the sharp dollar surge, which hasn't spared even the pound, euro and the yen, has prompted the hunt for measures beyond conventional interventions that use up assiduously built reserves and cause the macroeconomic picture to deteriorate.

"Market intervention alone cannot resist a global headwind," said Anil Bhansali, head of treasury, Finrex Treasury Advisors. "Either the central bank has to cut dollar demand via an oil window or it needs to ensure oil trades through a rupee account. That should help stabilise the rupee."

Under a special-purpose oil window, oil marketing companies can avail dollars offshore from the RBI at a specified rate, and these can be repaid only at a later date without involving rupees.

"So far, the RBI has managed the show well in helping cut the rupee's wild swings," said Amit Pabari, CR Forex, a Mumbai-based firm. "However, it cannot keep on spending forex reserves. It is natural for the RBI to come out with other measures to control the rupee's drastic drop."

Through the so-called Taper Tantrum in 2012-13, the RBI had allowed banks to raise foreign currency funding and swap them into rupees at a concessional rate of 1% below market. This helped draw deposits from non-resident Indians. With other allied measures, the central bank had then brought in about \$34 billion.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/forex/rbi-mulls-steps-to-arrest-rupee-slide/articleshow/94492489.cms>

India really matters more in this polarised world: S. Jaishankar



India really matters more in the current polarised world and the country is perceived very widely as the voice of the global South, External Affairs Minister Sh. S. Jaishankar has said.

Jaishankar wrapped up the New York leg of his visit to the US as he addressed the high-level UN general assembly session on Saturday, concluding a hectic week of whirlwind diplomatic engagements during which he met over 100 of his counterparts from around the world and held several bilateral and multilateral meetings.

"There's no question this UNGA reflects the state

of the world, which is particularly polarised at this moment. What the state of the world actually reveals in a way is that India matters more. We are a bridge, we are a voice, we are a viewpoint, a channel,” Jaishankar told a group of Indian reporters as he highlighted some of the big takeaways of his week-long visit to the UN and the city. He will head to Washington DC on Sunday for the second leg of his US visit.

Jaishankar said that at a time when normal diplomacy is not working that well, India has so many relationships, such an ability to communicate and find touch points with different countries and regions.

India is today “perceived very widely” as the voice of the global South, Jaishankar said adding that there is a huge crisis right now in the world economy where the cost of food and fuel, worry about fertilizers, the debt situation have created very deep anxieties for a lot of countries. “There is great frustration that these issues are not being heard. They are not being voiced. They are not going up the chain in the global councils,” he said adding that if there is anybody at all who is speaking up and voicing these sentiments, it is India and that New Delhi speaks for many of the developing nations.

“I am concluding this week with the sense that India really matters more in this polarised world and much of that is also due to the Prime Minister’s leadership, his image, what he has done on the global stage,” he said.

Jaishankar said that several people spoke to him about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s role in the UN climate conference COP26 held in Glasgow last year, and some of the recent regional gatherings. Jaishankar underlined that it is both the landscape as well as the leadership, which has created that sense of India mattering more.

Jaishankar met his global counterparts in bilateral as well as multilateral settings on the margins of the high-level session. He participated in group meetings, which included the Quad, Brics, IBSA, CELAC, CARICOM, NAM countries and the L69 group. He also participated in trilaterals with France, Australia, Indonesia and UAE. With India assuming the G20 presidency in December, the issue came up for discussion with many leaders including secretary general Antonio Guterres.

Jaishankar said he conveyed “very clearly” to all of them that “our endeavour would be to ensure that the G20 remains cohesive, remains focused.” Given that G20 historically has an agenda that is primarily fi-

nancial, economic, development and social, he said it was conveyed that “we would like it to keep to that.”

This was a subject which came up with many other foreign ministers of G20 and “there was appreciation of that as well.”

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-really-matters-more-in-this-polarised-world-external-affairs-minister-s-jaishankar/articleshow/94428034.cms>

Over Rs 58,000 crore in taxes lost due to illicit trade in FMCG, mobile, tobacco, alcohol industry: Ficci report



The Central government is estimated to have lost as much as Rs 58,521 crore in taxes in 2019-20 due to illicit trade in goods in 5 key industries.

A Ficci report, titled ‘Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests’ by FICCI’s Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE), has identified FMCG, mobile phone, tobacco products and alcohol as the most affected industries- with the size of illicit markets in these industries at a little over Rs 2.60 lakh crore for the year 2019-20.

The FMCG industry alone accounted for 75% of the total illicit value of goods in five key industries. Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages- two highly regulated industries - account for nearly 49% of the overall tax loss in these industries.

The maximum number of jobs (7.94 lakh) were lost due to illicit trade in the FMCG packaged foods industry, followed by tobacco industry (3.7 lakh), FMCG household and personal goods industry (2.989 lakh), alcoholic beverages industry (97,000), and mobile phone industry (35,000).

The tax loss to the government due to illicit trade in these five sectors stood at Rs 17,074 crore (FMCG packaged foods), Rs 15,262 crore (alcoholic beverages), Rs 13,331 crore (tobacco products), Rs 9,995 crore (FMCG household and personal goods), and Rs 2,859 crore (mobile phones).

“The impact of the illicit market of these key industries on the economy is pervasive and significant because of the backward linkages of these industries with other sectors of the economy resulting in a multiplier effect. Higher the multiplier, higher is its overall effect on the economy,” the report said.

Of the total illicit market size of Rs 2.60 lakh crore, FMCG industry (household and personal goods, packaged foods) constitute over Rs 1.97 lakh crore. This is followed by alcoholic beverages at Rs 23,466 crore, tobacco products (Rs 22,930 crore) and mobile phones (Rs 15,884 crore).

The report highlights that to deal with the menace of illicit markets in India, addressing the demand and supply gap of legitimate goods, strengthening the domestic manufacturing sector, increasing awareness among consumers, rationalisation of tariffs to reduce tax arbitrage, creation of a conducive environment for innovation and better international coordination and cooperation are some of the way forwards.

“Overall, cooperation of all stakeholders and concerted efforts of the government, industry, consumers, and international bodies are needed to achieve the challenging and mammoth task of reducing illicit markets,” it said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/over-rs-58000-crore-in-taxes-lost-due-to-illicit-trade-in-fmcg-mobile-tobacco-alcohol-industry-fici-report/articleshow/94373846.cms>

Government to set up separate export promotion council for medical devices

The government of India has decided to set up a separate Export Promotion Council (EPC) for Medical Devices, to boost exports of medical devices.

“Based on the detailed deliberations in the meetings held by the Department of Commerce (DoC) .. with regard to the creation of an EPC for Medical Devices, and the suggestions/responses received from stakeholders in the medical devices sector, approval of DoC, GoI is hereby conveyed to the setting up of



an EPC for Medical Devices,” an official memorandum issued by the government said.

The EPC will help exporters in promoting their products in international markets through various promotional activities including organising and participating in international trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, in line with the foreign trade policy of India. The Council may also organise awareness campaigns regarding the assistance available for the MSME exporters under various government schemes.

The EPC will be established with headquarters in YEIDA, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, with regional offices in AMTZ - Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad in Telangana.

The government said it will provide Rs 3 crore initial financial support, free office of around 5000 sqft area at the upcoming Medical Devices Park Common Facility Centre (CFC), Greater Noida and required secretarial staff. Till the completion of the CFC, YEIDA shall provide suitable office space in their current building. The regional office at AMTZ, Visakhapatnam will be set up by the end of 2023 and the Hyderabad one by end of 2025. The AMTZ and Telangana government will facilitate establishment of regional offices in their respective states.

The EPC for medical devices will be under the administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is a part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It will be administered by a committee of administration (CoA) that have both the nominated and elected members from the government and medical device industry.

India currently exported Rs 23,766 crore of medical devices in FY22, which was up from Rs 19,736 crore from previous year.

“This will help bring in coordinated inter ministerial policy measures for unleashing the huge export potential and investment potential of over Rs 80,000 crore for manufacturing medical devices for the global market in our quest to be one of top five preferred supplier base of medical devices,” said Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD).

The Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexil) has been a huge success in helping to boost the pharmaceutical exports of India to close to \$25 billion in FY22. □□

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/government-to-set-up-separate-export-promotion-council-for-medical-devices/articleshow/94358616.cms>

Swadeshi Activities Entrepreneurship Encouragement Conferences

(उद्यमिता प्रोत्साहन सम्मेलन)

Pictorial Glimpses



Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh



Indore, MP



Uttarakhand



Aravalli, Gujarat



Raipur, Chhattisgarh



Chitrakoot, MP



Kerala



Chittor, Rajasthan



Narasarao Pet, Andhra Pradesh



Rajgarh, MP

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