

NEWS ALERT

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AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTASAV

TRIBUNE, AUG 29, 2022

India poised to take lead in medical tourism

So far, in India, it was left to individual hospitals to market themselves. They would advertise the foreign qualifications of their doctors to attract patients. In the last few years, however, the government has taken steps to harness medical tourism. Since August 2019, foreigners can receive any treatment, except transplantation of organs, without a medical visa. Recently, a series of moves was initiated, such as streamlining Medical Value Travel and the plan to launch a 'Heal in India' project

Rakesh Kochhar

Ex-President, Indian Society of Gastroenterology As India celebrates the 75th year of its Independence, it is readying itself with a new slogan, 'Heal in India', to open its doors to the world for medical tourism. Medical tourism is a term used to describe the practice of travelling across international borders to seek healthcare services. There has been a sea change in medical tourism in the last four decades: from people travelling to the USA or Europe for heart surgery or cancer treatment to the current times when there is an increasing flow of patients from rich countries to developing ones.

The main reasons for seeking treatment overseas are cosmetic surgery (breast, liposuction), cardiology/cardiac surgery (bypass, stent placement), orthopaedic surgery (hip and knee replacement), bariatric surgery, fertility treatment, organ transplantation, dentistry and diagnostics. It is estimated that some 1.40 crore people travel to different countries for better medical treatment every year. In 2019, before Covid-19 struck, 6.97 lakh persons (seven per cent of the total international tourists) travelled to India on a medical visa. It is expected that these numbers will go up rapidly as international travel opens up. Actually, the pandemic has created more backlogs across the world for elective surgeries like joint replacement.

Different medical tourism destinations have acquired specialisations of sorts. Brazil is famous for cosmetic surgery, Mexico and Costa Rica for dentistry, Malaysia for dental and cosmetic surgery, Indonesia for health check-ups and Thailand for cosmetic and bariatric surgeries and wellness tourism. India has the unique distinction of the availability of all super-specialties, including organ transplantation. It also has a rich tradition of wellness centres and offers ayurveda, yoga etc. For patients from the developed nations, the main reason to go to developing countries is the low cost. For instance, a joint replacement can cost \$35,000-45,000 in the USA, \$20,000-25,000 in Israel and \$6,000-8,000 in India. A heart bypass would cost up to \$9,000 in India against \$10,000-12,000 in Thailand, \$11,000-12,000 in Singapore and \$45,000-50,000 in the USA. Then, there are patients seeking cosmetic surgery, fertility treatment and other treatments not covered by health insurance. Canada and the UK have long waiting lists for elective surgeries, forcing many to seek treatment elsewhere. Some patients, particularly those undergoing plastic surgery or sex change procedures, choose foreign destinations to ensure privacy.

The strength of India lies in the skills of our doctors, support staff and nurses and the state-of-the-art infrastructure which is comparable to the best in the world. Many doctors are trained abroad and language is not an issue. India has excellent diagnostic and imaging services, which too are available at one-tenth to one-fifth of the cost in the USA. India has over 35 hospitals accredited by the JCI (Joint Commission International). This tag ensures quality, safety standards and adherence to international norms. India was ranked 10th among the 46

nations on the Medical Tourism Index 2020-21, released by independent information provider MedicalTourism.com. Many countries are vying to have a greater share of the medical tourism pie. In Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and South Korea, the governments have facilitated medical tourism through initiatives like the Multi-agency Government- Industry Partnership (Singapore) and the National Committee for Promotion of Medical and Health Tourism (Malaysia). Germany and Hungary have broadened their ambit by including state and university hospitals into the game. There are examples of collaborations which transcend borders, like the Harvard Medical School, Dubai Center, and The Johns Hopkins Singapore International Medical Center.

So far, in India, it was left to individual hospitals to market themselves. They would advertise the foreign qualifications of their doctors to attract patients from abroad. In the last few years, however, the government has taken proactive steps to harness medical tourism. Since August 2019, foreigners can receive any treatment, except organ transplantation, without a medical visa. In the last few months, a series of strategic moves has been initiated, such as streamlining Medical Value Travel (MVT) and the plan to launch a “Heal in India” project globally to showcase India’s expertise in healthcare. The government has identified over 40 countries from where large numbers of people visit India for medical purposes. The Health Ministry, along with the National Health Authority, has developed a multi-lingual portal which is a one-stop shop for services provided by medical travel facilitators and hospitals. Ten airports with the maximum inflow of patients will offer services like facilitation desks and translators. Some other initiatives envisaged include health insurance portability by way of giving an extended insurance cover, development of medical enclaves for foreign patients and special wellness tourism zones and capacity-building. A nodal agency, the Medical Value Travel Council, co-chaired by the health and tourism ministries, has been formed to streamline the integration of all stakeholders. To complement these efforts, over 60 start-ups of medical facilitators have sprung up in key cities; they offer the choice of medical experts and hospitals. They also arrange for the patients’ travel, stay, visa, financial aid and, at times, translators, drivers, cooks and even house help.

STATESMAN, SEP2, 2022



Upliftment of poor and marginalised, goal of Centre: PM Modi

Addressing a public meeting at Nedumbassery near Kochi, organised by the BJP, prime minister Modi said “Azadai Ka Amritkaal” is to take resolve to make India a developed nation. PM Modi Kerala Visit: Prime minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said upliftment of the poor, Dalits, Adivasis and the marginalised is the goal of the Central government. The PM said that he along with the government is working towards providing fundamental facilities to the marginalised section of people in the country. Addressing a public meeting at Nedumbassery near Kochi, organised by the BJP, prime minister Modi said “Azadai Ka Amritkaal” is to take resolve to make India a developed nation. The PM emphasised that the people of Kerala have a decisive role to play in this endeavour. Stating that the Central government is working towards providing homes to the poor, he said under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, two lakh houses have been approved and more than 1.30 lakh houses have been completed in Kerala. The prime minister said that in BJP ruled states because of double engine governments development is taking place on the fast track, “If such a double –engine government comes to power in Kerala, it can also move towards fast track development,” PM Modi said. He said Central government is working for opening at least one medical college in every district and it will hugely benefit the youth of Kerala. To develop modern infrastructure, the Centre government is spending around Rs 1 lakh crore on multiple projects in Kerala, the PM further said. Later, prime minister Modi inaugurated the Kochi Metro’s 1.8 km Pettah-S. N. Junction extension (Phase 1-A) and also laid foundation stone for the metro’s 11.20 km Phase-2 corridor from JLN international stadium to Infopark in Kakkanad, online from CIAL trade fair and exhibition centre. Prime minister Modi will commission the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard Ltd in Kochi on Friday at 9.30 a.m

BANKING

ECONOMIC TIMES, AUG 31, 2022

Lending rates rise faster than deposit rates

GAYATRI NAYAK

Banks have been more swift in raising loan rates than deposit rates since the Reserve Bank started signaling higher rates in May.

Ever since the 140 bps hike in benchmark repo rates, weighted average lending rates on outstanding loans have risen 29 basis points, but weighted average rates on outstanding deposits has gone up by only 19 bps, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India. WALR on outstanding rupee loans increased by 8 bps from 8.93 to 9.01 per cent in July 2022. Among domestic banks, WALR on outstanding rupee loans of PSBs and PVBs increased by 5 bps and 10 bps, respectively, during July 2022. The weighted average domestic term deposit rate (WADTDR) for outstanding rupee term deposits of SCBs increased by 9 bps from 5.13 per cent in June 2022 to 5.22 per cent in July 2022. The WADTDR of PSBs rose by 10 bps from 5.17 per cent in June 2022 to 5.27 per cent in July 2022, whereas for PVBs, it rose by 5 bps from 5.25 per cent in June 2022 to 5.30 per cent in July 2022. One year median Marginal Cost of Fund based Lending Rate (MCLR) of commercial banks increased by 10 bps from 7.55 per cent in July 2022 to 7.65 per cent in August 2022. For PSBs, One year median MCLR increased from 7.55 per cent in July 2022 to 7.65 per cent in August 2022. In case of PVBs, it increased by 3 bps to 8.53 per cent during the month. On month-on-month basis, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans of SCBs increased by 24 basis points (bps- one bps is 0.01 per cent) from 7.94 per cent in June 2022 to 8.18 per cent in July 2022, according to the latest release by the Reserve Bank of India.

Amongst domestic banks, WALR on fresh rupee loans of public sector banks (PSBs) increased by 14 bps to 7.46 per cent in July 2022, while for private banks (PVBs), it increased by 15 bps to 9.05 per cent during the month.

CIVIL AVIATION

HINDUSTAN TIMES, AUG30, 2022

Will domestic flight tickets be cheaper from August 31?

In May 2020, the Centre had imposed lower and upper limits on domestic airfares after air travel resumed after the Covid-19 lockdown. The government had allowed 100 per cent capacity in October last year, but the pricing regulation continued.

Aryan Prakash

The Centre is set to remove the price caps from domestic airfares from August 31, thereby giving air carriers flexibility on passenger fares. Earlier this month, the civil aviation ministry had informed that the limits imposed on domestic airfares will be removed from August 31.

The ministry in an August 10 order had stated, "After review of the current status of scheduled domestic operations viz-a-viz passenger demand for air travel...it has been decided to remove the fare bands notified from time to time regarding the airfares with effect from August 31, 2022".

It means that since there are no price caps, the airlines can charge as per their policies. The air carriers may offer discounts on flight ticket prices to woo more customers. Earlier, the air carriers could not offer discounts because there were lower and upper price caps on the domestic airfares imposed by the government.

"The decision to remove air fare caps has been taken after careful analysis of daily demand and prices of air turbine fuel. Stabilisation has set in & we are certain that the sector is poised for growth in domestic traffic in the near future," civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had tweeted on August 10. The aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices have come down in the past few weeks after jumping to record levels due to the Ukraine war, [Mint](#) reported.

In May 2020, the Centre had imposed lower and upper limits on domestic airfares after air travel resumed after the Covid-19 lockdown. The government had allowed 100 per cent capacity in October last year, but the pricing regulation continued. The lower caps were meant for financially weaker airlines and the upper caps meant to protect passengers from exorbitant ticket prices.

CLIMATE CHANGE

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG 31, 2022

Climate crisis: India showing intent as problem solver, says Bhupender Yadav at G20 meet

“While India has not been a traditional contributor to global emissions, we are showing the intent in our actions to be a problem solver,” Union Environment Minister said.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday said India is showing intent as a problem solver despite not being a traditional contributor to global emissions. Addressing the opening ceremony of the G20 environmental and climate ministerial meeting in Bali, Indonesia, he also said the current pace and scale of climate finance from developed countries is not matching the global aspiration to combat climate change. “While India has not been a traditional contributor to global emissions, we are showing the intent in our actions to be a problem solver,” he said.

Yadav said the maximum impact of the climate crisis is being borne by the poorest countries and most vulnerable communities, which have contributed the least to the climate crisis and lack the technology and capacity and finance required to significantly alter the status quo. “However, the promise of climate finance remains a mirage. An added problem is the clubbing of development finance with climate finance,” he said. “In 2019, 70 percent of public climate finance was given out as loans instead of grants. In 2019-20, only six per cent of climate finance was in grants. This is pushing developing countries into more debt,” the minister said. “There is an urgent need to mobilise resources to stimulate the economy in a manner that makes it more resilient and sustainable. But the current pace and scale of climate finance from developed countries is not matching the global aspiration to combat climate change,” Yadav said.

CORRUPTION

PIONEER, AUG30,2022

Fix administration

The need of the hour is administrative reforms. Only that will prevent the erection of towers of corruption

The demolition of the Supertech Twin Towers at Noida in Uttar Pradesh was the result of a decade-long legal battle that the residents of Supertech Emerald Court housing society fought heroically. The Sunday demolition became a national event because it had all the ingredients of the grand narrative that we love: a David (Emerald Court residents) versus Goliath (a big, bad coloniser) fight, people's perseverance and tenacity trumping over a stinking builder-politician-bureaucratic nexus, the judiciary siding with and exposing the nexus, and of course the spectacle of the towers collapsing like a house of cards. Everyone in our country, from top politicians to the media to the man on the street, loves a good spectacle. It would, however, be unfortunate if the real issue—that of corruption involved in the realty business, indeed in the entire urbanisation process—gets lost in the spectacularity of the narrative. The general belief is that the fall of the towers which dominated the skyline in their vicinity will send a strong message to builders and officials; now they know that however powerful and influential they may be, their actions will, or at least can, have consequences. This is indeed a comforting belief which is also grounded in reality, but it should not cloud our vision about the magnitude of the problem. The demolition should be seen as a beginning, not the culmination, of people's struggle for justice and fairness.

Just as one swallow does not a spring make, a victory does not all nexuses break. At the heart of the problem is the very nature of the realty business and the dynamics involved: it involves maximum interface with the authorities at various levels, varying from the panchayats to state governments. These are the levels where administrative reforms are direly needed—and are sadly missing. Politicians don't seem to be interested in such reforms. Does any of them remember something called the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, headed by Congress leader M Veerappa Moily? It prepared as many as 15 reports, the last of which came out in April 2009. Nobody has heard about administrative reforms—or, for that matter, police and judicial reforms—since then. Our politicians refuse to realise the truth that without a proper administrative apparatus all their promises and programmes can come to naught. It says something about their obtuseness that neither the government nor the Opposition is bothered about administrative, judicial, and police reforms; they are happy with tokenism and emotive issues. At the time of Independence, the engine bequeathed by the British Raj was rickety; instead of repairing it, politicians have burdened it with a myriad other duties, including welfare measures. The denouement is the mess that is India. The need of the hour is a serious endeavour on the part of the entire political class to formulate and execute a slew of administrative reforms, to bring in structural changes. Only that will prevent the erection of more towers of corruption.

CRIME

STATESMAN, AUG30, 2022

Significant rise in crime against women, children in 2021: NCRB data

A total of 1,49,404 cases of crime against children were registered during 2021, showing an increase of 16.2 per cent over 2020 (1,28,531 cases).

Crime against women and children witnessed a significant rise in 2021 over the previous year. As per the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 4,28,278 cases of crime against women were registered during 2021, showing an increase of 15.3 per cent over 2020 (3,71,503 cases).

Majority of cases under crime against women under IPC were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (31.8 per cent) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (20.8 per cent), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (17.6 per cent) and 'Rape' (7.4 per cent). The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 64.5 in 2021 in comparison with 56.5 in 2020.

Similarly, a total of 1,49,404 cases of crime against children were registered during 2021, showing an increase of 16.2 per cent over 2020 (1,28,531 cases). In percentage terms, major crime heads under 'Crime Against Children' during 2020 were kidnapping and abduction (45 per cent) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (38.1 per cent) including child rape. The crime rate registered per lakh children population is 33.6 in 2021 in comparison with 28.9 in 2020.

The NCRB data said that overall, a total of 60,96,310 cognizable crimes comprising 36,63,360 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 24,32,950 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes were registered in 2021. It shows a decline of 5,04,975 (7.6 per cent) in registration of cases over 2020 (66,01,285 cases).

Crime rate registered per lakh population has declined from 487.8 in 2020 to 445.9 in 2021. During 2021, registration of cases under IPC has declined by 13.9 per cent whereas SLL crimes have increased by 3.7 per cent over 2020. Percentage share of IPC was 60.1 per cent while percentage share of SLL cases was 39.9 per cent of total cognizable crimes during 2021. As per the NCRB data, major decline was seen in the cases registered under disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant (Sec. 188 IPC) from 6,12,179 cases in 2020 to 3,22,115 cases in 2021 and under 'Other IPC Crimes' from 10,62,399 cases in 2020 to 4,96,535 cases in 2021.

DEMOCRACY

TELEGRAPH, SEP1, 2022

Conflicting visions

Two imaginations of Indian democracy



[Hilal Ahmed](#)

The official celebration of Indian democracy, especially this year, seems to revolve around a simple, plain, and straightforward narrative of an ongoing success. The phrase, *world's largest democracy*, which emerged in the 1990s, is gradually being replaced by a new and more powerful expression, *mother of democracy*. Indian culture and values are described as *ideal* preconditions for democracy to survive.

Narendra Modi also highlighted this fact in his Independence Day speech this year. He said: "The world was not cognizant that India has an inherent potential of strong culture and values, a bond of thoughts deeply embedded in mind and soul; and that is — India is Mother of democracy. And when those who have democracy pulsating in their minds walk with determination and resolve, it augurs doom for the most powerful sultanates of the world. This Mother of Democracy, our India has proven to all that we have this invaluable strength."

This official interpretation gives us an impression that democracy is an *end in itself* — an ideal that has to be cherished for its own sake. Although Modi also talks about the

responsibility of a democracy to get rid of the political evils, such as *dynasty* and *nepotism*, the idea of democracy in his framework is not envisaged as any kind of political instrument.

The portrayal of Indian democracy as an end in itself is a relatively new phenomenon. It is true that the success of electoral politics was always highlighted by the State to underline the distinctiveness of the Indian political experiences. Yet, it was only in the early 1990s when the political class began to celebrate India's democracy as an end in itself.

It is worth noting that democracy as a form of government was characterised very differently in the early decades after the Independence. It was seen as an *instrument* to realise a few big ideals: socialistic pattern of society, socialism, nation-building and so on.

The ongoing celebration of Indian democracy this year as *amrit kaal* gives us a perfect opportunity to pay close attention to these two different — even contradictory — official imaginations of democracy: *democracy as an instrument* to achieve an ideal or a goal and *democracy as an end in itself*.

The term, 'democracy', is officially used to describe at least four features of the Indian political system: the supremacy of the written Constitution; an institutional set-up based on the principle of separation of powers; free, fair and regular elections as an operative mechanism; and, finally, a commitment to have welfarism as a policy.

There is a remarkable consistency in adhering to these features in the official discourse of the State, especially in the domain of public policy. However, their meanings and interpretations are always determined contextually.

We must remember that Indian nationalism (especially the dominant manifestations of it) was not merely anticolonial in nature. There was also an enthusiasm to produce new, constructive and, in a way, futuristic imaginations of an ideal Indian society and State: the *ideas of India*.

Democracy, as expected, was seen as an instrument to achieve these imaginations. The Constituent Assembly was clearly a site where these futuristic resolves were discussed and debated to produce a workable institutional apparatus.

Jawaharlal Nehru, who had always been interested in offering explanatory templates to his political actions, gave a persuasive thesis: the socialistic pattern of society. For Nehru, the *socialistic pattern of society* was an India-specific resolve to have a very specific kind of welfare State.

In his 1954 speech, Nehru clarified that the welfare State in India should not ignore the importance of wealth generation. Democracy, in this schema, was seen as a tool for achieving a greater degree of political participation as well as the distribution of wealth.

It is true that Nehru's ideas became the basis of the official discourse on planning. It does not, however, mean that the successive Congress regimes continued to follow the socialistic pattern of society thesis as the ultimate official goal.

The Emergency regime of Indira Gandhi (1975-77) is very relevant in this regard. Indira Gandhi justified the Emergency for achieving a few crucial objectives: national security, economic development, and the upliftment of the poor and the marginalised groups.

Interestingly, she did not deviate from the established official imagination of democracy. She envisaged democracy as a reliable instrument for effective political action despite the fact that individual liberties and fundamental rights of citizens were clearly violated during the Emergency.

The opponents of Indira Gandhi, especially socialists like Jayaprakash Narayan, offered an equally fascinating imagination of democracy. JP, who wrote a powerful critique of the Indian political system in 1959 in his book, *A Plea for Reconstruction of Indian Polity*, also recognised democracy as a method to have *Total Revolution*.

Democracy as an instrument for social change thesis started declining in the 1980s. This process began during the time of the Rajiv Gandhi regime. The subsequent coalition governments led by V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar did not show any interest in propagating big ideals. By that time, the secular-communalism binary began to offer a new language of professional politics.

The 1990s was a watershed moment. In order to expediate the process of economic liberalisation and globalisation, the State began to redefine its political role. Any direct intervention by the government in the sphere of economy was seen as a structural constraint. The assumption that an unrestricted market would eventually facilitate growth and development was strongly propagated by the government as an uncontested economic truth.

This new, market-friendly political consensus, however, posed a serious challenge for the political class. The role of the State as a *mediator* between the open market and the citizens was to be legitimised; on the other hand, there was a need to redefine the idea of welfarism. These challenges actually paved the way for a new official imagination of democracy.

The political class started worshipping the Constitution as a distinct and self-explanatory text. Even the *Hindutva* forces, which have always been uncomfortable with certain provisions of the Constitution, began to treat it as a sacred document. Parliament and judiciary were recognised as symbols of institutional durability, while the overwhelming and ever-increasing participation of people in elections was shown as evidence of the success of the Indian political system. Finally, and most importantly, sectoral welfarism — addressing social groups such as women, *adivasis*, Dalits, Muslims and the other backward classes as distinct stakeholders — was adopted to refashion a new discourse of *social inclusion*. In other words, a successful attempt was made to establish the fact that democracy is an end in itself.

The contemporary moment of Indian democracy underlines an interesting conflict between these two official imaginations. The political parties envisage themselves as professional entities like firms. They treat citizens as *political consumers* in the open market space of elections. This established framework of politics goes well with the democracy is an end in itself thesis. However, the ever-increasing economic and social disparities pose a different challenge. The aspiration of marginalised communities cannot be satisfied entirely by offering a few attractive packages or by aggressive political marketing. This leads to an elusive search for new political ideas and imaginations.

Unfortunately, the political class in India has failed to produce such ideals — the new and futuristic ideas of India.

Hilal Ahmed is Associate Professor, CSDS, New Delhi

ECONOMY

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP1, 2022

India's Q1 GDP grows at 13.5 percent, lags estimates

India's economy grew at the fastest pace in a year from April-June quarter, as a favourable base effect and improved activities following the relaxation of pandemic-led restrictions outweighed the rippling effects of geopolitical and global concerns.

Asia's third-largest economy posted double-digit growth of 13.5 percent in the fiscal first quarter, lagging the 15.2 percent estimate by Reuters and sharply higher than the 4.1 percent growth rate in the preceding quarter. A rebound in private consumption - one of the key factors for the economy - and growth in contact-intensive sectors amid declining Covid-19 fears aided economic momentum in the first quarter. Moreover, a severe coronavirus Delta wave in the comparable year-earlier period had impeded growth as consumption demand slackened with state-enforced movement restrictions.

India's economy grew 20.1 percent in the first quarter of last fiscal year, but the growth reading was magnified due to the economic contraction of 23.8 percent in Q1 FY21 owing to the colossal impact of the outbreak of the pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns that shuttered businesses and even rendered millions jobless. "The GDP in the first quarter has recorded growth of 3.8% when compared to the pre-pandemic period of Q1 FY20 and is lower than our expectations," said Rajani Sinha, the chief economist at CareEdge.

However, Aurodeep Nandi, India economist and vice president at Nomura, said even if the low base is discounted, the GDP reading marks a stellar rise in sequential momentum. "This marks a confluence of tailwinds, such as the catch-up in contact-intensive services, public capex push, and lagged impact of easy financial conditions. Looking forward though, some of these will be replaced as headwinds, as deteriorating global growth prospects, higher inflation impacting consumption, and gradually tightening financial conditions eventually start to impact the pace of growth momentum as the year progresses," he said.

Finance Secretary T. V. Somanthan said today's readings show that India's real GDP was at Rs. 36.85 lakh crore. "This is highest ever GDP definitely, significantly above pre-pandemic level. We have crossed the pre-pandemic level in real terms by about 4%. This performance augurs well for the economy," he said.

The first-quarter growth print for India is in contrast to China barely avoiding a contraction in the same period as the larger neighbour's strict zero-Covid policy locked down several places of key manufacturing and tech hubs. India's manufacturing sector grew 4.8 percent, while the construction sector posted a 16.8 percent, data released by the ministry of statistics showed on Wednesday. Private consumption witnessed a growth of nearly 26 percent.

Q1FY23 GDP REVIEW

Sectoral Breakdown

SECTORS	Q1FY23	Q1FY22
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4.5%	2.2%
Mining & Quarrying	6.5%	18.0%
Manufacturing	4.8%	49.0%
Elec, Gas, Water & others	14.7%	13.8%
Construction	16.8%	71.3%
Trade, Hotels, Trans, etc	25.7%	34.3%
Fin, Realty & Prof services	9.2%	2.3%
Public admin., Def & others	26.3%	6.2%
GVA at basic price	12.7%	18.1%

At constant prices

Source: MOSPI



"Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of ₹ 36.85 lakh crore, as against ₹ 32.46 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 13.5 percent as compared to 20.1 percent in Q1 2021-22," stated the press release. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had estimated a 16.2 percent growth for the first quarter and 7.2 percent for the fiscal year.

Softening of crude and edible oil prices following excise duty cuts and other fiscal-side measures also provided much-needed support to the economy. Businesses also ramped up capacity as domestic demand recovered, which indicated a nascent recovery in the economy.

The double-digit growth reading also comes at a time when India's Monetary Policy Committee has initiated the rate-hike cycle and has already lifted rates by 140 basis points

since May, including a 50 bps hike earlier this month to tame inflation. The rate-setting panel members also warned about the impact of a global slowdown on domestic growth prospects, while it calibrates withdrawal of the monetary accommodation that was brought in following the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. The central bank is expected to further raise the repo rate, but some industry experts believe the rate hikes may hit consumption, and thus growth, with demand already under pressure. Going ahead, the economy may also face downward risks, as tighter monetary conditions and higher input costs impact companies' investment plans.

"Going forward, with the global headwinds, India's external sector would face a challenging time. It will be critical for domestic consumption and Investment to gather momentum. The consumption demand revival has been uneven so far with weak rural demand. While lowering of inflation will provide support to overall consumption spending, uneven monsoon will play a spoiler for rural demand," CareEdge's Sinha said.

The finance secretary said India remains on course to achieve real GDP growth of 7-7.5% in this fiscal year. "Today's data is consistent with this projection," he said.

BUSINESSLINE, SEP 2, 2022

Recovery, WIP

Growth continues to be nebulous and will need continued policy support

It is perhaps a little premature to celebrate the 13.5 per cent growth in the real GDP for the first quarter of current fiscal. A large part of the growth is contributed by favourable base effect, since the corresponding quarter of FY22 witnessed impaired economic activity due to the second wave of Covid-19. Despite this favourable base, the growth in the first quarter of this fiscal year is below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) estimate of 16.8 per cent and the consensus estimate of 15 per cent. The large increase in the GDP deflator is of particular concern as it shows that the input costs for producers is surging at an alarming rate. The below-expectation growth as well as the sequential contraction in real GDP imply that higher input prices, weak global conditions and the RBI policy rate hikes are beginning to take a toll on growth. Rating agencies and economists are beginning to revise their growth forecasts lower and the RBI may also follow suit. On the expenditure side, the revival in private consumption in the June 2022 quarter at 25 per cent shows that demand is picking up. This seems to be driven by growth in services sector, robust payroll additions and pay hikes in the urban areas. Higher purchasing power and increasing propensity among urban population to spend is reflected in high-frequency data on consumer goods production, passenger vehicles sales and air-travel. Growth in government consumption expenditure reduced slightly with the Centre reducing some of the unnecessary spends. The rise in gross fixed capital formation continued to play a large part in driving growth with an increase of 20 per cent. The Centre has been leading in capex spends going by data on progress of States' projects. Global uncertainties and the resulting rise in commodity prices are however casting a cloud on future growth. Net imports have surged, accounting for 31 per cent of GDP in June 2022 quarter, up from 25.7 per cent in the June 2021 quarter. Viewed from the production side, services including financial and real estate grew at a healthy rate of 9.2 per cent in Q1 of FY23 with ebbing of the pandemic reviving the demand for these services. Utilities and construction also showed signs of revival. But manufacturing grew at a much lower rate compared to last year. This is probably due to the pressure on companies due to higher input costs and supply disruptions. On the whole, signals emerging from incoming data are mixed implying that the

growth is nebulous and should not be taken for granted. While urban consumption is gaining traction,

RBI's policy rate hikes will moderate leveraged purchases of discretionary goods going forward. Rural consumption can also be impacted due to delayed monsoons and lower area under sowing in kharif season. While higher capacity utilisation and increase in capital goods production augur well for private capex revival, investments are still below pre-pandemic levels. The global uncertainties caused by slowdown in China, continued geopolitical tension in Europe and aggressive monetary tightening by global central banks are going to continue causing supply disruptions and increase in global commodity prices. The RBI needs to take into account the lesser-than-expected growth when the Monetary Policy Committee sits down to frame policy in October. The already delicate balance between controlling price increases and supporting growth has turned tricky now.

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP4, 2022

FM Nirmala Sitharaman bullish on double-digit GDP growth

Hoping for a double-digit growth in GDP in this financial year, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the nation is on a strong wicket when compared to others, and is responsive in terms of extending hand-holding to the required sections.

Speaking to media persons here, she quoted reports saying the country has zero per cent chance of slipping into recession.

"I hope for (double-digit growth). We will work for it... So if you're not on the verge of recession, it also gives me the confidence that if you are constantly responsive in terms of the sections which need hand-holding, in terms of the boost that we have to give to the economy..." she said when asked if she expects double-digit growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) for the year. Recent figures released by the Centre indicated that the nation clocked 13.5 per cent growth in GDP in the first quarter of the current financial year. It was 20.1 per cent a year ago.

Sitharaman further said some may argue that the high growth rate is because of the low base. "Compared to economies we are talking about, we are on a sound wicket. We are literally the fastest growing economy," she said.

Referring to the World Bank and IMF reports, the Union minister said she was also taking into consideration the fact that economies which were far more developed than India and comparable with the country, are on the verge of recession. To another query on freebies, she said everybody should participate in the debate on the issue.

"We should become a party to the discussion. Because if you are giving something free means somebody is paying for it," Sitharaman said. She suggested that any government after coming to power must assess its financial situation in terms of tax revenues and others, and make provisions before offering freebies.

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP4, 2022

India surpasses UK to become world's fifth biggest economy

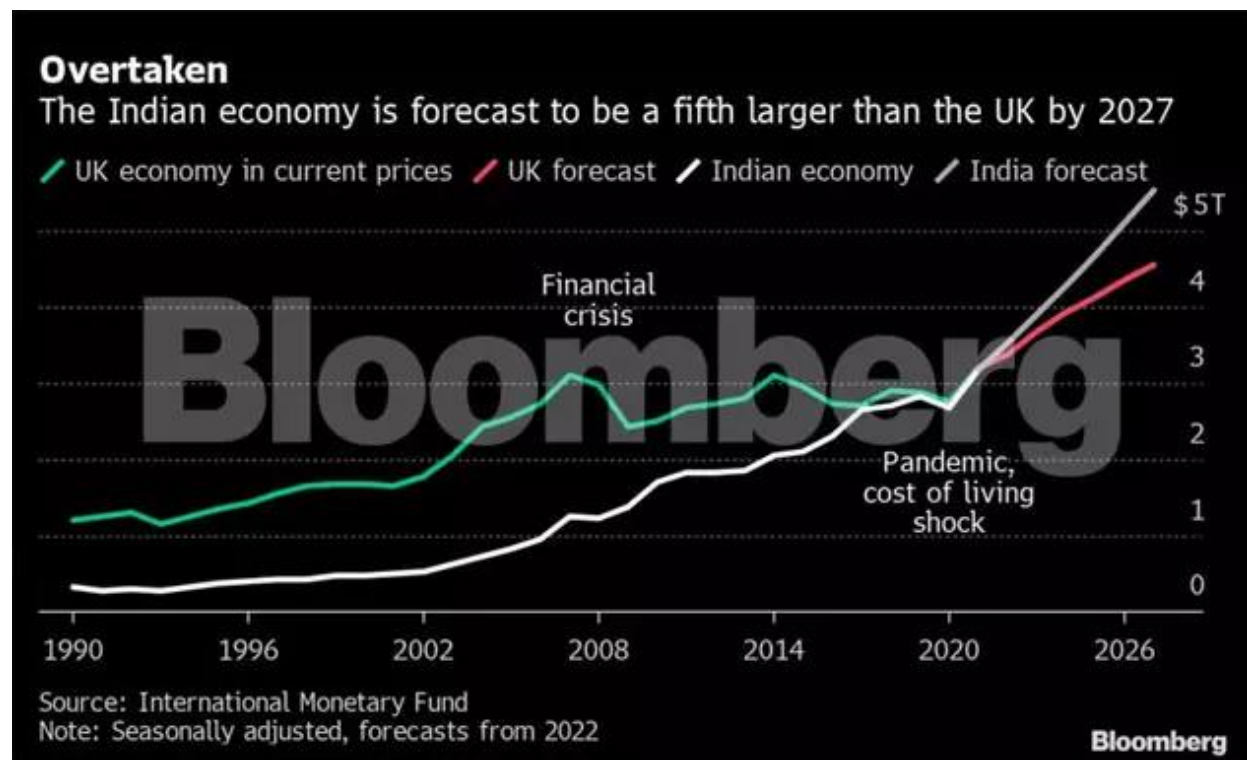
Philip Aldrick & David Goodman

Britain has dropped behind India to become the world's sixth largest economy, delivering a further blow to the government in London as it grapples with a brutal cost-of-living shock.

The former British colony leaped past the UK in the final three months of 2021 to become the fifth-biggest economy. The calculation is based in US dollars, and India extended its lead in the first quarter, according to GDP figures from the International Monetary Fund.

The UK's decline down the international rankings is an unwelcome backdrop for the new prime minister. Conservative Party members choose Boris Johnson's successor on Monday, with Foreign Secretary Liz Truss expected to beat former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak in the run-off. The winner will take over a nation facing the fastest inflation in four decades and rising risks of a recession that the Bank of England says may last well into 2024.

By contrast, the Indian economy is forecast to grow more than 7% this year. A world-beating rebound in Indian stocks this quarter has just seen their weighting rise to the second spot in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, trailing only China's.



On an adjusted basis and using the dollar exchange rate on the last day of the relevant quarter, the size of the Indian economy in “nominal” cash terms in the quarter through March was \$854.7 billion. On the same basis, UK was \$816 billion.

The calculations were done using the IMF database and historic exchange rates on the Bloomberg terminal.

The UK is likely to have fallen further since. UK GDP grew just 1% in cash terms in the second quarter and, after adjusting for inflation, shrank 0.1%. Sterling has also underperformed the dollar relative to the rupee, with the pound falling 8% against the Indian currency this year. The IMF's own forecasts show India overtaking the UK in dollar terms on an annual basis this year, putting the Asian powerhouse behind just the US, China, Japan and Germany. A decade ago, India ranked 11th among the largest economies, while the UK was 5th.

EDUCATION

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG 31, 2022

Govt proposes a new regulator for ‘uniformity’ in all board exams

The proposed regulator, PARAKH, will also be tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.

Sourav Roy Barman

THE UNION government plans to draw up a “benchmark framework” to assess students at the secondary and higher secondary level to bring about “uniformity” across state and central boards which currently follow different standards of evaluation, leading to wide disparities in scores. Over the last few months, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has held a series of meetings with the representatives of state boards and State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) to arrive at a common understanding to implement the plan, as part of which a new assessment regulator is being set up. The proposed regulator, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), which will act as a constituent unit of the NCERT, will also be tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys. The benchmark assessment framework will seek to put an end to the emphasis on rote learning, as envisaged by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

PARAKH, the proposed implementing agency, is also part of the NEP proposal. It is learnt that during the discussions, most states endorsed the NEP proposal to hold board exams twice a year, including one for helping students improve their scores. States are also on board regarding a proposal to offer two types of papers on mathematics — a standard exam, and another to test higher level competency. “It will help reduce the fear of maths among students and encourage learning. We also used the meetings as a sounding board on the NEP proposals to have two sets of question papers for most subjects – one with MCQs (multiple choice questions), and the other descriptive. The response was encouraging,” said a Ministry of Education official. Earlier this month, the Centre invited bids to establish PARAKH, which it said, will be “setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards of India, encouraging and helping school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21st century”.

The ministry official said PARAKH will help tackle the problem of students of some state boards being at a disadvantage during college admissions as compared to their peers in CBSE schools. It will develop and implement “technical standards for the design, conduct, analysis and reporting” of tests at all levels of school education. The Expression of Interest (EOI) floated by the Centre also spells out that PARAKH will undertake the sample-based NAS, guide the State Achievement Surveys and monitor achievement of learning outcomes in the country. If the plans are on track, the NAS in 2024 will be conducted by PARAKH. “Its (PARAKH) team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally. PARAKH will eventually become the national single-window source for all assessment related information and expertise, with a mandate to support learning assessment in all forms, both nationally and where applicable, internationally,” states the EOI.

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG 31, 2022

Offshore IIT campuses might be called ‘Indian International Institute of Technology’; faculty to be deputed The Centre had earlier this year set up a 17-member committee headed by IIT Council standing committee chairperson Dr K Radhakrishnan.

The offshore campuses of IITs may be named as “India International Institute of Technology” and faculty members from the prestigious technology institutes here may be sent on deputation abroad, according to sources. While the IITs abroad may be free to decide the student strength, the percentage of Indian students in those institutes will have to be less than 20 per cent, they said.

“A committee set up by the Centre for the global expansion of IITs has submitted its recommendations. It has been suggested that the ownership of starting an IIT abroad should rest with the particular higher educational institute (HEI). The new institutes could be called ‘Indian International Institute of Technology at xxxx (location),’ a source told PTI. “There should be a provision to depute faculty from an existing IIT to an institute abroad. This is particularly important in formative years of the new institute as it may gain substantially from experience of the faculty here,” the source added. Several IITs have been receiving requests from the Middle East and South Asian countries to set up their campuses. While IIT Delhi is considering setting up a campus in UAE, IIT Madras is exploring options in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Tanzania. This is the second time that IIT Delhi is trying to expand overseas. It had earlier attempted to set up an “International Institute of Technology Research Academy” in Mauritius and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mauritius Research Council. But in 2014, objections were raised by the then Human Resources Development Minister Smriti Irani and the project was shelved. The Centre had earlier this year set up a 17-member committee headed by IIT Council standing committee chairperson Dr K Radhakrishnan. The panel has recommended creating a generic system like IIT, NIT or IISER, under which a series of institutes can be established as the current IIT Act does not provision for setting up an IIT outside the country. Explaining the rationale behind the suggested name, sources said the name is sufficiently close to IIT with “international” added to clarify that the institute is located outside India. “The difference in name with sufficient similarity will allow the newly established IITs to evolve their own identity and ethos, while drawing up the strength of existing IITs. The offshore campus should be a distinct legal entity mentored by an Indian institute having its own identity and ethos,” the source said.

“The panel has recommended that there could be more than one model of establishing the institute depending on the specific location such as campuses by individual IITs, a group of IITs and HEIs, individual or group of IITs in collaboration with a reputed host university. “For example, in UK, collaboration with a reputed host university will be preferred. However, this collaboration has to be entered with care so that the expectations and responsibilities of participating IITs are aligned with those of the host university,” the source said. The IITs abroad may follow the semester system and the start and end dates of semesters may be tuned in line with the academic calendar. “The number of students in a given programme should be such that the course is economically viable. The exact number, however, may be left to the institute to decide. While these institutes should cater to local student population which could be Indian diaspora but the panel has recommended that the percentage of Indian students in these institutions should be less than 20 per cent,” the source said.

TRIBUNE, SEP 4, 2022

Need to make education institutes future-ready, says President Droupadi Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu today called the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) pride of the nation as they had proved to the world the capability of India in the domains of education and technology. “In more than one way, the story of the IITs is the story of an independent India,” said Murmu while addressing the closing ceremony of the diamond jubilee celebrations of IIT-Delhi. Stressing the need for making educational institutions future ready, she said, “If the country takes steps to protect itself from vagaries of the future, it can reap rich demographic dividends.” Praising their contribution to India’s improved standing on the global stage, the President said faculty and alumni of IITs had shown the world India’s brainpower. “Some of those who studied in IIT-Delhi and in other IITs are now at the forefront of the digital revolution sweeping the world. Moreover, the impact of the IITs has gone beyond science and technology. IITians are leaders in every walk of life —education, industry, entrepreneurship, civil society, activism, journalism, literature and politics,” she said.

TELEGRAPH, SEP4, 2022

UGC proposes transforming of higher education institutions to multidisciplinary institutions

UGC releases guidelines for transforming higher educational institutions (HEIs) into multidisciplinary institutions



As per the recommendations of NEP 2022, higher education institutions will be recognised under three categories- Teaching-intensive Universities, Research-intensive Universities and Degree-awarding Autonomous Universities .The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released guidelines for transforming higher educational institutions (HEIs) into multidisciplinary institutions, paving way for diverse education. As per the recommendations

of the National Education Policy (NEP), higher education institutions will be recognised under three categories which are Teaching-intensive Universities, Research-intensive Universities and Degree-awarding Autonomous Universities.

UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar had earlier stated that all the affiliated autonomous colleges in India, which totals up to 2035 colleges, must become autonomous degree-awarding institutes. To make this implementation, the Draft Guidelines for Transformation of Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions states, "The affiliated colleges need to achieve the degree-awarding status by passing through different stages of autonomy or by completing the process of becoming part of the cluster to become a large multi-disciplinary HEI. When an HEI becomes a constituent college of the large university it may collaborate with other constituent colleges of the university or open new departments to achieve the status of multidisciplinary HEI."

The draft also states "mobility of credits between institutions" as one of the features of a multidisciplinary institute. It refers to the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) as a platform that "shall provide the facility and functionality for a student to open an academic account and to get onboard of eligible HEIs" and directs that all HEIs will have to register in the ABC to enable this. Opening up avenues for online education is also mentioned as a key feature of an HEI that offers multidisciplinary education and suggests that the Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) portal of the Ministry of Education can help universities provide a series of online courses for SWAYAM.

"In light of NEP 2020, it is essential to capitalise on the proximity of HEIs in offering multidisciplinary programmes," the guidelines state. Recommendation for collaboration of institutes with each other in order to curate programmes that enhance the nature of degree and education being offered has also been proposed. In light of these recommendations, the draft guidelines make it compulsory for the institutions to approve the NEP-proposed dual degree programme.

To counter poor enrollment rates and lack of resources, the guidelines recommend that colleges form a 'cluster' unit to share resources and offer courses and programmes across the domain for the students. This cluster unit of colleges can then shift to becoming a single autonomous unit of degree-awarding colleges. The guidelines also state that a cluster of government colleges will work under a Board of Governors, whose Chairman will be appointed by the state government. The course tuition fee charged for the courses will be as per the respective institution, offering the course.

FOREIGN TRADE

ECONOMIC TIMES, AUG 31, 2022

Customs to start uniform risk-based scrutiny of imported goods in phases from Sep 5

The Customs department will begin a standardised risk-based faceless assessment system across the country for clearance of imported consignments in phases starting with metal from September 5. This would promote ease of doing business as it would bring uniformity in Customs examination, and reduce the time taken for clearing consignments. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in a circular to field offices said the National Customs Targeting Centre (NCTC) has developed system generated centralized examination orders for Bills of Entry (BoE), based on various parameters, and this will be rolled out in phases. This risk-based scrutiny would be meant for 'Second Check Bill of Entry', under which imported goods do not have to mandatorily go through physical examination. Customs officers do assessment of the imported goods on the basis of the documents submitted to the authorities. A BoE is filed by importers or their agents to the Customs department before the arrival of imported goods.

The CBIC said Risk Management System (RMS)-generated uniform examination order across all Customs stations will be implemented for 'Second Check Bill of Entry' in a phased manner, starting with one group of commodities and will thereafter be extended to all other goods incrementally, by adopting a modular approach. It has been decided that the (standardised Customs examination) procedure will come into effect for goods covered under Assessment Group 4 (dealing with metals) in all the Customs Stations from the 5th of September, 2022," said the CBIC circular dated August 29. This functionality is expected to enhance the uniformity in examination, and reduce the time taken in the process as well as cut associated costs, it added. EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said issuance of procedures in the form of standard check criteria by scrutinizing the BoE through RMS would help meet the ultimate objective of faceless assessment under customs. "This will result in lesser human intervention, faster customs clearance, added accountability for customs administration and also enhance ease of doing business," Agarwal said.

GOVERNANCE

PIB AUG 29, 2022

Government is laser focused on achieving target of 300 billion USD electronic production by 2026: MoS Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Large scale exports and deepening the ecosystem vital to higher Domestic Value Addition in Electronics Sector: ICRIER report

Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, launched a report titled as 'Globalise to Localise: Exporting at Scale and Deepening the Ecosystem are Vital to Higher Domestic Value Addition' here today. The report prepared by India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), in collaboration with India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) explores how India can achieve electronics production target of US\$300 billion and exports of US\$120 by 2025-26.

Addressing the event, Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "The Government is laser focused on achieving the target of 300 billion USD electronic production by 2026. And for this, we have always emphasised on strengthening our domestic manufacturing ecosystem to make India more resilient to supply chain disruptions. Our aim is to emerge as a reliable and trusted partner in Global value chains."

Launching the report, he said that it is very timely and will help the Government identify the challenges that are to be met and the strategies that are to be adopted to achieve this target.

The Minister said that India has succeeded in systematically building a framework and a strategy that has clearly outlined our goals of a 300 bn electronics manufacturing ecosystem with a 120 bn dollars of exports by 2026. Talking about the journey of Electronics sector in India in last some years, the Minister said that electronics in India has travelled a long way since 2014. We were, in 2014, a country that was increasingly dependent not just on petroleum imports but also on Electronics imports. Systematically Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi over the years has built back an electronics sector. Today we are, as a consequence of policies of government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a 76 bn dollar manufacturing economy with 16 bn dollar of exports, with a target of 21 to 25 bn dollars of exports in next year. But most importantly by 2026, we have clearly laid out goal of 300 bn dollar manufacturing with a 120 bn dollar of exports. That strategy talks about broadening and deepening of the electronics ecosystem. This report by ICRIA, the Minister said, is a very important and interesting element that describes what our strategy will be for next few years.

Highlighting the shift in global value chains in recent years, Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that post-COVID the value chains of electronics are undergoing deep tectonic irreversible changes. It presents to India, the current momentum and opportunity which is explained by the 120 bn dollars export target that India has for 2026. Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar further added that this report postulates that we must export aggressively to reach the scale in electronics manufacturing. In addition to domestic production, and supplies and domestic consumption, the exports are important way to get the scales of the other economies that are

competing with us. Exports will create a network effect of creating the supply chain interests, and supply chain investments that in turn will increase the value addition in the Indian electronics segment.

The report, **Globalise to Localise**, launched today, examines the empirical relationship between exports and the share of domestic value addition in successful exporting nations. It finds that the two variables are negatively correlated in the short-run, but exhibit positive correlation in the medium-term.

"Our study finds that China and Vietnam have adopted the mantra of 'first globalise, then localise', which means in the initial years they were determined to achieve global scale in exports, and then shifted their emphasis to greater use of local contents," said Dr. Deepak Mishra, Director and CE of ICRIER and the lead author of the report.

The report, therefore, recommends a sequential approach that can put India's exports in the same trajectory as China and Vietnam. The immediate goal should be to export at scale to global markets (globalise), and the subsequent objective should be to increase the share of local content (localise). The report suggests several steps and policies needed for deepening the broader electronics ecosystem within India. Additionally, policies such as Gati Shakti will also help increase India's competitiveness.

Echoing the findings of the report, Mr. Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of ICEA said "We have resurrected this industry after near total collapse in 2014. As a first step, we used PMP to build a USD 36 bn mobile industry. We are now pushing for global exports via PLI and a total production of USD 300 bn. With exports as our key focus, we are working on policies that will increase domestic value addition over the next few years. The world is looking to us for delivering on our potential!"

According to ICEA, early results of the PLI Scheme are beginning to show. India's electronics exports crossed USD 16 bn in FY 2021-22. Electronics as a sector has jumped to the 6th largest export from India this year. Mobile phones constitute the single largest component of electronics exports from India. They are expected to contribute nearly 50 percent of the total electronics exports by next year.

The report points to an urgent need for India to create a competitive domestic ecosystem of ancillary suppliers through technology upgradation programmes, holding sourcing fairs and introducing supporting industry development programmes.

About ICRIER:

ICRIER is an autonomous economic policy think tank, in operation since 1981. ICRIER's goal is to help Indian policymakers make informed decisions, facilitated through its rigorous analytical research, objective policy advice and extensive networking events. For more information, see <http://icrier.org/>

About ICEA:

ICEA is the apex industry body for the mobile and electronics industry comprising manufacturers, brand owners, technology providers, VAS application & solution providers, distributors, and retail chains of mobile handsets and electronics. ICEA is committed to carrying forward its vision of building Indian manufacturing and design in verticals other than mobile handsets while consolidating the gains made in the mobile handset and components industry. ICEA is entirely devoted to improving the competitiveness and growth of the industry by closely working with the Government's ministries to create a robust, legal, and ethical electronics industry, thereby creating an innovative market environment in the country.

PIB AUG29, 2022

Notification issued for greater facilitation of citizens in the issue of International Driving Permit (IDP) across the country

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification on 26 August 2022 for greater facilitation of citizens in the issue of International Driving Permit (IDP) across the country.

India, being a signatory to Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949 (Geneva Convention), is required to issue IDP as provided under this Convention, for the acceptance of the same on reciprocal basis with other countries.

Currently, the format, size, pattern, colour etc. of the IDP being issued was differing across States in India. Due to this, many citizens were facing difficulties with their respective IDP in foreign countries.

Now, through this amendment, the format, size, colour etc. for IDP has been standardized for issuance across India, and in adherence to the Geneva Convention. Provision for QR code to link the IDP with the Driving License has also been made. A comparison of vehicle categories across various Conventions and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 has also been added for facilitation of regulatory authorities. Helpline numbers and email have also been provided.

PIB AUG 30, 2022

EAC-PM Releases the Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100

The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) today. The roadmap, which is a part of the India Competitiveness Initiative, was released in the presence of Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC- PM, Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, EAC-PM, and the members of the Stakeholders Group formed as part of the initiative. The roadmap is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness and is developed by Dr Amit Kapoor, Chair, Institute for Competitiveness, Professor Michael E. Porter and Dr Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School. It envisions setting new guiding principles for the country's growth journey over the following years and guiding different states, ministries and partners in India's growth to develop sector-specific roadmaps for achieving targeted goals.

The Competitiveness roadmap for India@100 is based on the Competitiveness framework developed by Professor Michael E. Porter. The Competitiveness approach puts forth the idea of productivity as a driver of sustained prosperity. It emphasizes the context that a nation is able to provide firms to be more productive and for individuals to be able to partake in the value generated through their productivity. Based on this approach, the India@100 roadmap guides the way for India to become a high-income country by 2047 through sector-specific and region-specific policies based on the '4 S' principles. The roadmap sets out to give new guiding principles that are based on clearly defined overall goals and the articulation of a new development approach embedded in integrating social and economic agendas. The '4 S' guiding principles redefine our approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth to be matched by social progress, to be shared across all regions within India, to be environmentally sustainable, and to be solid in the face of external shocks. By capturing these four important aspects, the '4 S' guiding principles pave the way for resilient and holistic development.

In his message, Professor Michael Porter mentioned, "The competitiveness framework underlying the roadmap offers a strategic perspective on how to translate the diagnostics on a country's competitiveness fundamentals into actionable insights. The solution does not lie in narrow interventions. What is needed to accelerate progress is a clear strategy enabling action to focus on key priority areas". Dr Amit Kapoor shared the essence of the Competitiveness roadmap as he said, "The competitiveness approach must serve as the cornerstone of India's economic and social policy for us to be able to sustain long-term economic growth. The recommendations outlined in the roadmap factor in India's unique advantages and are based on a new set of guiding principles, policy goals, and an implementation architecture". The roadmap is a step in this direction. It offers a thorough diagnostic assessment of India's current competitiveness level, the primary challenges faced, and opportunities for growth. Furthermore, setting out the pathway to becoming a high-income country, the roadmap suggests essential areas of action, including improving labour productivity and enhancing labour mobilization, boosting the creation of competitive job opportunities, and improving policy implementation through greater coordination across different ministries.

The roadmap was presented by Dr Christian Ketels, who highlighted the importance of building a complete understanding of India's strengths and its unique advantages, which can help enhance the country's overall national value proposition. He stated, "Understanding India's competitiveness challenges and opportunities also help gain insights into the challenges and opportunities that the world is facing. How India manages to address its major challenges will have a bearing on how the world tackles these challenges. India's performance matters". In the Keynote address on 'India- The Competitive Edge', Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC- PM, mentioned, "If India's development trajectory has to emerge faster, higher, and stronger, both government policies and the enterprises and markets functioning in the environment set by the former, are of great significance". Adding emphasis to the importance of a renewed approach to development, Amitabh Kant, G20, Sherpa, stated, "In an ever-evolving global context, India is working towards presenting a sustained growth model based on ease of living for its people and ease of doing business for its industries. The emphasis is not just on attaining the ambitions set for India but also on how the country gets there. The roadmap provides directions guiding the process of attaining the set goals, and outlines the kind of principle changes required for the transformation we are working towards". The release also included a panel discussion among members of the stakeholder group constituted as part of the initiative. The panellists included Akshi Jindal, CEO, Barmalt Malting (India) Pvt. Ltd., Ashish Jhalani, MD, Square Panda, Gurcharan Das, Author, Hari Menon, Director, India Country Office, BMGF, Himanshu Jain, President, Indian

Subcontinent, Diversey, Ravi Venkatesan, Chairman, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, Sumant Sinha, Chairman & MD, ReNew Power. The discussion brought forth valuable insights pertinent to India's future growth trajectory.

The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 provides the basis for a renewed approach to India's growth and development strategy. Moving ahead, the focus would be on developing KPIs and roadmaps for different industries, ministries, and states of the country to shape the journey towards reaching the country's ambitions by its centennial year. The change in approach to development in different sectors and states will not only shape policy actions today but also have an impact on the design and implementation of future policies.

PIB AUG 30, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, over the last 8 years, PM Modi's welfare schemes reached the neediest without any vote bank consideration. The Minister addresses back-to-back meetings with "Labharthis" and PRIs, DDCs, BDCs and Municipal Council Chairperson and Members at Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh. Each of the pro-poor and public welfare schemes of Modi Govt was designed in such a manner so as to reach the neediest or the last man in the last queue, regardless of caste, creed, religion or any vote consideration: Dr Jitendra Singh. The Minister says, PRI representatives are the true messengers of Modi's New India.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that over the last 8 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes reached the neediest without any vote bank consideration. Addressing back-to-back meetings with "Labharthis" (Beneficiaries) and PRIs, DDCs, BDCs and Municipal Council Chairperson and Members at Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, Dr Jitendra Singh said, each of the pro-poor and public welfare schemes were designed in such a manner so as to reach the neediest or the last man in the last queue, regardless of caste, creed, religion or any vote consideration. He said, this is fully in tune with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's philosophy of Antyodaya, which means rise of the last person.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, when Modi took over in May, 2014, almost half of the country's population was deprived of facilities like toilets, housing, vaccination, electricity connection and bank accounts. He said, with Sabka Prayas, the Centre has been able to bring many schemes closer to 100% saturation during the last 8 years, there is a new resolve to make India a frontline state in the world in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the citizen-centric schemes like Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY), PM Awas Yojna, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Har Ghar Jal, Ujjawala, Sauchalaya, Jan Dhan, Ayushman have reached every such household without any political consideration and other considerations and utmost care was taken to target the needy and disadvantaged sections of society by following the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas". He said, people are getting the benefits of welfare schemes without any discrimination, unlike in the past, when appeasement policy was rampant. The Minister emphasised that these welfare measures brought crores of people out of the clutches of abject poverty and gave them a life of dignity. Describing the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and their representatives as the essential messengers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Welfare Schemes, Union Minister said that Panches, Sarpanches as well as the elected representatives in Block and District Councils have an opportunity to play a distinct role in reaching out to the last man in the last queue, at the grassroot level, and ensuring for providing him the benefit of each of the pro-poor and welfare schemes introduced by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi during the last 8 years. Addressing the PRI representatives and local elected representatives, Dr Jitendra Singh said that they are the true messengers of Modi's New India and asked them to ensure that not a single deserving citizen is left out from getting the benefit of schemes like PM Awas Yojna, Ujjwala, PM Garib Kalyan Yojna, Ayushman, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Swachhata and Clean drinking water. He told them to work in close coordination with district administration to ensure that no one should be left behind from every scheme for the welfare of the poor.

Dr Jitendra Singh also asked elected representatives to work hard in the field to create awareness among the masses about the developmental works of Modi Government during the last eight years and how it changed the national mood from despair to optimism. The Minister also emphasised that not a single charge of corruption was levelled against the Modi Government till date and Modi has succeeded in giving a transparent and delivery-oriented administration.

PIB AUG31,2022

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah will launch "CAPF eAwas" web-portal in New Delhi tomorrow Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, increasing the Housing Satisfaction Ratio (HSR) for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel is one of the priority areas of the Government Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, continuous efforts are being made to raise the HSR in CAPFs Apart from construction of new houses, through modified house allotment policy of CAPFs vacant houses of one Force can be allotted to desirous personnel of other Forces, thereby increasing HSR In order to operationalize revised policy of allotment and to also bring transparency in the allotment process, a common web-portal by name 'CAPF eAwas' for online allotment of Departmental Pool Residential Accommodation and Separated Family Accommodation (SFA) held by CAPFs & Assam Rifles, has been developed The web-portal will enable online registration and allotment of residential quarters/SFAs to eligible personnel of all CAPFs & Assam Rifles

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah will launch the "CAPF eAwas" web-portal in New Delhi tomorrow. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, increasing the Housing Satisfaction Ratio (HSR) for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel is one of the priority areas of the Government. In order to increase the HSR, apart from construction of new houses, the existing house allotment policy of CAPFs has been modified whereby vacant houses of one Force can be allotted to desirous personnel of other Forces. In order to operationalize the revised policy of allotment and to also bring transparency in the allotment process, a common web-portal by the name 'CAPF eAwas' for online allotment of Departmental Pool Residential Accommodation and Separated Family Accommodation (SFA) held by CAPFs and Assam Rifles, has been developed. The web-portal will enable online registration and allotment of residential quarters/SFAs to eligible personnel of all CAPFs& Assam Rifles.

CAPF eAwas portal, which has been developed on the lines of the online allotment system of 'General Pool Residential Accommodation (eSampada)', will facilitate maintenance of an accurate inventory of 'Residential Quarters/Separated Family Accommodation (SFA)' held by CAPFs, as well as their allotment through online process to eligible Force personnel. The portal also has the provision for intimation to the applicant thru SMS and e-mail at various stages of allotment process. The portal would also facilitate planning for construction of new quarters based on demand-gap analysis.

The portal has a provision that if a house of any particular Force is not allotted for any reason for a period of four months, then any Central Armed Police Force personnel can apply for the same vacant house online. The houses which are available for inter-Force allotment would be visible to all CAPF personnel. This provision of inter-Force allotment will result in optimum utilization of available houses and thereby increasing the HSR.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, continuous efforts are being made to raise the housing satisfaction ratio in the CAPFs. This initiative of the Government is a step towards the welfare of Force personnel by way of enabling inter-Force allotment of residential accommodation which will go a long way in meeting the housing needs of Force personnel.

CAPFs is a uniform nomenclature for the six Forces of the Union of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. These Forces are, the Assam Rifles (AR), the Border Security Force (BSF), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

PIB SEP1, 2022

13,000 individuals register under Common Registration Facility “Mera Ration Mera Adhikar” since its launching on 5th August 2022 in 11 States/UTs. A meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary (DFPD) to further expand the coverage of Common Registration Facility, with 12 more States/UTs i.e. Chandigarh, D&D, D&N, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Telangana, Puducherry, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. The meeting also reviewed the readiness for further rollout of Common Registration Facility in these States. All the participating States/UTs have shown willingness to come on board of this facility so that it helps them to obtain fresh data of potential beneficiaries for inclusion under NFSA. States/UTs have been requested to make full use of this facility, duly observing the due process of verification at their level before issue of ration card subject to the respective coverage limit under NFSA. On the occasion of Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and to facilitate the States/UTs in rightful targeting of benefit under NFSA, Secretary (DFPD) launched a web-based Common Registration Facility (Mera Ration Mera Adhikar) on 5th August 2022 for 11 States/UTs i.e. Assam, Goa, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Tripura and Uttarakhand. This facility has been developed by the NIC and is accessible on <https://nfsa.gov.in>.

Response to this Common Registration Facility has been quite encouraging as is seen from the nearly 13,000 registration of individual in just 25 days, since the launching of this facility in 11 States/UTs. The Department of Food and Public Distribution embarked upon this initiative to serve as an enabling facility so that States/UTs can expedite the collection of data for initiating the due process for achieving the coverage of deserving and destitute persons under NFSA, upto their respective limits.

PIB SEP 3, 2022

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh says, India's first-ever "Night Sky Sanctuary" to be set up in Ladakh; the proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be completed at Hanle in Ladakh within 3 months; it will boost Astro tourism in India. LG, Ladakh Shri R.K. Mathur calls on Dr Jitendra Singh to discuss projects on leather centre, Leh Berry, Education Fair and CSIR supported

schemes. A high level delegation of scientists from Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai will visit Ladakh by the end of this year to explore the possibility of setting up a regional branch of CLRI, as the UT has a very rich and wide variety of animals: Dr Jitendra Singh .In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India, has undertaken to set up India's first-ever "Night Sky Sanctuary" in Ladakh which will be completed within next three months.



The proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. It will boost Astro tourism in India and will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes. This was informed by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh after meeting Lt. Governor Ladakh R.K. Mathur, who called on him at the national capital today.

The Union Minister informed that a tripartite MoU was signed recently among the the UT administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) for launching the Dark Space Reserve. He said, the site will have activities to help in boosting local tourism and economy through interventions of Science and Technology.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that all the stakeholders will jointly work towards the preservation of the night sky from unwanted light pollution and illumination, which is a serious threat to the scientific observations and natural sky conditions. It may be noted that Hanle is best suited for the project as it is located in Ladakh's cold desert region, away from any form of human disturbance and clear sky conditions and dry weather conditions exist throughout the year, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, a high level delegation of scientists and officials from Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai will visit Ladakh by the end of this year to explore the possibility of setting up a regional branch of CLRI, as the UT has a very rich and wide variety of animals for leather research and industry and to promote bio-economy of animal skin-derived products. He added that Charthang in Ladakh has over 4 lakh animals mainly pashmina goats, besides Sheep and Yak. He also complimented CSIR for organising 4 training workshops, two each at Leh and Kargil for treatment of diseases of famous Pashmina Goats.

Dr Jitendra Singh also thanked the Ladakh Administration for taking a decision to start the commercial plantation of “Leh Berry”, which is gaining popularity in the entire region. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Science & Technology is promoting "Leh Berry" which is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also a means of wide-ranging entrepreneurship as well as self-livelihood.

The Minister said, as per the vision of Prime Minister Modi’s Ladakh visit in 2018, the local entrepreneurs will be provided gainful employment through farming, processing and marketing of about 100 odd products from sea buckthorn plant like jams, juices, herbal tea, vitamin C supplements, healthy drinks, cream, oils, and soaps in a completely organic manner. Shri Mathur informed that commercial cultivation of three medicinal plants will begin this spring season at the height of above 15,000 feet. This also includes “Sanjeevani Booty”, locally known as “Sola” which has a very high life saving and therapeutic properties.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed to LG, Ladakh that from next year, the Department of Science and Technology will establish a distinct and huge pavilion for Ladakh Education Fair, which will be an annual feature as announced by Shri Mathur. The Minister said, DST will actively participate in correct subject choice, scholarships, career guidance, skills development and apprenticeship with prime focus of employability of youth.

HEALTH

TRIBUNE, SEP1, 2022

First indigenous cervical cancer shot unveiled; experts call for administering it to boys too

MoS Science and Technology Jitendra Singh says the government is working on cancer-prevention in a mission mode; qHPV to be launched for use in a few months



Aditi Tandon

India on Thursday unveiled the first indigenous quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) as a primary prevention tool for cervical cancer, the second most common cancer affecting young women, after cancers of the breast.

Cancer of the cervix is the second leading cancer among women aged 15 to 44 after breast cancers with 90 per cent mortality due to this cancer reported in low- and middle-income countries. A third major example of public-private partnership in vaccine development -- after the development of rota virus and covid vaccines -- the qHPV shot has been developed in collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology under the government and the Serum Institute of India, Pune.

With market authorisation granted by the Drug Controller General of India in July this year, the shot will be launched into the national programme in a few months, MoS Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said, adding that today's announcement of the vaccine was meant as a celebration of the scientific effort that went into developing the shot. "We are here to celebrate the script writers of this wonderful story of scientific discovery and self-reliant India. Once the vaccine hits the markets for use, manufacturers will get all the credit and rightly so. By then it will be too late to recall the script writers," Singh said praising DBT secretary Rajesh Gokhale and his team for the work.

Speaking about the vaccine, AIIMS obstetrics and gynaecology professor Neerja Bhatla said the vaccine is safe and effective although one would have to wait longer for around a decade to see if it reduces cancer.

"Evidence from the UK and Nordic countries has shown fast reductions in cancers with vaccines even though these are slowly reducing cancers. The shot is reliable, safe, affordable and the good thing is we now have a solution for a very deadly disease," Bhatla said, calling for the shot to be administered to young boys also to prevent other cancers caused by HPV and also to address the problem of genital warts and raise herd immunity.

Speaking on the occasion, Adar Poonawalla, CEO, SII, termed the achievement remarkable. "This is a testament of what we can achieve together. Hope we can work together to develop more vaccines and drugs. This is not a launch. We will launch in a few months. This is to celebrate science and a momentous milestone," Adar said. The minister for his part said the government was working in mission mode on cancer prevention.

"This is the first indigenous vaccine for HPV. It is affordable and adds to the esteem of common Indians. We are already working on preventive health-care in the cancer sector. We have of late started a process of opening cancer sub centres. Five years ago, we began one in Guwahati which is now running a DM on oncology medicine course and an MCH in oncology surgery. Tata memorial cancer hospitals have been set up in Bihar, Uttarakhand, Varanasi and recently in Mohali," Singh said.

INDUSTRY

PIB AUG29, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, start-ups are playing a key role in the continued growth of leather industry in India. The Minister addresses the senior scientists and officials of CSIR-CLRI (Central Leather Research Institute), Kanpur and college students at Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh.

Dr Jitendra Singh calls upon the youth to look for lucrative career in the upcoming leather start-up ecosystem and offers seed funding to prospective start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs from Department of Science and Technology at the Centre. The Minister also lauds Yogi Adityanath govt for identifying leather goods as One District One Product, ODOP for Agra & Kanpur districts and for development of these clusters.



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh today that India's leather industry is offering world-class opportunities for StartUp and entrepreneurship.

Addressing senior scientists and officials of CSIR-CLRI (Central Leather Research Institute), Kanpur and College students at Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, Dr Jitendra Singh called upon the youth to look for lucrative career in the upcoming leather Start-up ecosystem. He said, leather industry in India has exhibited consistency in high export earnings and it is one of the top ten foreign exchange earners for the country.



The Minister also offered seed funding to prospective Start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs from Technology Development Board under Department of Science and Technology at the centre, which he is heading.

Dr Jitendra Singh assured the students and youth of Mainpuri and adjoining districts that CSIR-CLRI (Central Leather Research Institute), Kanpur will be instructed to organise specific activities like Survey of leather and allied industries, Practical demonstrations, Trade counselling, Vocational and Tailor-made Training Programmes, Consultancy Services, Students' Internship at regular intervals for promoting leather start-ups and businesses.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that the Uttar Pradesh Government under Yogi Adityanath has identified leather goods as an ODOP (One District One Product) for Agra & Kanpur districts and formulated strategic interventions for development of these clusters. He said, t Uttar Pradesh is trying hard to create an enabling ecosystem of export growth and support exporters in scaling up exports of leather goods from Uttar Pradesh. The Minister said, this will open up new opportunities for the entrepreneurs and youth of Mainpuri and adjoining districts.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India is the second largest producer of footwear, second largest exporter of Leather Garments, fifth largest exporter of Leather Goods and third Largest Exporter of Saddlery and Harness items. He said, the global leather goods market size is valued at \$424 billion in 2022 and expected to reach USD 744 billion by 2030 and added that India must tap the huge potential in the global leather pie.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, only youth with innovative thinking can fulfil the rising demand for comfortable, trendy, and fancy leather apparel, footwear, and accessories as leather products are often seen as a status symbol and provide a stylish look.

Abhinandan Kumar, Scientist-In-Charge made a presentation on the status of Kanpur Leather cluster and the activities of the CLRI Regional Centre Kanpur, showcasing various technologies available with CLRI for pollution abatement and value addition in leather making, which would help the industry in achieving environmental compliances and help in better unit value realisation. It was also mentioned that a testing facility for all physical and chemical testing needs of leather and leather products industries is being offered from recently acquired laboratory at KLC Complex, Banthar which helps the industry in ensuring quality at national as well as international standards.

CLRI Regional Centre - Kanpur is one of the four extension centres of CLRI. It was established in 1963 to benefit the Leather and Leather products industries in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The centre is fully equipped with Chemical, Physical & Eco testing Laboratory. This centre has a pilot Tannery which provides varied services to the industry.

INFRASTRUCTURE

BUSINESSLINE, SEP2, 2022

Gati Shakti will ramp up logistics efficiency

Nav Goel

It aims to seamlessly integrate data and logistics projects across the nation, to achieve greater global competitiveness. A recent paper by IMF on 'Road Quality and Mean Speed Score' ranked India 127th among 162 countries in terms of road transport speed. The US is the fastest country, with a mean speed score of 107 kmph, while India has a mean speed score of 58 kmph. Unsurprisingly India has high logistics costs of around 13-14 per cent of GDP as against 8-10 per cent in the US and Europe. Reducing logistics costs is a sine qua non for India, where freight activity is expected to grow five-fold by 2050. India's Logistics Ecosystem plays a critical role in achieving the national priorities of Atmanirbhar Bharat by ensuring quick, efficient, and economical transport of goods across India. Often disjointed planning lacking synergy amongst the various ministries leads to infrastructure being under-utilised, outdated, or congested by the time it is finally completed. Out of the ambitious investment plan of ₹ 1,11,30,428 crore under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), ₹ 36,66,028 crore is envisaged for Road, Rail, Ports, and Airports, i.e., approximately 33 per cent of NIP is towards the Logistics Sector Projects. With such a vast investment plan there is a need for holistic, integrated, and synchronised planning between the various modes of logistics. Integrating data .

PM Gati Shakti Master Plan is aimed to tackle the above challenges. It provides a comprehensive database of ongoing and future projects of Infrastructure Ministries of Centre and States. The data will be integrated with 200+ GIS layers with visibility to various stakeholders so that planning, designing, and execution can be done with a shared vision. Project delivery will achieve efficiency through collaboration, coordination, data-backed project planning and real-time data analysis. One of the main themes of Gati Shakti is multi-modal connectivity. It aims at seamless integration of systems and policies alongside efficient project management. Gati Shakti projects will leverage technology extensively including spatial planning and data analysis tools. This techno-enabled approach to infrastructure development where data on project geography, with multiple layers of project information of 16 infrastructure ministries, all integrated into a single database will ultimately break the silos of information management and enable faster decision making. For instance, road construction involves multiple stakeholders, NHAI being responsible for the roads till district headquarters, State PWD or Rural Development Department comes into the picture thereafter and BRO looks after border areas. Gati Shakti will help in the coordinated completion of roads at the same time, thereby providing seamless connectivity and opening various opportunities. Similarly, though the creation of new or upgradation of existing Railway Station is the responsibility of the respective Division of Indian Railways, but the approach road comes under the ambit of the State government. The lack of coordination between the two executing bodies may result in the non-utilisation of newly created public infrastructure. Dynamic mapping of brownfield and greenfield projects on the Gati Shakti GIS Portal, with real-time updation, will provide visibility to implementing agencies to align their priorities properly. Gati Shakti plan also aims to develop a nationwide network integrating digital systems of various ministries dealing with logistics under one platform known as ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform) for facilitating minimal documentation, real-time

information and faster movement of goods. Availability of quality data in ULIP integrating various data sets such as LDB of NICDC, FOIS of Indian Railways, Vahan Saarthi of MORTH, ICEGATE of Customs Department, FASTag of NPCI etc opens a plethora of opportunities and use-cases for increasing efficiency. One such use case can be finding the most appropriate mix of the fleet, and the most optimal route. With the help of ULIP Data and AI-driven route optimisation solutions, a Zardozi Saree manufacturer in Bareilly and exporting sarees to Berlin can accurately choose the shortest, most efficient, and most cost-effective routes suiting his requirements.

As of today, there is not much visibility about the predictive freight rate trend, supply-demand gaps, truck utilisation factors, corridor congestion data etc. Combining ULIP Data with AI and ML tools can lead to a prediction of trends and evidence-based intervention can be done both by government and private entities. The Indian logistics industry is still largely disorganised and fragmented and suffers from a skewed intermodal mix. For instance, in 2020, Rail's share stood at merely 18 per cent as compared to Road's share of 71 per cent. In India, the average lead of freight transport is around 550 km, and for such long-haul transport on dense corridors, Rail transport is economical and environment friendly. However, hassles of multiple loading and unloading owing to lack of last mile connectivity have resulted in a lower share of Rail vis-à-vis Road transport. With greater emphasis on data-backed based holistic planning, enhancement of infrastructure to cater for the needs of the future, multimodal connectivity, and rationalisation of processes, it is expected that pieces of the Indian logistical puzzle will fall in right place to make India globally competitive.

The writer, an IRAS officer, is on Deputation as Deputy General Manager, Finance and Risk Management with DFCCIL. Views expressed are personal

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STATESMAN, AUG30, 2022

Jaishankar says ‘state of border’ will determine state of India-China ties

Both India and China have engaged in a standoff at a number of friction points in eastern Ladakh for over two years. The situation worsened after violent clashes with Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

Amid the ongoing military standoff between India and China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said that the state of the border will determine the state of the relationship between Beijing and New Delhi.

Speaking at the launch of the Asia Society Policy Institute in the national capital, the EAM said that much of Asia’s future depends on how the ties between the two countries develop in the foreseeable future. “Much of the future of Asia depends on how relations between India and China develop in the foreseeable future. For ties to return to a positive trajectory and remain sustainable, they must be based on the three mutuals: mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest. Their current status is, of course, well known to all of you. I can only reiterate that the state of the border will determine the state of the relationship,” he said.

Both India and China have engaged in a standoff at a number of friction points in eastern Ladakh for over two years. The situation worsened after violent clashes with Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020. Since then, both sides have been engaged in several high-level military talks.

“Asia’s prospects and challenges are today very much dependent on developments in the Indo-Pacific. In fact, the concept itself is a reflection of divided Asia, as some have a vested interest in keeping the region less cohesive and interactive. That the global commons and the international community are better served by collaborative endeavours like the Quad apparently leaves them cold. Developing even a basic strategic consensus in Asia is, therefore, clearly a formidable task. As the international order evolves, this desire to selectively retain elements of the 1945 situation while transforming others – and we see that in the UN as well – complicates world politics,” Jaishankar further said in the event.

He also emphasized that a narrow Asian chauvinism is actually against the continent’s own interest. “Precisely because Asia is so energetic and creative, it would like to benefit from the open doors of other regions. That obviously cannot be a one way street,” he added. Jaishankar also said that the “three shocks” of COVID-19 pandemic, Ukraine conflict and climatic disturbances are also impacting the evolution of the Asian economy.

“Together, they make a powerful case for more engines of growth and resilient and reliable supply chains. There is a parallel debate underway in the digital world that focuses around trust and transparency. How these will translate into strategic outcomes is still too early to predict,” he asserted in the meeting. Jaishankar also emphasized the contribution that rising Asia can make to the world order. “As the most dynamic region beyond the West, its successes can inspire the rest of the Global South. Indeed, it is leading the process of global rebalancing through its endeavours. For this to have the widest impact, India espouses a

cooperative, inclusive and consultative approach to international relations. We believe that multipolarity, rebalancing, fairer globalization and reformed multilateralism are all advanced by the progress of Asia. Our diplomacy is accordingly shaped by this belief,” he said.

STATESMAN, AUG30, 2022

China, Taiwan and India

Having moved closer to the West, and becoming a member of QUAD, aimed at containing Chinese influence, India will not bow to Chinese demands.

HARSHA KAKAR

After Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan and conduct of Chinese military exercises off the Taiwan coast, it appears many nations are joining hands to support Taiwan. The Taiwanese government released a statement reading, “The government of ROC (Taiwan) wishes to convey sincere gratitude to the executive branches and parliamentarians of over 50 countries, including India, which have called on all sides to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, avoid unilateral actions to change status quo and maintain peace and stability in the region.” India, as is customary, did not accuse or support either side but called for restraint. Following in the footsteps of Pelosi, multiple US Congress delegations have visited Taiwan in military aircraft prompting further Chinese reactions including military exercises.

It appears the US is intentionally provoking China. Lithuania angered China by opening its trade representative office in Taiwan. What irritated China was Lithuania using the name Taiwan rather than Chinese Taipei. The US also announced commencement of trade and economic talks with Taiwan, implying that while it announced adherence to its One China policy, it refuses to abide by it. European diplomats were called by the Chinese foreign ministry to lodge a protest on the criticism of the G 7 and EU nations on its military exercises off the Taiwan coast. The Japanese not only criticised Chinese exercises but also decided to enhance defence capabilities to counter Chinese aggression, as a few missiles fired during the Chinese exercises landed in Japan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

China defended its missile firing in Japanese territory by stating, “As for the EEZ, China and Japan have not carried out maritime delimitation in relevant waters, so there is no such thing as an EEZ of Japan.” A report mentioned that in response to Chinese aggression, Japan is considering deployment of more than 1,000 long range cruise missiles around the southern Nansei islands, capable of targeting coastal areas of North Korea and China. Taiwan, backed by global support, displayed its intent to stare down Chinese threats. Its President, Tsai Ing-wen, stated, “Facing deliberately heightened military threats, Taiwan will not back down. We will... continue to hold the line of defence for democracy.” In response to Chinese exercises, Taiwan held its own defensive exercises. Taiwan also announced welcoming other visitors to the country throwing an open challenge to China.

The next step of China will be to pressurize the 14 nations that recognize Taiwan to break diplomatic ties with it. China, seeking to prove its global power, sought support for its One China policy. The Chinese spokesperson, Hua Chunying stated, “over 160 countries have spoken up for justice, condemned the visit as a serious, reckless and irresponsible provocation and expressed their commitment to the one-China principle.” No list was provided. Asean nations, caught between big power rivalry of the US and China, maintained

silence. They would prefer the status quo. Western powers joined hands to back Taiwan against Chinese pressures. India was among the nations which avoided reiterating its One China policy post the visit, despite repeated calls for the same.

Sun Weidong, the Chinese ambassador to Delhi stated, “My understanding is that India’s ‘One China’ policy has not changed...We hope that India can reiterate support for the One China principle.” The Chinese embassy’s Delhi spokesperson, Wang Xiaojian reiterated, “India was one of the first countries to recognise that there is only one China. The Chinese side is willing to push forward the development of our relations on the basis of the one-China principle.” India refused to oblige, its spokesperson mentioned “India’s relevant policies are well-known and consistent. They do not require reiteration.” For China this was a vague statement. China had believed that its threats to the US would result in President Biden backing down and there would be no global support for Pelosi’s visit. However, Chinese bullying, offensive actions, moving nations into debt traps and wolf warrior diplomacy resulted in the opposite. The fact that Taiwan received vast backing and there were more calls for restraint than criticism indicated that China is losing its global grip. This comes at a crucial time for China, as its 20th party congress, where Xi is seeking a third term is round the corner. With a dwindling economy alongside collapsing banks, increasing unemployment (around 20 per cent) and a failed zero Covid policy, Xi is facing internal backlash.

Had the US cancelled the visit or China had prevented Pelosi’s aircraft from landing, Xi would have become a revered leader. The US’ continued arming of Taiwan makes it a formidable opponent. China is aware that success in Taiwan could come at a very heavy cost, or even that it could be drawn into an unending conflict. Hence, threats will continue, with forceful occupation unlikely. China hopes that its actions including diplomatic isolation, continuous exercises and threat of application of force, would wear Taiwan down to levels where it would be willing for dialogue. For India, adhering to its One China policy was understandable provided India-China relations were stable. Delhi is aware that, any deviation or even a hint of deviation from this policy has an immense psychological impact on China, especially since India hosts the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile. Since the Ladakh standoff, India has hinted towards diplomatic conflict. Having moved closer to the West, and becoming a member of QUAD, aimed at containing Chinese influence, India will not bow to Chinese demands.

By refusing to reiterate its One China policy, providing support to the Dalai Lama during his visit to Ladakh as also the PM wishing him on his birthday, India is challenging China’s core beliefs. The planned conduct of Indo-US exercises in Auli, close to the LAC, despite Chinese objections, further conveys Indian intent. In case China bends and accepts the April 2020 status quo, India could revert to its earlier stance. The message must go that unless China adopts a One India policy and normalizes the LAC, India will not reiterate its one China policy. India is no longer a pushover, despite possessing a weaker economy and a lower defence budget. It has diplomatic weight, and it must exploit it.

PIONEER,AUG30, 2022

Significant increase in presence of ISIL-K in Afghanistan and their capacity to carry out attacks: India tells UNSC

India has told the UN Security Council that there is a significant increase in ISIL-K presence in Afghanistan, as it warned that linkages between proscribed outfits such as Pakistan-based

Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and provocative statements by other terror groups pose a direct threat to the region's peace and stability. "As we have repeatedly stated at the Security Council, India has direct stakes in ensuring the return of peace and stability, given our position as a contiguous neighbour and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, as well as our strong historical and civilisational linkages to the Afghan people," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said.

Speaking at the UNSC briefing on Afghanistan Monday requested by Russia under the Chinese presidency of the Council, Kamboj underlined that on terrorism, the recent findings of the 1988 Sanctions Committee's Analytical Support and the Sanctions Monitoring Team Report indicate that the current authorities in Afghanistan need to take much stronger action to fulfil their anti-terrorism commitments.

"There is a significant increase in the presence of ISIL-K (The Islamic State – Khorasan Province) in the country and their capacity to carry out attacks. ISIL-K, with its base reportedly in Afghanistan, continues to issue threats of terrorist attacks on other countries," she said. Kamboj told the Council that the series of attacks at religious places of the minority community, including the recent attack at the Sikh Gurudwara on June 18 in Kabul followed by another bomb explosion near the same Gurudwara on 27 July, is "hugely alarming." The linkages between groups listed by the UN Security Council such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed as well as provocative statements made by other terrorist groups operating out of Afghanistan pose a direct threat to the peace and stability of the region,' she said.

In her address, Kamboj stressed the need to see concrete progress in ensuring that "such proscribed terrorists, entities, or their aliases do not get any support, tacit or direct, either from Afghan soil or from the terror sanctuaries based in the region." On the political front, she said India continues to call for an inclusive dispensation in Afghanistan which represents all sections of Afghan society. A broad-based, inclusive, and representative formation is necessary for both domestic and international engagement, she said as she expressed New Delhi's concern at developments in Afghanistan which directly impact the well-being of women and girls. "We join others in calling for the protection of the rights of women and girls, and to ensure that the long-fought gains of the last two decades are not reversed," the Indian envoy said.

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths told the Council that Afghanistan is not just a humanitarian crisis but "an economic crisis. It's a climate crisis. It's a hunger crisis. It's a financial crisis. But it is not a hopeless crisis." He noted that humanitarian organisations have done their utmost to provide the population in Afghanistan with a lifeline.

Griffiths said close to 19 million people are facing acute levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan, including 6 million people at risk of famine. More than half of the population – some 24 million people – need humanitarian assistance. An estimated 3 million children are acutely malnourished, including over 1 million children estimated to be suffering from the most severe, life-threatening form of malnutrition. "And without specialized treatment, these children could die," he said. Around 25 million people are now living in poverty and three quarters of people's income is spent on food, the UN official said. "There's been a 50 per cent decline in households receiving remittances; unemployment could reach 40 per cent; and

inflation is rising due to increased global prices, import constraints and currency depreciation,” he said.

“These are the figures and they're devastating and frankly they're difficult to comprehend. We worry that they will soon become worse. Once the cold weather sets in, food and fuel prices – already high – will skyrocket, and families will have to choose between feeding their children, sending them to school, taking them to a doctor when they fall sick, or keeping them warm,” Griffiths said.

Kamboj told the Council that in response to the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people as well as to the urgent appeals made by the United Nations, India has dispatched several shipments of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. These include 32 tonnes of medical assistance in ten batches, which includes essential life-saving medicines, anti-TB medicines and 500,000 doses of the COVID vaccine.

These medical consignments have been handed over to the World Health Organisation and the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul. India has also dispatched over 40,000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan so far. In order to ensure fair and just distribution of India's wheat assistance, the Government of India has signed an agreement with the World Food Program for the distribution of wheat within Afghanistan.

Further, in order to closely monitor and coordinate the efforts of various stakeholders for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and in continuation of India's engagement with the Afghan people, an Indian technical team has also been deployed at our Embassy in Kabul, she said.

Kamboj recalled that during India's Presidency of the Security Council in August last year, UNSC resolution 2593 was adopted that set forth expectations of the international community in clear and objective terms. These included, ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used to launch terrorist attacks against other countries; formation of a truly inclusive and representative government; combating terrorism and drug trafficking; and preserving the rights of women, children, and minorities. “With these benchmarks in mind, the present situation is indeed one of concern,” she said.

Kamboj reiterated that India's approach to Afghanistan, as always, will be guided by its historical friendship and special relationship with the Afghan people.

STATESMAN, SEP 4, 2022

U.S. ambassador: Japan-U.S. alliance has entered era of ‘projection’ into Indo-Pacific

Emanuel emphasized the strength of the alliance, saying that the strategic visions of the two countries have never been so aligned.

The Yomiuri Shimbun

The Japan-U.S. alliance has entered an era of “projection” into the Indo-Pacific from one focused on “protection” of the partnership, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel said at a Yomiuri International Economic Society (YIES) lecture in Tokyo on Friday. “While the last 60 years between the United States and Japan have been defined by what I call ‘alliance

protection,’ we are now entering an era and period of time of ‘alliance projection’ into the Indo Pacific,” Emanuel said in the lecture titled the “Future of Our Alliance,” which was held at the Palace Hotel in Chiyoda Ward. Emanuel emphasized the strength of the alliance, saying that the strategic visions of the two countries have never been so aligned.

The U.S. ambassador hailed Japan for considering increasing its defense spending to 2% of the nation’s gross domestic product. “Early discussions of counterstrike and counteroffensive as part of the deterrence level is important,” he said. He also expressed his support for Japan’s intention to revise three key security documents, including the National Security Strategy, that Tokyo plans to carry out later this year. Regarding China, Emanuel criticized the country by name, saying that Beijing has violated rules by actively engaging in intellectual property theft and economic coercion, among other things. He said he would not call such a country “a friend” and stressed the need to strengthen economic security against Beijing.

Emanuel also stated concerns about China’s missile launches into waters near Taiwan, including Japan’s exclusive economic zone, in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan in August. Citing China’s zero-COVID policy, Emanuel said Chinese President Xi Jinping has brought many problems such as economic stagnation upon himself, saying they bear “Xi’s thumbprint.”

Emanuel also referred to the growing unity of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Given that, he expressed his view that “Russia has lost.” The YIES event was moderated by Kenichiro Sasae, a former ambassador to the United States.

JOBS

ECONOMIC TIMES, SEP4, 2022

Tier II cities drive hiring activity in August, shows Naukri.com jobs index

Emerging and tier-II cities in India including the likes of Coimbatore, Kochi, Ahmedabad and Jaipur drove the country's job market as companies across sectors increasingly extended their talent search beyond the Metro locations, according to the latest jobs report from leading online jobs portal Naukri.com.

Coimbatore led the charts at 28% year-on-year growth in hiring in August, followed by Kochi at 27%, while Ahmedabad and Jaipur maintained their hiring momentum with 20% and 15% growth. Barring Chandigarh (-17%) and Vadodara (-11%), other emerging cities recorded a double-digit growth in hiring activity in August, showed the JobSpeak Index, which records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.com website.

Amongst metros, Mumbai led the charts at 21% growth in August, whereas Delhi/NCR, Hyderabad, and Pune remained flat. Bangalore showed a dip of 10% in hiring activity during the month. This comes at a time when the overall hiring activity in the country remained stable with 6% year-on-year growth during the month.

The growth in hiring during the month was led by the insurance sector that grew by 87% over last year and for the seventh time in a row. Within the sector, hiring activity was highest for the 4-7 years' experience band (103%) followed by 0-3 years (99%), and 8-12 years (42%). The sector showed a significant jump in hiring activity in NCR (136%) and Mumbai (129%).

"After witnessing an extravagant growth rate in the last 2-3 months, hiring activity is seeing signs of stabilisation," said Pawan Goyal, Chief Business Officer, Naukri.com. "The insurance as a sector has been flourishing since the start of this year as there has been continuous growth in hiring which is creating opportunities across experience bands," he added.

Other sectors that showed positive hiring intent included travel and hospitality (56%), banking and financial services institutions (43%), auto and auto ancillary (29%), real estate (24%), and retail (18%).

However, hiring activity in information technology and software, the largest employment generator in the organised sector, was down 10% as high margin pressure primarily driven by wage inflation is prompting companies to slow down hiring. The pharma and biotech sector too recorded a 3% decline in hiring.

POLLUTION

STATESMAN, AUG30, 2022

Decoding caveats in carbon trading policy

[Suresh Mony](#)

A new carbon trading system must be accompanied by proper pricing of credits for it to act as a check on hardcore polluters

With the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill 2022 having been passed in the Lok Sabha on August 8, the much-awaited carbon trading market is expected to take shape.

While this is welcome, there is a caveat that it will be initially limited to ‘hard to abate sectors’ (HtAS). The term ‘hard to abate’ (HtA) raises several questions on the scope and efficacy of the policy. Besides, the existing Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme also purportedly incentivises carbon emission (CE) reduction leading to an obvious question — why have two policies with similar objectives? Why has the carbon market been restricted to HtAS?

The term HtAS pertains to a sector where the transition to net zero emission (NZE) status is difficult because of lack of technology and/or prohibitive cost. CE occur during the burning of carbonaceous fossil fired fuels, or in industrial manufacturing processes of cement, steel, chemicals etc. CE can be eliminated by substituting energy source/fuel- renewable solar/wind energy for thermal power; electric vehicles for petrol/diesel vehicles; and domestic electric appliances instead of kerosene/gas. However, industrial processes where the nature of chemical reaction is such that carbon dioxide is an inescapable output, such as in the production of cement clinker or iron in blast furnaces or chemicals and petrochemicals, CE can at best be reduced with better process efficiency. For example, India’s cement industry is perhaps the most efficient in the world with the emission intensity reduced to 576 kg of CO₂ per tonne of cement against the global average of 634 kg but has limited potential for further process efficiency and continues to be a HtAS.

Limitations of the PAT scheme: The underlying logic of the PAT scheme was to curb energy demand in 13 energy intensive areas — thermal power plants (TPP), cement, aluminium, iron and steel, pulp and paper, fertiliser, chlor-alkali, petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, distribution companies, railways, textile and commercial buildings — by improving their energy efficiencies.

By reducing energy consumption below a threshold limit that begets tradeable energy certificates (each certificate is for reduction of 1 MWH over a set target), an entity indirectly reduces CE and concurrently earns revenue. However, the PAT scheme does not incentivise efforts for the major direct CE reduction in HtAS emanating from industrial chemical processes. Over and above improvement of energy efficiency, HtAS would entail R&D-led alternative technologies/processes, or substitution of raw materials, the technical feasibility and commercial viability of which are yet to be established.

Hence, as such, there is no potential for additional benefit from the PAT scheme for most cement plants in India. Further, an integrated steel plant switching from the conventional

blast furnace route to scrap based electric furnace steelmaking, may increase its electricity consumption but substantially reduce CE (by elimination of coke required for blast furnaces), would not qualify for energy certificate in the PAT scheme. The scope of the PAT scheme being limited, only 70 million tonnes CE reduction (2.5 per cent total CE) was possible at the end of PAT-II cycle in 2019-20.

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is often portrayed as a pathbreaking solution for decarbonisation. However, CCS does not curb the CE in HtAS but merely captures the unavoidable CE and transports over long distances to store underground at depths of +2 km. It is an extremely expensive proposition (the operating cost placed by the International Energy Agency typically at \$50/tonne) and calls for investment subsidy for most entities barring very large companies. If HtAS do invest on CCS the carbon trading market becomes an incentive.

Volume of HtA emissions: India's annual CE (expressed in terms of CO₂ equivalent) is 2,838 billion tonnes accompanying Table, of which abatable CE is about 1,561 billion tonnes including: (a) 1,122 billion tonnes (40 per cent) through substitution of thermal power by renewable solar and wind energy; (b) 439 billion tonnes (15 per cent) by switching over to electric road vehicles; and electric appliances in residential and commercial establishments. The balance 1,277 billion (45 per cent) tonnes from process industries, animal husbandry and agriculture are 'hard to abate'.

Carbon emissions: An analysis

	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Emissions-CO₂ equivalent- billion tonnes/ year</i>	<i>%</i>
Abatable			
1	Electricity	1.122	40
2	Road Transportation	243	9
3	Residential	127	4
4	Commercial Institutions	69	2
		1.561	55
Hard to abate			
5	Enteric fermentation	223	8
6	Iron & Steel	135	5
7	Cement production	107	4
8	Agricultural soils	78	3
9	Refineries	72	3
10	Rice cultivation	71	3
11	Cement use (construction)	53	2
12	Aluminium	33	1
13	Lime	28	1
14	Chemicals	25	1
		826	29
Miscellaneous			
15	Others	451	16
	Total	2.838	100

Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

In the future, the CE of the energy sector will reduce substantially with gradual phase down/phase out of thermal power plants (by 2045). However, the needs of India's rapidly growing economy will lead to quantum increase in demand for cement and steel-by 2050, the

cement capacity is expected to increase from 330 million tonnes to 1,000 million tonnes and steel from 125 million tonnes to 440 million tonnes.

In this business-as-usual scenario, the aggregate CE are expected to increase to 6,033 billion tonnes and the HtA emissions could increase from 45 per cent to 76 per cent. This threatens to derail the achievement of NZE by 2070 and hence, the introduction of the carbon trading market for HtAS is a step in the right direction.

Efficacy of carbon trading

The carbon trading market revolves around the presence of: (a) permissible threshold limits of CE for each industry, (b) market players' success at decarbonisation, reducing CE to below threshold levels, and/or attained lower net CE by investing in carbon sequestration or afforestation, (c) polluting/inefficient market players whose CE exceeds the permissible threshold levels, and (d) pricing mechanism that acts as an incentive for sale of credits by efficient market players and purchase of credits by inefficient market players.

In Europe, which has the largest carbon market operating for over 16 years, industry has been lukewarm, barring the power sector wherein carbon credits have helped expedite a switch from coal to gas-fired electricity. Steel companies offset their CE by buying cheap credits from China, East Europe and other emerging economies and continue to pollute the environment. It is generally accepted that carbon prices should be double of current levels to trigger a behavioural change and be attractive for renewable technologies like 'green hydrogen'.

According to the Paris agreement, the UN Panel on Climate change has indicated a price range of \$40-80 per tonne of carbon dioxide if global warming is to be pegged within 2 degrees by 2050. However, the prices till the last quarter of 2021 were way below, in the range of \$2 to \$12 per tonne CO₂. In December 2021, the price crossed €50 per tonne and touched €56.35 (\$68/tonne) which is encouraging. While many analysts believe that the carbon credit price would touch \$80/tonne level only by 2030, some are predicting a price of €110 (\$136/tonne) in the near future. The idea of a carbon market presupposes that market dynamics will enable optimum price discovery that is a deterrent for polluters and incentive for entities who invest on protecting the environment. This objective does not appear to have been realised so far.

Although, these are early days, if the proposed carbon market in India does not become vibrant and robust quickly, there is a danger that HtAS will buy carbon credits at low prices and continue to increase their CE defeating the very purpose of a market linked mechanism that determines a deterrent cost for pollution. Hence, it is to be hoped that the carbon trading policy including the permissible threshold limits in each industry are carefully crafted to meet the twin objectives of growth and quality of life.

PUBLIC POLICY

DECCAN HERALD, AUG30, 2022

Citizens' rights and bureaucratic apathy: Three case studies from Maharashtra Why are bureaucrats so keen to deny the majority of citizens their due?

Rarely do the mighty mandarins in the Indian Railways bow down to people. Well, last week they had to, that too to protesting residents of a little-known suburb of Mumbai. What made it worse for them was that the decision these angry commuters forced them to revoke involved their prestigious air-conditioned local trains. From the time they were introduced in Mumbai in 2017 after years of announcements, the Railways have had to revise the unilateral decisions they've taken about these trains: from halving single journey fares to the latest cancellation of their entire new schedule for the central line. Had these mandarins deigned to consult commuters' associations, they might have learned what every average commuter knows: that the majority of the 7.5 million local train commuters in Mumbai aren't enamoured of these slick beauties, simply because travelling regularly in air-conditioned comfort means shelling out seven to ten times the fare they do in ordinary trains. The commuters who occupied the tracks at Kalwa station pay Rs 190 for a monthly pass to downtown Mumbai; the same pass for an AC train costs Rs 1730. Yet, the Railways introduced ten new AC locals from Kalwa to CSMT (Victoria Terminus), to replace non-AC locals. The crowd travelling to work in peak hours kept swelling as empty AC trains whizzed past.

Whether it was because of the commuters' wrath or the backing they got from politicians across parties, the Railways had to eat humble pie. But who will force Maharashtra's Education Department to do the same? The latest diktat from the Directorate of Primary Education prevents children in Maharashtra from getting the midday meal until they can show their Aadhaar card, only because a few schools have been caught inflating student numbers. This order is illegal: it violates the 2018 Supreme Aadhaar judgment, which categorically declared that no child should be denied the benefit of government schemes for lack of an Aadhar card. Indeed, the judgment recorded that Attorney General KK Venugopal had also stated this. The order also violates the children's fundamental rights, for the 2013 Right To Food Act includes the midday meal, and in 2015, the Modi government notified the Rules pertaining to this under the Act. Significantly, the decision was taken in July - a month when there were only two ministers in Maharashtra: CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. With both busy flying to Delhi to get clearance from their common High Command for their Cabinet, bureaucrats were running Maharashtra. Reports said the latter were understandably hesitant to take important decisions. Obviously, the Director of Primary Education had no such doubts. Could it be because he was joint director when the same decision had been taken in January 2019 by the then Devendra Fadnavis-headed government? Soon after, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were announced, and then, Fadnavis was no longer in power. Now he's back.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

HINDUSTAN TIMES, AUG30, 2022

For energy, it's not RE vs coal - adopt a portfolio approach

India is undergoing an energy transition, but it must not write off coal. The most cost-effective way to balance the grid in 2030 will be to keep both thermal power and renewables in the basket of options.

[Rahul Tongia](#)

A lot of discussions nowadays seem to conclude that coal is dead or that renewable energy (RE) is cheaper than coal. Using new analysis, we can safely conclude the truth is not black and white, and that both will have a role to play in the visible future.

In a recent [electricity grid analysis](#) for India undertaken at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), we examine what is the most cost-effective way to balance the grid in 2030, under very high levels of uncertainty, factoring in half-hourly supply and demand. Our headline finding was that very high RE is cost-optimal, such as 450 GW planned for 2030 (a subset of the Prime Minister's announced 500 GW of non-fossil capacity).

But this doesn't tell the whole story.

For starters, even if we meet these high RE targets, which are among the world's most ambitious, these will not provide sufficient output to meet rising demand. We conservatively used a 5.25% annual growth rate for demand as our baseline. It's not just about producing enough energy — are we on track to produce enough energy at the right time? (Because this was a national analysis, we didn't get into issues of the "right place" — sufficient transmission can address this, albeit at a cost). Even with high RE, coal is still about half the energy mix in 2030.

If we have too much RE at some time, such as during the monsoon when wind is high and mid-day when solar is also high, then we end up curtailing (throwing away) surplus RE. The good news is that this is still cost-effective given how cheap RE is today and is further expected to decline in cost.

The flip side of the grid balancing isn't just "too much RE", but rather the question of meeting demand, specifically, peak electricity demand. A useful measure of demand isn't total system demand but "net demand", a term that measures leftover demand after using all the intermittent or variable RE (VRE) possible, which is use-it-or-lose-it. Net demand peaks in the evening, and this may grow disproportionately over time as rising affluence increases household air-conditioner use.

To date, India enjoyed sufficient firm grid capacity, thanks to enormous coal capacity addition in the last decade. This is one reason why we can add VRE easily in the short-run without worrying about meeting the evening peak, nor need storage or grid overhauls. But in a few years, as demand rises, we risk peak shortfalls unless we scale up our capacity for

despatchable or firm power (and ensure fuel availability). The first option is to use existing assets to their full, but high fuel prices (especially natural gas) make this challenging. This means we should be cautious of premature retirement of our fossil fuel capacity. The good news is the output of our fossil fleet will come down as clean technologies displace it, thus reducing their emissions, but we cannot ignore their capacity contribution.

Meeting the peak will always be expensive, because it is only for a few hours a day (one doesn't build a new coal plant to run just a few hours a day). We find batteries cost effective for the peak, but not because these are cheaper than existing coal — these are only cheaper than new coal, especially coal operating only a limited number of hours per year.

Contrary to some lay press, batteries are expensive, not just today but even in 2030. Many round-the-clock (RTC) bids weren't based on storage, but oversizing to give a minimum guaranteed availability. Part of the reason for high costs is simple techno-economics for grid-quality batteries with an inverter (we shouldn't be swayed by automotive batteries), but part of the reason is we don't need a battery equally every day. Some days VRE suffices without a battery. The value of batteries in such time periods is only the marginal cost of fuels displaced.

Our most important finding was India must rethink planning and grid operations, covering issues of pricing, risk and incentives. We need to signal for more than a simplified measure of "cheapest power". Not all power is the same, and so average price comparisons such as levelised cost of energy (LCOE) are incomplete, more so as these assume a normative capacity utilisation which may not materialise. LCOE also misses system-level costs of supply options, such as when mid-day solar forces coal plants to back down and operate at part load, which is less efficient and causes higher wear and tear. The time of day pricing is just one partial solution. A smarter grid is another.

There's an old joke that data is like a toddler — squeeze it hard enough and it will say anything you want. Modelling is no different. Even if the methodology is as good as possible, assumptions matter. For India, how much will demand grow by 2030? What happens if demand rises faster than the relative slowdown of the last decade, say, due to Make in India? Of course, the elephant in the room is the growth of RE per ambitions. Does it grow equally from now till 2030, or grow more over time, in a compound growth rate manner? What will be the ratio of solar versus wind? Targets indicate 2:1 solar:wind, but we have much more growth of solar as of now. And weather patterns are yet another variable, made worse by climate change, which impacts not just wind output, but even hydro output.

The bottom line is we will need a portfolio approach, and we cannot put all our eggs in a single basket. No country exemplifies this better than China. It has both the world's dirtiest and world's cleanest energy system. For India, this isn't about hedging our bets or ambivalence, but having a smooth transition with a graceful phasedown of coal.

Rahul Tongia is a senior fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress The views expressed are personal

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB AUG31, 2022

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to inaugurate State S&T Ministers' Conclave at Science City, Ahmedabad on 10th September, 2022
Chairing a high-level review meeting here, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, the Conclave aims at strengthening the National Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) ecosystem through greater synergy between Centre and the States

The Minister says, Centre will assist States in formulating their State STI policies and will work jointly with States to address their Specific STI needs, challenges and gap areas and evolve solutions. Science & Technology Ministers of all 28 States, Administrators of 8 UTs and CEOs of over 100 Start Ups and industries are expected to take part in the two-day Science Conclave: Dr Jitendra Singh



Science & Technology Ministers of all 28 States, Administrators of 8 UTs, key officials from States – Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries in-charge of S&T in the states and all Science Secretaries to Government of India e.g., DST, DBT, DSIR, MoES, DAE, DoS, ICMR, ICAR, Jal Shakti, MoEF & CC, MNRE and CEOs of over 100 Start Ups and industries are expected to take part in the two-day Science Conclave.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the two-day Science and Technology Conclave will have a new dimension as several action-oriented decisions will be taken and all States and UTs will be asked to have individual STI policy on the lines of National STI policy. The Minister said, in the true spirit of cooperative federalism, the Centre will assist States in formulating their State STI policies. He said, Centre will also work jointly with States to address their Specific STI needs, challenges and gap areas and evolve solutions.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that there is a need for States to be proactive in aligning their policies towards the larger goal of strengthening Centre-State coordination and collaboration mechanism to strengthen STI ecosystem in the States by promoting R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship. He said, States must be able to explore solutions to their local problems through S&T interventions and promised all help by the Centre in exploring such solutions by connecting them to knowledge institutions and experts. The Minister pointed out that some of the States and UTs have weak S&T base and institutional strength and therefore they must connect their institutions with central government R&D and academic institutions.

Dr Jitendra Singh shared with the participants that almost every State has S&T Council but only few are working proactively and therefore the need was felt to enhance STI engagements with States beyond S&T Council level. He said, mapping of STI Ecosystem has four broad indicators like knowledge produced within the system, diffusion of the produced knowledge within the system, interactions/linkages between the knowledge producers and knowledge diffusers and identifications of needs/priorities and challenges/weaknesses of the system. The Minister informed that the DST made an attempt to develop a 'System Framework' for mapping the STI ecosystem of the States.

Dwelling on the broad agenda of the Conclave, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it will aim at fostering proactive engagements between Centre and States in S&T, creating a mechanism to facilitate the flow of STI information and data between Centre and States, Capacity Building of Scientists, technologists and professionals from States in key technology areas. He said, Centre and States will work together to promote Private sector participation in the State R&D and will try to put in position a robust and long term "Centre-State coordination and monitoring Mechanism in STI at the highest level.

The meeting was attended by Member NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K.Saraswat, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Sood, Secretary, Department Science & Technology, Dr S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary D/o Space, S. Somanath, Secretary, Earth Sciences, Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Capacity Building Commission, Hemang Jani and representatives from Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and MNRE and senior officials joined the review meeting.

SOCIAL WELFARE

ASIAN AGE, AUG 31, 2022

Let's end freebies. Evolve a 'smart welfare' consensus

Sriram Karri

There is no such thing as a freebie. It only means a service someone else has to pay for. A restaurant named Freebie was established with great fanfare at the end of the galaxy. It had a wide menu, delectable cuisine and great service; and, above all, was its billing policy – you eat, and your grandchild pays the bill. It took off with great gusto, patrons loving everything about it. No matter how much you consume, you pay nothing – they were told. The restaurant closed within a day when customers, no matter how much they consumed, received bills at checkout time, far higher than what they could have possibly had to pay. Reason: these were the bills of their grandparents. There is no such thing as a freebie. It only means a service someone else has to pay for. In India, like in most other countries, that person who must eventually pay is the taxpayer; or, if it is a more vicious charade, a hidden tax called forced inflation, then it is, again, all of us. Most people who game the system want to pay less and get more; and hope that a silent majority will end up paying for most of it, without complaining, or better, without even realising it. The Freebie restaurant model is of course the driving engine of every government in the world, and the philosophy is revered as a welfare state, development model, socialism, or rob Paul to pay Peter model.

A mythical moral champion of it, a kind of modern day father of all nations on earth, is Robin Hood, the fabled British rogue, who looted the rich to feed the poor. Every government and economic model is a variation on how smartly it can project the good it is doing for the poor, giving them things they need or want but cannot afford, (in exchange for that paltry useless vote once in a while), and in turn, bring to power many people, who can get away enjoying a lot, without having to pay anything at all. A reasonable fair consensus must be that everyone must agree on a smart, sustainable and fair welfare schema, which will ensure the poor and downtrodden have a minimum viable and dignified life, with a shot of a hope to better their lives. No one should get what they absolutely don't need, or have a cheaper alternative for, and no one, should ever, get anything free if they can otherwise afford it. Thus, the definition of a freebie depends as much on potential beneficiary as the scheme, its positive long-term impact, or short-term necessity in crucial terms, and the negative cost a society or country would have to bear if it does not offer welfare. Ending Freebies for the Undeserving Anyone who is comfortable in life and gets anything from the government free of cost or at a subsidy is enjoying a freebie. Like bungalows for politicians. Why should a Chief Minister, a minister, an MP or an MLA have a bungalow instead of, say, a flat in a skyscraper? Imagine the disinvestment if we sold most of Lutyens Delhi and moved all ministers, MPs, diplomats, and officials to a few blocks of apartments and used the money to remove the loans of all farmers?. It is more vicious because the beneficiaries sign the policy themselves, while we are helplessly forced to pay and watch. Why should they have convoys of cars? Why should they get free power connections or telephone bills?

Ditto officials. All-India Services, especially the IAS, is a big freebie. Bungalows, cars, travel, foreign travel, higher education abroad, educational tours, everything is a freebie. End them, and make them pay. Why should retired officers of judiciary or IAS get free land from the government to build a house? It is a freebie. Make them pay or take them back. Why should a retired officer get a servant or a secretary or a driver for a lifetime? It is a freebie; stop them. Why should they move on toll-gate roads without paying a toll? It is a freebie. Make them pay. Why must nonprofits be allowed free land, or buildings, or tax benefits? Or government funds. If they are serving people well, let them raise voluntary donations. End all public funding to NGOs. That is a terrible freebie. In short, no taxpayer or anyone earning more than, say, Rs 75,000 a month, should ever get a freebie.

Wastage versus Welfare

An investment into the primary education and primary health of people, all people, except the very rich who don't need it, is good welfare. Build the best schools, hire good teachers, feed the children at government schools and ensure every Indian of the future is educated to a good school-level competency. After that, the gamut of free or subsidised higher education in a freebie. A government can mimic a parent, a poor one, here. A parent would go out of the way to give education to a child, but stops at that school level, post which the students must be enabled to take low interest loans and pay for themselves. All healthcare — vaccines, basic health check-ups, and life threatening surgeries — must be provided for; many good schemes exist in the country but a lot more needs to be done. A national goal of housing and subsidised food for the poor is a must, too. The PDS can never be termed a freebie and a decent home for the poor must be our collective mission. Free electricity, free water, free or heavily subsidised LPG or cooking gas are not welfare schemes, people must, beyond a basic minimum block, be made to pay. A single subsidised cylinder per month, and subsidized power for the first 200 odd units must be the maximum permissible welfare expenditure a government or a party must be allowed. Free laptops, free mobile phones, free TVs, free cycles or motorcycles, free clothes, free travel, free education abroad are all irresponsible and unsustainable freebies that have no place. These put fiscal pressures on government budgets, which then become a route to forced inflationary hidden-taxes. Ad hoc cash awards to sportspersons, artists and other social achievers, except those in the military or the police, who have served valiantly or laid down their lives, is a freebie. Making movies tax-free on discretion is a freebie. Free land for business to come and invest is a freebie.

Smaller Government

Citizens of India are told to live a life where they are reconciled that they cannot have what they cannot afford, except a big government. We cannot have world-class roads or universities but our bureaucrats and politicians have a world-class lifestyle. And in their standards of life, we are better off than even the western world, where judges drive their own cars and PMs and ministers take a ride on metro trains.

TELECOMMUNICATION

PIONEER, AUG30, 2022

Jio to invest Rs 2 lakh cr in 5G; rollout in metros by Diwali

Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani on Monday announced a Rs 2 lakh crore investment in deploying fifth-generation or 5G telephony with rollout in metro cities by Diwali.

Jio, the nation's largest telecom operator, has deployed standalone 5G stack rather than upgrading the existing 4G network, to offer ultra-high speed internet, he said at Reliance Industries' 45th AGM.

Jio will launch 5G services by Diwali in metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, he said adding this will be expanded to other cities and towns in phases to cover entire India in 18 months by December 2023. Jio's ambitious 5G rollout plan will be the fastest in the world, he said.

TERRORISM

TRIBUNE, SEP4, 2022

Political expediency rules terror listing in UNSC

Partisan geopolitical considerations of UNSC members, particularly the P-5, directly impact the listing or delisting processes of terrorists. From 2010 to 2020, the calibrated speed at which the delisting exercise for individuals associated with the Taliban was carried out directly correlated with the US-Taliban dialogue in the last decade. A proactive approach may add weight to petitioning by a member-state for listing under consolidated UNSC Sanctions List.

Luv Puri

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In July this year, India told a UN Security Council meeting that it was “most regrettable” that genuine and evidence-based proposals to blacklist some of the world’s most notorious terrorists are being placed on hold, saying such “double standards” are rendering credibility of the Council’s sanctions regime at an “all-time low”. The reference was to India’s past attempts to designate terrorists under the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council and China allegedly impeding the process with procedural delays.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has imposed sanctions within the scope of Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN charter which states that “the UNSC may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the members of the United Nations to apply such measures.” In the past 56 years, 30 sanctions regimes, including 14 ongoing ones, with a focus on supporting political settlement of conflicts, nuclear non-proliferation and counter-terrorism (CT), have been established. Because of stakes, the fact is that some sanctions regime is more important for a particular member-state than others.

The sanctions-related discussions around Iran’s nuclear proliferation are proactively followed and influenced by the US and the EU. In the same vein, within the counter-terrorism landscape, the work of the UNSC Committee with respect to al-Qaida, ISIL and Taliban is followed avidly by various directly impacted member-states. Like the rest of the multilateral arena, a mismatch may exist between the diplomatic assertions and expectations, aimed at the domestic as well as international audience, and exact workings within the multilateral arena that are predicated on multiple vectors.

The listing of the al-Qaida, ISIL and Taliban associates has its genesis in the pre-9/11 era. The process was triggered in consequence to the UNSC resolution 1267 (1999), which imposed a limited air embargo and assets freeze on the Taliban. Over time, the regime evolved and was further firmed up with “measures became a targeted assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo against designated individuals and entities”. A number of UNSC resolution followed after 9/11, including the formative and critical UNSC resolution 1373 (2001) on September 28, 2001, which unleashed a series of concrete institutional steps within

the multilateral arena in the CT domain. With respect to the work and mandate of the 1267 Committee, there were calibrated changes in the subsequent resolutions for the renewal of its mandate in line with the CT-related developments and concerns of various stakeholders.

An Office of the Ombudsperson was established to mitigate the various concerns expressed over the process of listing as well as delisting. In 2011, in response to the engagement with Taliban by the US, under the UNSC resolutions 1988 and 1989, the work of the original Committee, formed under the UNSC resolution 1267, was bifurcated with the separation of the mandate to oversee the implementation of the measures against individuals and entities associated with al-Qaida. In 2015, concomitant to another UNSC resolution 2253, ISIL (Da'esh) was also added as part of the mandate of the al-Qaida-related committee. Under the two mandates, there is also an 'Analytical support and sanctions monitoring team' which comprises ten experts and they come out with periodic reports providing information and trends of the various CT-related trends within the scope of the two mandates.

Over the years, India has expended a lot of diplomatic capital to enlist individuals as terrorists as part of the 1267 Sanctions UNSC Committee with a particular focus on India-centric terrorist outfits such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. India's track record in this respect is mixed. A case in point was the ten years it took to list Bahawalpur-born Masood Azhar in the 1267 Sanctions UNSC Committee list. Some of the evidence against Azhar was already in the public domain. After his infamous release from Kot Bhalwal jail (J&K) in 1999 as part of the swap deal in Kandahar with the hijackers of IC-814, he returned to Pakistan to create the Jaish-e-Mohammad. Jaish has allegedly been responsible for many terrorist attacks in the nearly 20 years of its existence, including the attack on Parliament House on December 13, 2001.

In the period that Azhar's case was under review, as per informed Pakistani scholars' accounts, Jaish continued to raise funds and recruit in the southern part of Pakistan's Punjab province; the Pathankot air base attack took place in 2016; on February 14, 2019, Jaish's Kashmiri recruit Adil Ahmad Dar rammed his vehicle, armed with explosives, with a CRPF vehicle, killing 40 soldiers. Dar claimed his allegiance to Jaish in a video which was shot before the suicide attack. China, one of the P-5 members, had delayed Azhar's listing all this while by invoking myriad procedural questions. Azhar was finally listed in May 2019. There was quick action when Pakistani Punjab-based Lashkar chief Hafiz Sayed was listed within a few days after the Mumbai attack in November 2008. The universal mass outrage of the attack was such that no member-state resisted or delayed the listing.

The evidence for a petition for listing of an individual or individuals is often generated by the intelligence assets or capabilities of a member-state. Presenting a demonstrative and irrefutable evidence for listing in a manner that doesn't blunt or compromise the future intelligence gathering capacity is a challenge. Secondly, the entire process to list and delist has moved in parallel to concerns expressed by some quarters that such processes should not be done with political expediency of big powers and should be in line within the framework for international human rights and humanitarian law. A number of reports emanating from the multilateral arena have emphasised that.

No doubt, partisan geopolitical considerations of the UNSC members, particularly the P-5, directly impact the listing or delisting processes of terrorists in the UNSC. From 2010 to 2020, the calibrated speed at which the delisting exercise for individuals associated with the Taliban was carried out directly correlated with the US-Taliban dialogue in the last decade. At the same time, a multi-dimensional, proactive approach, in view of over two-decade-old

history and workings of these mandates, may add weight to the petitioning by a member-state for listing under the consolidated UNSC Sanctions List.