

The Enquiry

AN INSIGHT INTO POLICY AND GOVERNANCE



#ARTICLE 370 ~~NOT~~ OUT

INSIGHT

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विश्व की ७ वीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था खुद बीमार है.

Water water everywhere not a drop to drink

आर्थिक समानता की चपेट में केवल भारत या पूरा विश्व?

एक विधान, एक प्रधान और एक निशान।

- The President has abrogated some provisions of Article 370 from Indian constitution which provided some specific privileges to this disputed state.
- For last seven decades Jammu and Kashmir was the most marginalised segment of the country simply due to its geo- political phenomenon..
- Now the geography of Jammu and Kashmir has been design in such a manner that targeted benefits can be easily delivered.
- Ladakh will become a union territory without a state legislation whereas Jammu and Kashmir will become a union territory with a state legislatoon.
- International community, except very few, have supported India's stand considering it an internal matter of the country.
- The natural aggrieved party Pakistan has knocked the doors of UNSC but it even denied to make any official statement in this regard.
- Pakistan has malfunctioned the Shimla Agreement and UN Resolution by allowing ground for terrorism sponsoring and widely engaging in militant activities in their neighbours.
- From October 2019, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will function as a separate union territories i.e.India's new geographical design.
- Government is going to arrange the business summit in the coming months to provide enough opportunities “To explore the unexplored” potentials of this heaven like State, sorry union territories.

OP-ED



Gandhiji in the age of 5-Gs

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To write anything on Mahatma Gandhi is perhaps one of the most difficult tasks for any scholar, I believe. And interestingly, this is not because there is a scarcity of literature on Gandhi or so but because there is an overflow of it! Unfortunately, despite so much being written on Gandhi, we understand so little about the man who himself argued that his life was a message in itself. In the age of post-truth and fourth generation industrial revolution, where artificial intelligence is being touted as superior to human intelligence and where robots are replacing humans in both physical and metaphorical sense, it is imperative and sine qua non to acknowledge the jewel of humanity who is being looked at with profanity and ridicule by this generation of Indians whose only source of knowledge and (mis) information is some or the other social media platforms. However, Gandhi's greatest strength lies not in his infallible idea but his unwavering commitment and conviction to those ideas which even cost him his life. His book *Hind Swaraj*, a tiny piece of work that reflects his ideas on British Raj, Hindu-Muslim relations, railways and civilization etc. is enough to give even the best of the libraries of the world a run for money. He was a man with multi-dimensional personality which gets reflected in his work as a social reformer, a writer, a lawyer, a political philosopher and an activist. That almost all noted social reformers from Martin Luther King to Nelson Mandela have acknowledged being inspired by Gandhi and even the most anti-Gandhian ideologies and people are forced to embrace his thoughts (at least for the namesake) in public domain highlights how the post world-war global order has gracefully accepted his ideas (if not shaped by it), although the relevance of his ideas needs no proof. Rather than asking the relevance of Gandhi in contemporary times, the question that should be asked is that do we need Gandhian ideas more than ever before, considering the turbulent circumstances that have emerged globally. Gandhi's ideas can transform the world and can ensure peace for both humans as well as humanity. His guidance can prevent the world from moving towards an uncertain future that is full of clashes, wars and deterioration.

Gandhian ideas as a roadmap for the future

The reckless destruction of the environment and natural habitat has miserably failed in achieving its objective of global well being and prosperity of the people, and has only been able to widen the gap between the rich and the poor. Henceforth, we have not been able to come to terms for either economy or ecology. The model of development that the world adopted post world-war has come to be vehemently questioned and challenged due to its continued failure in raising the standard of living for a huge chunk of the population. Call it irony or a tragedy that even the proponent, patron and propagator of this model of development - the World Bank, itself has started to sincerely doubt about its future and viability and is therefore talking about equality as well as equity. The world standing at this crossroads needs to look back as to what Gandhi had said about the economic model that the World should adopt instead of simply falling and following one of the two models of growth that were prominent and promising those times- Communism and Capitalism. Being a visionary, Gandhi had anticipated much before the perils and shortcomings of both these models and therefore argued against the two. Instead, what he proposed was something that was to ensure social and environmental egalitarianism and human emancipation through hard work and endeavour. The discourse on sustainable development has its roots in Gandhian thoughts itself who said that, "There is enough in this world for man's need but not enough for one man's greed."

His concept of *Swaraj* was unique in itself as it was not merely a political idea of self-rule, but a manifestation of both inner and outer consciousness that turned an ordinary man into a *satyagrahi*, or the seeker of truth, in the league of Buddha, Mahavir and Jesus. When we look at our current political discourse and functioning of our social structure, plagued by the menace of communalism, corruption, violence and cronyism, we are forced to believe that only Gandhi's idea of grassroot democracy and public participation can change the society and polity for good. As Gandhi believed that social revolution is the prerequisite for any political development so he focused more on ending social evils like untouchability, caste discrimination, inequality etc. before directly jumping upon the demand for seeking freedom from British rule in India. Similarly, our contemporary politics and policy can change only when we give importance to removing social evils of modern times like intolerance, lust for money, mindless rat-race etc. Remember, the politicians that we often are critical of, do not come out of a vacuum. They come from our own society and at times our own caste, religion, race etc. That means they reflect the moral character of our own society, how much wrong it may seem. Therefore it is imperative that our own moral and social character gets transformed before expecting any major overhaul of the polity.

The 5G or the fifth generation technology is knocking on our doors with great zeal and a promise of an unimaginable future where technology would determine and connect almost everything, be it our washing machine to our car and our toaster. This connection of machines simultaneously raises several social and ethical concerns. Are we becoming slaves to technology? Is human touch losing its importance to the touch screen? Is social media making us more anti-social? Are these fast speed means of communication, in reality reducing our communication with our people? The answers to these questions are neither simple nor easy and require deeper introspection. Gandhi's disdain for advanced technology of his times like the railways is an open secret. And his reasons for it require our close attention. He believed that it has destroyed the civilization and has created artificial requirements, thereby turning people desirous. This holds true perhaps for our times too. We are becoming more and more addicted and dependent on technology. The problem with this is manifold. Modern technologies are making us lazy, drastically enhancing the chances for surveillance, reducing our inner peace etc. Also, as multiple reports have pointed out, not just the people using it, but the technology itself has certain biases towards the weaker and marginalized sections of the society, be it blacks, Dalits, women etc. The case of face recognition technology is a glaring example as to how technology works against the underprivileged.

Automation and machine learning is also another domain about which the world is going gaga. But they have thrown a mighty challenge of job loss for millions of people rendering their future in uncertainty. As robots replace humans at workplaces, the question arises- what will the labour do to survive and sustain his family? This was the reason why Gandhi hated mass production- a concept that stood for heavy industries, that had emerged during his times. He wanted it to be replaced by production by the masses instead as he knew that only employment at a large scale can sustain the social and economic future of a country. After several decades, the question has re-emerged. Let us see how much we take inspiration from Gandhi's ideas which do offer panacea to our modern day problems.



ARTHNEETI

Yes, it is a structural slowdown in Indian Economy !

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A friend asked me, in your latest article you said everything is not fair in the economy. Why do you think so? Suddenly, I realised that somehow, I was little bit wrong. Let me correct my statement now. Logically, Indian economy is facing a structural slowdown and this slowdown is not a cyclical one. Jet Airways has been closed, Air India is facing a big financial crisis, BSNL is struggling for its existence in this hyper competition of Telecom industry. Defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has borrowed ₹1000 crore to pay salaries to its employee for the first time in decades. India post annual deficit touched the level of staggering ₹15,000 crore in financial year 2019. In fact, now it has emerged as the biggest loss-making PSU. ONGC, India's largest crude oil and natural gas company, has exhausted its accumulated cash reserve as well as profit. It is now under a mountain of debt due to unnecessary acquisition that were forced to be made by the Modi led government.

Indian banking system is also suffering from huge NPA crisis. The current figure of NPA is ₹9,49,279 crore and out of this almost 50% is made by just 150 corporate people of India. However, it is absolutely true that existing NPAs were reduced by Rupees 1 lakh crore in past few years. But let me put out another figure, under Modi 1.0, ₹5,55,603 crore corporate loans were written off by the government. Along with MP crisis banks are also suffering from the huge fraudulent cases. As per latest RBI data, in the last 11 years, total of 53334 cases of fraud were found which amounts to rupees 2.05 lakh crore. Alone in 2018-19, it was ₹71500 crore. In the last 5 year of Modi government ₹1,74,749 crore went out due to bank fraud. It is almost 87% of last the 11 years accumulation. These data are without considering Mudra loans. I wonder what will be the amount of NPA when Mudra loan will be put in consideration. The way Mudra loans are defaulting, we can easily say that it is certainly going to be a big threat for banking sector in the coming years.

Now look at the Indian auto industry performance. It is in the middle of worst ever performance. Passenger vehicles sales has fallen by 18.4 percent in the first quarter and monthly passenger vehicles sale in June has seen a sharp fall by the biggest margin in last 16 year. The auto industry has a deep impact on Indian economy as it contributes nearly 7.5 % of India's GDP and 49% of manufacturing GDP.

Look at the GDP composition of India. There are four big elements private consumption, investment, government expenditure and Net export. Private investment is declining in Indian economy. In financial year 2015 private investment rate was 31.10% but in 2019 it has reduced to 28.9%. The private final consumption expenditure (PFCE), which reflects demand in the economy, grew 3.14 per cent in the first quarter of 2019-20. It is 17-quarter low. Household saving is declining. In last 20 years it is the first time when household savings is declining. In 2011-12 household saving was 68.2 % whereas in 2017-18 it is reduced to 56.3%. Household savings is a key factor to promote domestic investment in the economy. In 2017, the total saving rate of common people has come down to 17% in the ratio to GDP, which is the lowest in last 20 yaers.

When we look at the export figure, In financial year 2014 the export rate was 25.4 % but in financial year 2019 it is reduced to 19.7%. One factor that is maintaining Indian economy is channelization of FDI in domestic economy. In 2018-19 India received 64.37 billion dollar FDI. But it is not sufficient and it is a gross figure. The net FDI only amount to 44 billion dollar.

Indian economic growth rate slowed down 25 quarter or 6 year low of 5 % in April-June 2018-19. Agriculture sector has been hit by fall in producer prices and income growth rate. Currently it is growing at record low rate at 2%. At this rate the farmers income will be doubled in more than 20 years. Forget about the dream of 2022. IIP the parameter of measuring factory output slowed to 2% in June 2019. The worst fears of Indian economy is the growing rate of unemployment. The government data said that unemployment rate in India in 2017-18 was 6%. Unemployment in the country is at 45 years high.

All world renowned agencies are cutting their forecast for GDP growth in 2019-20. Investor are losing their faith in Modi 2.0. After the first full Budget, investors lost nearly Rs 12 lakh crore worth of wealth within a short period of 50 days. As per the RBI survey report, the consumer confidence in economy dropped. it simply connotes that consumer perception about the Indian economy is not good .They are predicting that in near future the economy will go further down. In the recent notification Finance ministry made it clear that the ministry officials would only read out a statement and wouldn't take any questions from the journalists during press briefing. What is this? Why a strong government is escaping from the questions on Economy?

The Indian economy is running on false pride of strong majoritarian Modi government with worst data. Let me conclude with the famous quote ' Jab Rome Jal raha tha to Niro Bansi Baja raha tha'. Indian economy is losing its charm. It is completely a structural slowdown. India is now on the seventh place in the global GDP rankings in 2018. Before it was on 6th place. But our government is merely reacting over the data instead of taking some structural reform. Modi government should understand that changes are not the reform. Demonetisation was a economic disaster and GST is not enough to say structural reform because it has failed to deliver. Recently CAG published it's first audit report on Goods and Services Tax (GST) in which he clearly mentioned that the government has failed to put out a simplified tax compliance regime and non-intrusive e-tax system remains elusive even after two years of the Goods and Services Tax's (GST) roll-out.

Recently Finance Minister said that India's GDP will continue to grow at a faster pace than the global economy and any other major economy. Even if we assume that FM's statement is correct then there is a serious remark that why private investment, automobile sector, FMCG sector, Job etc. are on the lower side?



WORLD ECONOMY

U.S. Sanctions On Iran Oil Trade: Changing Global Scenario

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“Capture of British oil tanker ship by Iran”; “Shooting down of an unmanned U.S. drone over Strait of Hormuz”; “Breaching the limit of 300 kg of enriched uranium stockpile Iran would begin to enrich it above a concentration of 3.67% permitted under nuclear deal” the retaliatory actions of Iran have made the international headlines over past few months. These steps came in the wake of increasing tensions between U.S. and Iran. The origin of this bitterness may be traced back to May 2018 when U.S. President Donald Trump announced the country's withdrawal from JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action) followed by re imposition of stringent economic sanctions against Iran. These included sanctions against foreign companies doing business with Iran and countries buying Iranian oil.

U.S. and Iran were natural allies in 1950s when U.S. encouraged Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to build a nuclear program and also built Iran's first nuclear reactor in 1967. But Shah's ambitions went beyond nuclear energy and extended to nuclear weapons. However, his regime toppled in 1979 and the new government under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini cancelled his plans for a large nuclear-energy sector, retaining only already established projects. Even during Iran-Iraq War (1980-88) when Iraq attacked with chemical weapons, Iran refrained from responding in kind despite having requisite technology. U.S. unconvinced of Iran's intentions tried to build a false narrative against Iran alleging that it's nuclear program to enrich uranium was intended for a bomb. However, U.S. intelligence agencies and later IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) declared that activities relevant to nuclear explosives were carried out as co-ordinated efforts only prior to end of 2003. Still, U.S. continued to impose sanctions on Iran from 1983, demanding it to completely halt the uranium production. It was only during Barack Obama's second term as president that U.S. seek for temporary truce leading to JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action).

The JCPOA /Iran Nuclear Deal reached by Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom and United States) on July 14, 2015 recognised Iran's right to maintain a civilian nuclear programme, but placed significant restrictions on its size and scope for 10-15 years. IAEA was granted unprecedented powers to inspect Iran's nuclear activities and has repeatedly verified Iran's compliance. But when Trump administration withdrew from this deal on May 8, 2018 it was clear that U.S. is no more interested in arms control but in initiating an open conflict with Iran.

U.S. announced sanctions in November 2018 but allowed waivers to 8 major importers- Japan, South Korea, China, India, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Taiwan for a period of 180 days which ended on May 2nd 2019. While Greece, Italy and Taiwan had already zeroed their oil imports from Iran and Japan and South Korea had substantially reduced; China and Turkey opposed the move. Both nations rejected unilateral sanctions laid by U.S. and declared that they will continue to buy oil from Iran.

India whose strategic interests lie with both parties eventually declared to abide by the U.S. sanctions and stop buying oil from Iran, looking for alternate sources of supply. India is world's 3rd largest oil consumer and depends for 85% of its crude oil needs on foreign countries, Iran being it's 3rd largest supplier after Iraq and Saudi Arabia. In FY 2018-2019, India imported 24 million tonnes

of crude oil from Iran. Reducing it to zero will have serious repercussions because Iran provided - *discount on freight making the oil cheaper; *60 days credit period, and * Indian refineries are designed to handle Iranian type of oil and making them suitable for others will incur heavy costs.

Why India still supported U.S. ?

- U.S. recently emerged as major ally of India
- Supported along with France to make Massoud Azhar be declared as terrorist
- Trying to get India into NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group)
- In the field of energy: 6 nuclear power plants are going to be established in India

Also, U.S. offered trade concessions on imports of U.S. Shale Oil, that are on par with those offered by Iran. India stands to gain here as Shale Oil is competitively priced in comparison to crude oil from gulf countries.

The Chabahar Port Project

The strategic Chabahar Port being developed by India in Iran, which is a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with Central Asian countries is located in the Indian Ocean in Sistan and Balochistan Provinces of Iran. U.S. declared that this project is a separate exception and will not be impacted. However, if energy supplies won't move through Chabahar which are sanctioned, it will indirectly impact commercial viability of the project. Also, here lies strategic interest of U.S. as well which can put more pressure on Pakistan and contest with China by countering Gwadar Port (being developed by China in Pakistan).

Negative Impacts

- The immediate step to cut oil imports from Iran has ought to increase oil prices international market. U.S. offer of Shale Oil has its own limits. The international price had immediately shot up to US \$75 per barrel after re imposition of sanctions from US \$ 50 per barrel and today is about US\$ 65 per barrel.
- Though Chabahar project was nominally exempted from sanctions, but it has been damaged anyway since suppliers are reluctant to deliver equipment. Sanctions have also prevented ONGC Videsh from pursuing its investments there.

Conclusion

The step of Indian government to adhere towards U.S. sanctions without exploring several available strategies which could ameliorate the impact of sanctions goes in striking contrast to P.M. Modi's declaration that foreign policy has become “fearless, bold and decisive”. China has maintained commercial ties with Iran by routing transactions through Bank Of Kunlun (insulated from U.S. financial system). European countries also attempted to bypass sanctions through a special mechanism called INSTEX.

The Hasan Rouhani government has been left with no option but to undertake tit for tat measures, further heightening the political temperature in Persian Gulf. If taken to its logical conclusion this scenario can turn out to be catastrophic for entire West Asian region as well as for international economy. Oil supplies will be greatly reduced leading to the sky rocketing prices and further devastating Iranian economy. However, hopes still survive in this fast changing global economic and geo-political scenario for future negotiations between both parties.



OP-ED

Poverty: the unprivileged topic of India due to the privilege of nationalism

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There are two ironic news for you. First, according to United Nations Development Programme, "India has lifted 271 million people from poverty in just 10 years." And second, India stands at 103rd rank out of 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index ranking 2018, posing serious levels of hunger. Poverty may be awarded as the most viral topic among political activist but only during the elections. This holy debate of poverty perishes as soon as the election campaign gets eroded. During Lok Sabha election 2019, the same fate happened with poverty. The debate sparked on its feasibility and future implications as well. Indeed, poverty is a blot on the face of humanity especially on the face of this capitalist world where merely top 3 businessmen's net worth is equivalent to the sum total of GDP of 3 African countries. Let me address the issue of poverty in India. Well, we have inherited poverty from the Britishers as an artificial ancestral gift. As at the time of independence, India's literacy rate was merely 17 percent and only 32.5 years of life expectancy. There was no per capita growth in India between 1600 to 1870, per capita growth was meagre 0.2 percent from 1870 to 1947 leading to rampant poverty as presented by Digby and Atkinson. In this regard, Dadabhai Naoroji's "Drain of Wealth" theory is also a very fruitful evidence. As everyone knows, at the time of independence, India's economic situation was very vulnerable. In the words of Nehru ji in his book- Discovery of India, "there was lack of food, of clothing, of housing and of every other essential requirements of human existence... the development policy objective should be to get rid of the appalling poverty of the people". Further, after independence Pt. Nehru came up with his Nehruvian model of economic growth with more inclination towards industrial sectors which turned to be a failure because India lacked basic infrastructure to support such policy shift. Thus, it failed to deliver the ambitious desired results.

India's development journey could have been very different, if agricultural segment would have been selected as the prime moving force of the economy. Because at that point of time, we had abundance of cultivated lands but concentrated in few hands, less technicality was required in it; moreover, there were huge dependency of population on agriculture for employment. People's Republic of China embraced the same concept i.e. first they focused on the development of agriculture sector which fulfilled their food security need and built infrastructure for industrialisation out of surplus from agriculture sector then moved toward industrialisation on a huge scale. India adopted this at a very early stage. Today, China has alleviated more people from poverty along with portraying his image as a world leader in the production of various goods and services and India is gradually getting stuck in the mud of 'market failure.' Market failure is a situation when there are goods and services in an economy and its requirement too, but due to lack of purchasing power, the requirement of people is does not get translated into demands. This view was articulated by Noble laureate Amartya Sen and Jean Dreze in their work titled **"India: Economic Development and Social**

Opportunity" and it emerged mainly because merely 48 percent of India's population was below the poverty line. As per world bank, India accounted for world's largest number of poor in 2012. It's not the case that the government did nothing for the eradication of poverty in 70 years. Yes, the government formed various committees and schemes with political motives behind it, therefore, it delivered partial results. According to Rangarajan committee, even after 70 years of independence nearly 363 million people are living vulnerable life as BPL family; mainly because the government failed to keep a tight check on its factorial causes like rapid population growth, lack of skill among youths resulting in the poor remunerative jobs, high institutional medical expenses, the vicious circle of the debt trap, widespread illiteracy, overburdened agriculture along with low growth rate.

However, there are two-fold problems with this data. Let me address this issue one by one. Firstly, criteria for measuring poverty is only nutrition i.e. 2400 calories for rural people and 2100 for urban which on an average fetch cost of 972 per month for rural area and 1407 for urban area and this is a scale for measuring poverty. It means anyone earning above this determined level will not come under the category of BPL, which is total humiliation of poor mass, how someone can afford monthly life on just 972 rupees in a rural area. On average, most of the people are coming under poverty due to high medical expenses which they could not afford, unfortunately, this is not included in this criterion. India accounted for only 18% of the global population in 2016, but it accounts for 34% of the global tuberculosis burden and 26 percent of the premature mortality due to diarrhoea, lowers respiratory and other infectious diseases. Such harmful diseases cause deterioration of workforce, leading to financial distress and thus creates ample space for poverty. The second face of this data is its non-reliability due to inefficient targeting of the 'real' beneficiaries. Lack of employability skill is also a great hurdle in alleviating people from poverty-hell because unless people are skilled it becomes very difficult to provide them with fair remunerations for their service.

According to the India Skills Report 2018 (Wheebox), the employability score of India is 45 percent. Only around 4.7 percent of India's workforce is formally trained compared to Germany's 75 percent and Korea's 96 percent. At last, India needs to take some concrete steps to tackle the problem of poverty. These measures start right from a change in the framework of identification of poor and equipped them as a human resource of the country not as resource consumer only. It asks for emphasis on agriculture reforms, vocational training, improvising MSMEs, and think for Universal Basic Income. There must be the introduction of industrial revolution 4.0 as soon as possible and proper implementation of existing schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Yojana, PM Awas Yojna, Mudra Yojna, Skill India, Make in India, MGNREGA etc.



सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिदृश्य

विश्व की 7 वीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था खुद बीमार है.

अनुरा मल्ल

(बी काम आनर्स द्वितीय वर्ष वाणिज्य संकाय, बीएचयू)

विश्व की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी जनसंख्या व तेजी से बढ़ने वाली अर्थव्यवस्था की श्रेणी में शामिल भारत जहां 1.21 बिलियन आबादी निवास करती है। भारत की तीव्र जनसंख्या वृद्धि से अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है कि आने वाले कुछ वर्षों में भारत विश्व की सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या वाला देश होगा। हाल ही में आई नीति आयोग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार - यद्यपि हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार आया है पर स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में कोई खास सुधार देखने को नहीं मिला है। पर सवाल यह है कि अगर हमारी स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था का बुनियादी ढांचा इतना कमजोर है तो हम आने वाले कुछ सालों में ५ लाख करोड़ डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था के सपने कैसे देख रहे हैं? या तो ये आंकड़े भ्रम फैलाने के लिए हैं या केवल कागजों पर शानदार उपलब्धि दर्शाने के लिए क्योंकि बिना बुनियादी स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं मुहैया कराए अर्थव्यवस्था की गति को बढ़ाना मजाक सा लगता है। हालांकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत ने अपनी रैंकिंग में ८ अंकों की बढ़त के उछाल के साथ १४५वां स्थान प्राप्त किया है। १९९० में भारत की रैंकिंग १५३वें स्थान पर थी जो कि २०१६ में सुधार के साथ १४५वें स्थान पर आ गई। कुल मिलाकर हमने २६ वर्षों में ८ अंक की बढ़त हासिल की है जो स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में कुछ खास सुधार को नहीं दर्शाती है। वहीं हमारे पड़ोसी देश भूटान १३५वां स्थान, बांग्लादेश १३२वां स्थान और श्री लंका ७१वें स्थान के साथ स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में हमसे आगे हैं। नीति आयोग की हालिया रिपोर्ट में भारत की राज्य स्तर पर स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था की विवेचना की है जिस कारण सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्यों व निष्कृष्ट राज्यों में स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था का अंतर स्पष्ट पता चलता है। इस रिपोर्ट के अनुसार सर्वश्रेष्ठ राज्य, निष्कृष्ट राज्यों की तुलना में २.५ गुना अच्छी स्थिति में हैं।

इस रिपोर्ट को तैयार करने के लिए सर्वप्रथम राज्यों को उनके क्षेत्रफल के अनुसार तीन श्रेणियों में बांटा गया है - बड़े राज्य, छोटे राज्य एवं केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश शामिल हैं। २०१५-१६ में आई रिपोर्ट को आधार मानते हुए २०१७ की इस रिपोर्ट को तैयार किया गया है जिसके अनुसार बड़े राज्यों में केरल ने ७४.०१ अंकों के साथ सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्थान हासिल किया है, आंध्र प्रदेश (६०.१६) तथा महाराष्ट्र (६१.०७) ने समस्त स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्ण प्रदर्शन करते हुए दूसरा एवं तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया है। वहीं हरियाणा (४६.९७), राजस्थान (३६.७९) तथा झारखण्ड (४५.३३) ने अपने वार्षिक वृद्धि दर के साथ वार्षिक वृद्धि तालिका में शीर्ष तीन स्थान प्राप्त किए हैं। वहीं स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में निम्न स्तर पर उ.प्र. और बिहार जैसे राज्य शामिल हैं। बिहार ने ३२.११ अंकों के साथ तालिका में नीचे से दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया है तो वहीं उ.प्र. ने ३३.६९ अंकों के साथ कुल २१ बड़े राज्यों में अंतिम स्थान प्राप्त किया है।

छोटे राज्यों की बात करें तो छोटे राज्यों में मिजोरम (७४.९७) ने शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त किया जो केरल से भी अधिक अच्छी स्थिति में है। नीति आयोग की इस रिपोर्ट का विश्लेषण किया जाए तो भले ही केरल शीर्ष स्थान पर हो परन्तु बीते वर्षों में केरल की स्थिति बिगड़ी है जिसकी वजह से वार्षिक वृद्धि दर में २.५४ अंकों की गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

तो वहीं हरियाणा, राजस्थान और उत्तराखंड में पीछले २ वर्षों में काफी सुधार आया है।

सबसे दयनीय स्थिति उ.प्र., बिहार, उड़ीसा, म.प्र. एवं उत्तराखंड की है। बिहार की स्थिति अधिक बिगड़ने का एक बड़ा कारण वहां इंसेफेलाइटिस सिंड्रोम से बच्चों की अधिक मौत भी है। स्थितियां बद से बदतर हुई हैं। जिला अस्पताल, सामुदायिक चिकित्सालय तथा प्राथमिक अस्पतालों की संख्या में २०१५-१६ की रिपोर्ट के मुकाबले कमी दर्ज की गई है, जबकि इन अस्पतालों की बढ़ोतरी तथा उनकी स्थितियों में सुधार की आवश्यकता है। अन्य स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम जो की मूलतः सरकार द्वारा चलाए जा रहे हैं जैसे - बच्चों के प्रतिरक्षा टीकाकरण, टी. बी. का इलाज, इत्यादि में भी सुधार की जगह गिरावट देखने को मिली। लगातार बिगड़ती स्थिति 'स्वस्थ भारत' को आड़ना दिखाती हैं जिनकी कई वजहें सामने आईं। अस्पतालों में मशीनों तथा अन्य संसाधनों की किल्लत या जिन अस्पतालों में मशीनें उपलब्ध भी हैं उन मशीनों की हालत बदहाल है, डॉक्टर्स की कमी, नर्स स्टाफ की कमी और तो और प्राथमिक अस्पतालों में स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों की संख्या में गिरावट।

बिहार को हम एक सटीक उदाहरण के तौर पर ले सकते हैं की किस प्रकार स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में बिहार की स्थिति ने उस राज्य को ही पीछे धकेल दिया है जहां प्राथमिक इलाज भी मुहैया कराना मुश्किल है। बिगड़ती हुई सरकारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं लोगों को निजी अस्पतालों की ओर धकेल रही हैं जो गरीबों का इलाज करने में असफल हैं। निजी अस्पतालों के महंगे होने के कारण गरीब इलाज कराने में असमर्थ है। सही इलाज ना मिलने के कारण भी मृत्यु दर में बढ़ोतरी देखने को मिली है। सरकारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का निजी अस्पतालों पर आश्रित होना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है जिसका खामियाजा गिरती हुई स्वास्थ्य दरो से भुगतना पड़ रहा है। २०१६-१७ में आई बजट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 'राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन' के अन्तर्गत अस्पतालों के सुदृढ़ीकरण, उनके नए निर्माण तथा उनके नवीकरण एवं उनको सुचारू रूप से चलाने के लिए १२४.०५ करोड़ रुपए बजट की पेशकश की गई थी परन्तु केवल ४५.०२ करोड़ रुपए ही खर्च किए गए। इससे पता चलता है कि बजट चाहें जो पेश हो पर निर्माण में इस्तेमाल किए गए धन के अपने आंकड़े होते हैं।

नीति आयोग की ये रिपोर्ट एक प्रमाण है जो सोचने और समझने के लिए मजबूर करती है कि हमें अपने स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में कितना सुधार करने की जरूरत है और सरकारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को मजबूत बनाना कितना आवश्यक है। केरल जो अब तक स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में अच्छा प्रदर्शन करता रहा है उसकी स्थिति भी २.५५ अंकों के साथ बिगड़ी है। केरल में खासतौर से मान्यता प्राप्त समुदाय तथा प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में गिरावट दर्ज की गई है जिनमें सुधार की आवश्यकता है।



OP-ED

Water water everywhere not a drop to drink

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India is facing its worst water crisis. According to a recent NITI AAYOG report 21 cities are expected to run out of water. These cities include Delhi, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Indore, Benguru and Chennai. Chennai is already facing severe water-crisis. The crisis has caused many fights. In one such incident, driver of water tanker was attacked in Madhya Pradesh. In Bihar, people were protesting against the water crisis and encephalitis. But shockingly 39 people were booked and FIR was lodged against them. In Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand water riot broke out. Few sources of water that are remaining have become bone of contention and water riots are being reported from the interiors of Bundelkhand. A Tamil Nadu man was killed over water dispute. In Ranchi, a man attacked with a knife on six people over a water dispute. In Rajasthan, people lock up their water tankers. Climate change and environmental degradation has been at the root of such crisis. Indiscriminate cutting of trees has led to disturbed ecological balance. Summer is becoming hotter while winter is becoming more cold. Monsoon has become shorter and there is deficient rainfall. Rainfall period is reduced but with increased intensity. Thus sometimes, somewhere, it leads to flood sometimes, somewhere draught. Mumbai, Assam and Bihar is fed up with flood while Chennai and Shimla are facing drought. Case study of Chennai:- Chennai, a coastal city of south India, is already facing a severe water crisis. The four reservoirs of the city-Puzhal, Chembarambakkam, Chalovaram and Poondi have dried up leaving 90 lakh population facing acute water shortage. On 19 June 2019, Chennai Officials declared-" DAY ZERO" or the day when no water is left. Deficient monsoon over the last two years have led to this situation. Lack of proactiveness on part of Tamil Nadu Government is also a contributing factor. Poor people are the worst hit.

Wealthy people pay for the costly water tankers which are brought into the city from outside but the poor people who live in slums do not have this option. A, such water tanker costs 6000. Schools and Restaurants have been closed. IT companies have instructed the employees to work from home due to lack of water in offices. The government has started Water Express Train to ease the pressure of water requirement.

NITI AAYOG REPORT:-

A recent NITI Aayog report has pointed out that 600 million people in India i.e. nearly half of India is facing extreme water stress at present. Highlights of the report:-

- 200,000 people die every because of inadequate access to safe water.
- 75% of Indian households didn't have access to drinking water on the premise.
- 84% of rural households didn't get piped water.
- 70% of the country's water was contaminated.
- India's water demand is likely to double by 2030.
- Water scarcity may account for 6% loss to India's GDP by 2050.
- By 2030, 40% of population will be devoid of water.

Apart from Chennai, Maharashtra is also facing unprecedented draught. Desertification is staring at Punjab as Punjab farmers are using five decade old technique of groundwater irrigation system.

Delhi has huge water crisis and by 2020 it might run out of groundwater. It is primarily because of:-

1. Lack of stable ground water policies.
2. Lack of Co-ordination among different departments.
3. Wastage of water through leakages.

Bangalore and Hyderabad water crisis is mainly because of:-

1. Rapid development and industrial boom
2. Increase in population living in Bangalore.
3. Depleting groundwater level.

Central government has created a new "JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY" by merging Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Water Resources, River and Ganga Rejuvenation. By having created altogether different ministry dedicated to Water-crisis, the government looks serious. India accounts for world's 16% population but only 4% clean water is available. In its election promises, Modi government promised "NAL SE JAL" i.e. tapped water to every household by 2024. By looking at the statistics of NITI AAYOG, it looks a far fetched dream.

Remedies:-

Supreme Court recognises right to water as part of right to life under Article 21. Despite it, clean water has become a luxury now-a-days.

Our legal framework ties water rights to land rights thus creating a perception that water is free and leading to its overuse. Placing Water into concurrent list from state list can be a potential solution as it would not leave any scope of blame game between centre and state. Moreover it will be the responsibility of both centre and state to ensure proper drinking water. There is a little incentive for responsible behaviour. Our water data systems are under-developed. Weak data and analytics contribute to inefficient allocations and incorrectly priced water and discharge innovation. If data is collected on uses and availability of water, indiscriminate uses of water can be checked.

Leaky transportation system causes further losses of water of almost 40% of piped water in urban areas. So we need to seal the leakages to minimise water unavailability. We recycle less than 15% of used water. If we start recycling used water we can minimise the water shortage upto certain extent. We capture only 8% of our annual rainfall. If mechanism for water harvesting like installing such systems so as to conserve rain water is taken, water harvesting can be a potential solution. As far as we are concerned, we should reduce our water consumption. We should try to maximise water usage by reusing water. The water which is released by A.C. and Cooler can be collected and they can be used for purposes like watering plants. As cities expand they have displaced wetlands and lakes that previously captured water and funneled it underground to recharge aquifers. Restoring and conserving urban water bodies could help cities in India prepare for future water shortages. As Thiruvalluvar said "There is no world without water." We have started finding traces of water on Mars, but we are not concerned about depleting water resources on earth. We need to prioritize ourselves because while Terrorism takes 30,000 lives each year, lack of access to clean water consumes 200,000 lives in a year. We need to seriously think over it because:- "JAL HAI TO KAL HAI"



आर्थिक असमानता की चपेट में केवल भारत या पूरा विश्व?

अंकुर दुबे

बी काम आनर्स द्वितीय वर्ष, वाणिज्य संकाय, बीएचयू

आर्थिक असमानता वैश्विक स्तर पर आज चर्चा का केन्द्रीय विषय है। आय आधारित असमानता समाज में गरीब-अमीर की खाई को बढ़ावा देती है। वर्तमान में देखा जाए तो अमीर और अमीर हो रहा है जबकि गरीब और गरीब होता जा रहा है। आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि भारत की कुल संपत्ति का ७३% हिस्सा मात्र १% अमीर लोगों के पास है। बाकी बचा हुआ २७% ही देश के ९९% लोगों की हिस्सेदारी को समेटे हुए है। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में जीडीपी तो बढ़ी है परन्तु लोगों को जीडीपी के आकार के हिसाब से रोजगार के अवसर नहीं मिल रहे हैं। वैसे तो भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था दुनिया में तेजी से बढ़ रही है। पर, हमें इस विकास के साथ आय असमानता जैसे मुद्दे पर भी ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। आईएमएफ के ताजा आंकड़ों के अनुसार, प्रति व्यक्ति आय के मामले में भारत का स्थान विश्व में १२६वां है। प्रति व्यक्ति आय दर ही हमारी अर्थव्यवस्था के विकास और उसमें शामिल लोगों के विकास को परिभाषित करती है।

फिलहाल अभी भारत की जनसंख्या १.३४ अरब है। २०२४ तक उम्मीद है कि भारत आबादी में चीन को पीछे छोड़ देगा। इस स्थिति में हमें अपनी प्रति व्यक्ति आय दर पर अधिक सोचना होगा। अर्थव्यवस्था का आकार बढ़ा होना सकारात्मक संकेत होता है। पर इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण है, प्रति व्यक्ति आय दर में बढ़ोतरी। जब अर्थव्यवस्था में प्रति व्यक्ति आय दर बढ़ती है तो खपत की दर में भी वृद्धि होती है। अर्थव्यवस्था तब अप्रत्याशित रफ्तार से आगे बढ़ती है। ६० से अधिक देशों में आर्थिक असमानता पर काम करने वाली संस्था अहक्सफेम (oxfam) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार २०१७ में उच्च वर्ग की आमदनी ₹२०६१३ अरब रुपए बढ़ है। यह भारत के २०१७ के आम बजट के समतुल्य है। भारत में १७ नए अरबपति भी इस दौरान बन गए हैं। भारत में अब अरबपतियों की कुल संख्या १०१ हो गई है। आगामी वर्षों में इसमें ७० से ८० तक वृद्धि होने का अनुमान है।

भारत में ६३ लाख लोग तो इस कारण गरीबी में चले जाते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं नहीं मिलती। वर्ल्ड बैंक ने २०३० तक दुनिया से गरीबी खत्म करने और संपन्नता बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा है। विश्व बैंक के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक भारत में असमानता, ऊंची असमानता से ग्रस्त ब्राजील तथा दक्षिण अफ्रीका में व्याप्त असमानता जैसी ही है। अहक्सफेम(oxfam) के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, शीर्ष के कपड़े कारोबारी जितना १ साल में कमाते हैं उतना भारत के आम मजदूर को कमाने में ६४१ साल लगेंगे। वैश्विक स्तर पर बात की जाए तो दुनिया का हाल भी आर्थिक असमानता को लेकर सही नहीं है। असमानता के मामले में रूस सबसे अब्बल नंबर पर है और उसके बाद भारत का नंबर है।

वर्ल्ड इकोनामिक फोरम के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक अगर समाज से सामाजिक असमानता कम नहीं हुई तो सामाजिक अस्थिरता पनपेगी जिससे देश में असुरक्षा, अपराध और डर का माहौल बनेगा। भारत में गरीबी को दूर करने के लिए सरकारी योजनाएं तो बनीं परन्तु उनकी सही क्रियान्वयन ना होने की वजह से आज भी व्यापक स्तर पर गरीबी व्याप्त है। बीते वर्षों में अमीरों की आय इतनी बढ़ी है कि हर साल नए-नए अरबपति बन रहे हैं। अगर यह आर्थिक असमानता ऐसे ही बढ़ती रही तो देश में व्याप्त समाजवाद तेजी से बढ़ रहे पूंजीवाद की वजह से अंतिम दौर में पहुंच जाएगा और देश की बागडोर कुछ अमीर हस्तियों के हाथ में होगी। सरकार को अपने नीतियों के क्रियान्वयन के तरीके में बदलाव करने होंगे ताकि जो भी सरकारी योजनाएं बनाई जा रही हैं वह चिन्हित गरीबी के दायरे पर प्रभावी रूप से कार्य कर सकें।

एक विधान, एक प्रधान और एक निशान।

विपिन विहारी राम त्रिपाठी

शुभम केडिया

पूर्व छात्र, वाणिज्य संकाय, बीएचयू



जम्मू-कश्मीर में कर्फ्यू, नेताओं की नजरबंदी, अमरनाथ यात्रा को स्थगित करना, संचार प्रतिबंध और विशेष सुरक्षाबलों की तैनाती ने कश्मीर घाटी से लेकर दिल्ली तक सभी को यह संदेश दे दिया था की नए भारत की नई सरकार कुछ नया करने जा रही है। तमाम राजनीतिक अनिश्चितताओं के बीच ०५ अगस्त २०१९ को गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने संसद के उच्च सदन राज्य सभा में संविधान से अनुच्छेद ३५ ए और अनुच्छेद ३७० के महत्वपूर्ण अस्थायी अंशों को निष्क्रिय करने के लिए पूर्ण नियोजित संकल्प पत्र को पेश किया। ज्यादातर संसद सदस्यों ने स्वाभाविक राजनीतिक विरोध से इतर इसे भारत के हित में मानते हुए दोनो सदनों में बहुमत के साथ पारित भी कर दिया। इसमें यह बात ध्यान रखनी होगी की अनुच्छेद ३७० अभी भी संविधान में है और उसे पूर्ण रूप से हटाने के लिए संवैधानिक संशोधन की आवश्यकता होगी। राष्ट्रपति राम नाथ कोविंद ने भी इस प्रस्ताव पर अविलंब अपनी मुहर लगा दी है। दरअसल, लगभग ७० वर्ष पूर्व बने भारतीय संविधान ने जम्मू-कश्मीर की तात्कालिक भू-राजनीतिक स्थिति को मद्देनजर रखते हुए अस्थायी तौर पर अनुच्छेद ३५ ए और अनुच्छेद ३७० में कई अंश रखे थे जो जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्य को अनेक विशेषाधिकार देता था। इसी के अंतर्गत अन्य राज्यों से इतर जम्मू कश्मीर का अलग ध्वज, अलग संविधान और अलग सदन की व्यवस्था थी।

लेकिन घाटी ने पिछले सात दशकों में इन संवैधानिक व्यवस्थाओं का सिर्फ राजनीतिकरण ही देखा है। भारत का मुकुट कहे जाने वाले जम्मू-कश्मीर में अपार संभावनाओं के बावजूद भी वह केन्द्र सरकार की अनेको जन कल्याणकारी योजनाओं से वंचित रहा। यही नहीं इस संसाधन संपन्न राज्य के लोगों को पत्थरबाज, अलगाववाद, आतंकवाद जैसी क्रूरता के दंश में रहने को मजबूर होना पड़ा। वास्तविकता में इन ही कारणों से आज भी जम्मू-कश्मीर २१वीं सदी के बदलते भारत से बहुत अछूता रहा है। इन्हीं जटिलताओं के कारण केंद्र सरकार ने इन अनुच्छेदों के साथ-साथ जम्मू कश्मीर पुनर्गठन प्रस्ताव भी सदन से पारित कराया है। जिसके अंतर्गत अक्टूबर माह से जम्मू कश्मीर राज्य दो केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों (जम्मू कश्मीर और लद्दाख) में विभाजित हो जाएगा। जिसमें जम्मू कश्मीर के पास दिल्ली की तरह ही अपनी विधानसभा होगी जबकि लद्दाख के पास विधानसभा का प्रावधान नहीं है।

केंद्र सरकार के इस अप्रत्याशित फैसले से खफा पाकिस्तान ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (यूएनएससी) का दरवाजा खटखटाया लेकिन यूएनएससी ने इस विषय पर कोई भी औपचारिक टिप्पणी तक करने से साफ इनकार कर दिया है। चूंकि पाकिस्तान ने अपनी धरती से आतंकवादियों को पनाह देकर खुद ही शिमला समझौते और यू.एन. संकल्प की धजियां उड़ाई है। इसी कड़ी में २४ अगस्त २०१९ को वित्तीय कार्यवाही कार्य दल (एफएटीएफ) ने पाकिस्तान को मनी लॉड्रिंग केस में ब्लैक लिस्ट घोषित करने की दिशा में एक और कदम आगे बढ़ा दिया है। विश्व के ज्यादातर देशों ने इसे भारत का आंतरिक मामला मानते हुए अपरोक्ष रूप से भारत का समर्थन किया है। बहरहाल, इस फैसले के एक महीना बाद भी कश्मीर में कर्फ्यू, नेताओं की नजरबंदी और कुछ इलाकों में संचार व्यवस्था बाधित रखी गयी है। यह घाटी के लिए पहली बार नहीं है, पहले यह निर्णय राजनीतिक रोटी सेंकने के लिए लिये जाते थे लेकिन अब ये नए भारत के नए परिवर्तन के लिए है। अब जम्मू कश्मीर और लद्दाख की भौगोलिक संरचना बदल चुकी है। अब भारत में एक विधान, एक प्रधान और एक निशान लागू होगा। एक भारत, सशक्त भारत के सपने की ओर एक कदम और बढ़ते हुए केंद्र सरकार जम्मू कश्मीर में अक्टूबर माह में बिजनेस और समिट इन्वेस्टमेंट समिट के माध्यम से इसकी सामाजिक और आर्थिक स्थिति को बदलने का प्रयास करेगी।