The BCIM is a 2,800 km-long corridor that starts from Kolkata and passes through Bangladesh and Myanmar before ending at Kunming in China.

BCIM corridor envisages a network of modern road, railway, port and communication and trade connectivities.

Conceived in the 1990s, the BCIM was formally endorsed by the four countries in December 2013 and is viewed as a part of the OBOR connectivity projects.

Arguments against China

It seems likely that this corridor will benefit China by boosting economic production and prosperity in China's Yunnan and adjoining provinces.

It will help move Chinese goods overland to the Indian market without having to cross the disputed border.

It will also provide China direct and unfiltered access to Bay of Bengal, enabling it to lessen its dependence on the narrow and risk-prone Malacca Straits for global trade and energy imports.

On the other hand, benefits to India, Bangladesh and Myanmar will be minimal.

It would pose a strategic risk for India to allow China access to Arunachal Pradesh region before the border issue is amicably settled.

BCIM will only worsen other three countries trade deficits as cheap and low-quality Chinese goods are likely to flood their markets to the detriment of domestic industries.

The immediate priority for India is to build and upgrade infrastructure, including roads, railway network, waterways and air connectivity within northeast states.

Work on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway joining India's Northeast with Thailand and other ASEAN members through Myanmar needs to be expedited.

This network will provide connectivity between the isolated Northeast and the expanding economies of South East Asia.

Similarly, the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project will help connect the Northeast with Myanmar as well as with West Bengal.

India needs to fast-track these two projects which can prove to be game-changers in promoting security, peace, development and prosperity in the Northeast.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BIMSTEC) needs to be accorded the highest priority as it has great potential to deliver rich dividends quickly.

Emphasis on the implementation of its Act East Policy

In BCIM, a step-by-step approach is desirable in the form of people-centric projects in education, healthcare, skill development, tourism and cottage industries should be undertaken.

Local talent, material and products should be utilised in this endeavour.

China and India need to work together to bring about a fundamental change in their bilateral relations.

India will benefit in terms of the development of the Kolkata port and the opening up of the economic potential of the northeast states.

BCIM offers India an opportunity to create its own win-win relationship with China.

India's gain from the BCIM include the ability to connect to the One Belt, One Road project thus opening up markets to the east.

It can also use the economic corridor for organizing downstream industries to be located within India.

With natural gas reserves of about 200 trillion cubic feet, the largest in the Asia-Pacific, Bangladesh could become one of the major energy exporting countries.

Tourism too will get a boost.

The regional connectivity would facilitate cross-border movement of people and goods, reduce overland trade bottlenecks, ensure access and increase volume of trade, substantially reduce transaction costs, enhance trade and investment and poverty alleviation in the region.

BCIM is one of the least integrated areas, economically as well as socially.

India's Response: Policy Recommendations

Indian critics of BCIM state that China cannot be trusted, and cite the divergent positions of the two countries on Arunachal Pradesh and PoK.

Security is a very important aspect of BCIM that ethnic insurgencies, terrorism, drug trafficking and the accompanying spread of HIV infections, smuggling, as well as cross-border human trafficking, threaten to derail the project.

India and China need to support the BCIM project which seeks to revive the southern Silk Route between Assam and Yunnan.

CPEC-BCIM Interconnection has the potential to immensely bolster India's energy security both on the western and eastern flanks.

India's concerns can be better addressed by constructively engaging, rather than by trying to confront China.

Mutually beneficial regional cooperation builds trust, and trust in turn helps nations resolve their disputes amicably.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) can fund BCIM.

It is time India strengthened connectivity and integration of the northeast with its mainland.
It keeps religious conflicts at bay, this can hold especially true in a country like India.

If the 'Censor Board' notices a part of a film that can offend a certain community on religious grounds, it will go ahead and cut that part out which helps keep religious conflicts out of reach.

A country's army is always full of secrets and the secrets are mostly military. This is when censorship steps into the picture to help maintain secrets of a country's army.

Books and films that can stir up negative emotions and actions amongst the general public, and are usually not allowed passing through the watchful eyes of the Censor Board.

Censorship actually prevents companies from making tall claims about the products and services they have on offer.

If it wasn't for censorship, almost all of us would have been victims to the marketing gimmicks of companies' world over.

When political, environmental, world, or economic disasters occur, people begin to panic and believe everything that they see, by controlling the information that is out, and they can help to prevent riots and other problems from happening.

One of the biggest bane of censorship can be pointed out to the fact that it strangles creativity.

When it comes to sex related topics, unnecessary cutting out or doing away which makes it difficult for film-makers and even writers to educate children on the dark side of sex.

Some critics believe that censorship should be allowed to watch and read whatever they want. This belief stands in direct opposition to the government's taken on allowing its people to only see and read what seems fit for them.

When it comes to sex related topics, censorship should not be allowed.

Everyone deserves to enjoy the right to know. However, censorship at times prevents people from gaining access to knowledge that shouldn’t really be restricted or kept out of bounds.

Censorship would halt free speech and the ability to express people's views and concerns, and would restrict people from putting out different viewpoints and opinions on world topics.

Giving excessive power to a group of individuals for censorship leads to unnecessary regulation and violation of freedom of expression under art 19(1) (a) of the constitution.

The freedom of speech and expression embodies the right of individuality.

Any threat to such 'individual thinking' leads to an aggressive campaign against reasonable restrictions as well.

Film is the reflection of society. Sometime true stories are depicted and it is censored with the fear of in-fuelling communal harmony etc. It is the time to change the society and mindset and not cut the film.

It is important that transparency in the functioning of CBFC is ensured by reforming the process for its nomination.

Censorship is a powerful tool that can work for or against society and the people.

It can either result to disseminating balanced information or mask the truth about issues people deserve to know.

What is important is for members from both sides of the spectrum, supporters and critics, to continue debating on the issue to achieve a kind of censorship that will work for the majority.

Though censorship is required for films, its exercise should be exceptional, transparent and free from political influence.

The suppression or control of ideas, public communication and information circulated within a society is termed as censorship.

The freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution of India can be suppressed if it is considered objectionable, harmful, or necessary to maintain communal harmony.

It is always necessary to balance conflicting rights in order to determine what can and cannot be censored.

A classic example of censorship in India is the Central Board of Film Certification or Censor Board, which comes under the purview of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Constitution of India guarantees freedom of speech and expression with certain restrictions such as that of morality, decency, public order etc.

The Indian Penal Code also states removing free speech or grounds of outraging religious feelings, making statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.

According to the Information Technology Rules 2011, objectionable content includes anything that "threatens the unity, integrity, defence, security or sovereignty of India.

In India, freedom of speech and expression is ensured by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution.

But this is limited by Article 19(2), which allows the government to place "reasonable restrictions" on this right “in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

This provides the government with a wide net to seize and censor almost anything that is disfavourable.

The Central Board of Film Certification, the regulatory film body of India, regularly orders directors to remove anything it deems offensive, including sex, violence or subjects considered politically sensitive.

Film censorship becomes necessary because a film motivates thought and action and assures a high degree of attention and retention as compared to the printed word.

Therefore, it has as much potential for evil as it has for good and has an equal potential to in-fuelling communal harmony.

The government appointed Mukul Mudgal Committee Report (2013) and recently-formed Shyam Benegal Committee (2016) on film censorship.

Around the world the utmost concern of censors is the depiction of violence and sex.

Intention in censorship is simple yet complex as in one way we are not letting a director to show the originality of the situation and on the other we are trying to protect the nation with any interference between society.

The Shyam Benegal committee was formed to suggest ideas for film certification taking into account best practices in the world.

It recommended that CBFC should no longer have the power to suggest/make cuts but have the right to deny certification to films if they are contrary to reasonable restrictions under article 19.

However, these restrictions are very broad and give the board the power to refuse certification for the film if there is an issue with just one scene, instead of suggesting a cut.

This may curb the 'space for artistic expression' of film makers.
**Terror attacks on Indian targets, both military and civilian, have only increased.**

Recent incidents in the region are reminiscent of the Cold War era in the West.

Both India and Pakistan have tweaked protocol to expel not one or two diplomats at a time but in far larger numbers.

Recent terrorist attacks from across the Line of Control and the International Boundary.

Since the beginning of 2016, several terror attacks have occurred, starting with Pampore to Uri and now Nagrota.

**Pakistan has resorted to mutilation of the bodies of Indian soldiers killed in terror attacks.**

**UN refuses to formally declare Pakistan a terrorist state.**

**Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which India has been pursuing in the UN for nearly two decades, is yet to see the light of day.**

Pakistan’s military, identified as anti-India elemental force in Pakistan, remains opposed to any understanding with India.

**Rising influence of radical extremist ideas and ideologies inside Pakistan.**

**Terrorism emanating from Pakistan remains a major concern for India as the many efforts made to normalise ties with Pakistan have not yielded any results.**

The two biggest challenges facing India today are Pakistan and China.

**Other geo-political challenges to India include the uncertainty around the incoming Donald Trump-led US administration’s policies vis-à-vis China, Pakistan and India.**

The present crisis has the potential to stall the relations in Trade, Commerce, media, films, people to people contact, etc. in future.

**It is time to define the nature and scope of our conflict with Pakistan.**

**As the dominant power in South Asia and one of the world’s leading democracies, India must find a proper answer to what could otherwise become a serious existential crisis.**

**Imposing economic and political sanctions on Pakistan and asking the world to follow suit.**

Creating International pressure on Pakistan to curb state sponsored terror.

India need to establish a national security doctrine in order to deal with all security issues.

There is a strong need for India to change its approach from Responsive to Proactive.

**Since the partition of British India in 1947 and creation of modern States of India and Pakistan, the two countries have been involved in four wars and many border skirmishes and military stand-offs.**

**The Kashmir issue has been the main cause, whether direct or indirect, of all major conflicts.**

Several other reasons of conflicts are border dispute, Water dispute and terror controversy.

**Various agreements like Tashkent peace declaration 1966, Simla agreement 1972 and Indus water treaty, India’s stance remained overly generous, 'conceding more than obtaining much'.**

At least 89 security personnel have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir so far in 2016. This is the highest figure since the 2003 ceasefire on the India-Pakistan border began.

**Insurgency and promotion of terrorist activities, interference from Pakistani side in J&K further creating problems for India.**

Consistent rise of tension along the border and frequent cease fire violation may lead to susceptibility of use of nuclear weapons which can be catastrophic.

**Pakistan’s military is the second power centre, its political influence, anti-India stand and instability of regimes in Pakistan are not in favour of India.**

**Pakistan Army’s support to terror outfits which is a great security concern for India.**

**Terrorism has been a major setback for the two countries on realising economical benefits continuing turmoil and escalating unrest inside J&K is giving Pakistan an opportunity to mobilise international opinion against India on the issue of violation of human rights.**

Pampore, Uri and Nagrota terror attacks are examples of increased provocations from Pakistan.

**International Support**

China’s support to Pakistan and blocking India’s move to get Masood Azhar banned by UN.

US financial assistance to Pakistan which is changing lately.

Recent Russian military exercise with Pakistan.

**Terrorism emanating from Pakistan and the China-Pakistan axis working against India are two of the major geo-political challenges facing the country.**

Various terrorist groups operating from Pakistan supply fake notes and illegal drugs, which has been an important security concern for India.
Introduction

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of India's latest initiative in Africa, the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), in partnership with Japan.

This initiative along with Third India Africa Forum Summit and a number of high level visits to 16 African countries over the last two years, all aimed to boost ties with the continent.

The main objective of the corridor is to enhance growth and connectivity between Asia and Africa.

India in Africa

The African Development Bank meeting in Gandhinagar has shifted the spotlight back to India's relations with Africa.

Economic engagement has increased in the last two decades with a large number of public and private sector companies from India investing in Africa.

Trade has seen a five-fold increase in the last decade.

Multilateral engagement was launched with the first India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in 2008.

India's partnership is an amalgam of African development priorities and the Africa Agenda 2063, as well as India's development objectives.

Significance

The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor highlights the growing importance of Africa in Indian foreign policy.

It signals India's willingness to partner with like-minded countries, such as Japan, in this region.

Agriculture, health, technology, enhancing skills and disaster management have been identified as the main areas of development cooperation.

The corridor will facilitate greater people-to-people exchanges amongst the participating countries.

Asias-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)

AAGC marries India's brand of human resources development and capacity building with Japan's objective of delivering quality infrastructure in the region.

The AAGC-led growth in Africa and Asia will be responsive to the collective commitment for the sustainable development goals.

This indicates a preference for turning the 21st century into an Asian-African century, and not just an Asian century.

Synergy between India's Act East Policy and Japan's "Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure".

The AAGC will provide a great chance for India to improve its position in the global market.

Way Forward

Is AAGC a Counter to OBOR?

AAGC is said to link Africa with India and other countries of South-East Asia and Oceania.

AAGC emphasises on inclusivity and centrality of people, rather than focusing only on trade and economics.

China’s One Belt, One Road (OBOR) regional connectivity project, is perceived as more centralised and trade-oriented.

India has great trade and network experience in Africa and Japan has very advanced technology. Japan's ability to deliver quality infrastructure will play a major role in developing this corridor.

This combination will give China tough competition for market share.

As the Chinese economy is facing a slowdown, India will hopefully be on the upswing with the AAGC vision.

Differences in India's and China's approach

The approaches of India and China towards Africa are essentially different.

China concentrates on infrastructure and cheque-book diplomacy (foreign policy which openly uses economic aid and investment between countries to win diplomatic favour.)

India promotes a broader spectrum of cooperation projects and programmes focussed on the development of Africa's human resources.

China goes solo, while India is desirous of working with other willing nations to assist Africa.

Efforts should be made to fast track the next steps to turn these innovative ideas to reality.

India and Japan do not have the luxury of time in view of China's rapidly expanding footprint in Africa.

Increase the scope of their development projects, create synergy among themselves, engage proactively with other willing partners.

China's substantial success needs to be matched by sustained India-Japan cooperation in Africa.
For the last five years, horticulture production has exceeded the production of foodgrains. However, accompanying infrastructure for storage and marketing has not developed, resulting in higher price volatility.

The real crisis for Indian farmers is that he or she is not in control of the produce, unlike other businesses, and is dependent on cartels of traders to fetch a decent price.

Farm infrastructure through cold stores has helped the corporate sector more than the farmers.

Only a small proportion of the indebted marginal and small farmers had taken loans from institutional sources. Such farmers would not benefit from any scheme that restructures debt taken from banks.

Studies done by the World Bank have showed that loan waiver is not a solution to Indian agriculture sector.

Incentivise people to move out of agriculture by expansion in the manufacturing sector.

Apart from efforts to increase yields, land leasing should be strengthened, which will not only allow consolidation, but will also give an opportunity to unwilling farmers to exit the sector.

Adequate safeguards need to be built in order to protect farmers against both production and price risks.

Central and state governments will need to work together in order to enhance the viability of the sector.

Investment in practically every aspect of the farm economy, including irrigation, agricultural research, storage and marketing.

Require policy decisions in other areas like FDI in multi-brand retail, which would lay the groundwork for cold-chain storage infrastructure—that support the sector.

Formulate eligibility rules for loan waiver that depend on historical loan-utilization, investment, and repayment patterns.

Alternative policy intervention is the agricultural insurance.

The money waived could be invested for creating infrastructure that makes farmers independent of cartel of traders and help them to reap maximum economic benefit of their produce.

Considering loan waiver only up to a specified threshold limit (mostly Rs 1 lakh), and any amount over that will have to be paid so that there may not be a significant worsening of credit culture.
Encouraging entrepreneurship in women can be a good starting point. Women will be creating jobs and opportunities for themselves, and bringing other women on board.

Examples from around the world indicate how targeted policy measures can deliver specific goals even when the rest of the infrastructure (such as ease of doing business, access to credit, facilities and affordable childcare) may not be in place.

A good example here is Bangladesh, where the export-oriented garment industry has brought a large section of women into the workforce.

Women must be empowered at an early age to form their own opinions and judgments about the world around them.

Women need positivity and encouragement to take the leap of faith required to embark upon entrepreneurship. This is best provided by her family, including the women.

As more women are encouraged to embrace their inner entrepreneur, men must become mindful about taking joint household responsibilities.

With the advent of innovations like wireless internet, cloud technologies, and intelligent mobile devices, entrepreneurs could work flexibly and collaborate seamlessly.

From Indrani Nooyi, CFO of PepsiCo to Shahzna Hussain, owner of the biggest herbal cosmetics industry in India, India has many women entrepreneurs who are shining in the corporate world.

The movie English Vinglish has shown how every day things that women do, like making laddoos, can help them open big business chains.

Gender segmentation is a double-edged sword – like female-owned or female-led firms tend to hire more female workers, male owners and employers have the same tendencies.

In the long run gender segmentation is undesirable and inefficient.

There are a number of women with great careers and ideas eager to build companies, but the fear of failure and its impact on their personal and professional lives can be an inhibition.

Fashion e-commerce companies in India are all-male. A total of 4 fashion commerce companies in the US have female cofounders.

Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) to cater to the needs of potential women entrepreneurs, who may not have adequate educational background and skills are being steered by the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development organisations.

Mahila Udyam Nidhi which is an exclusive scheme for providing equity to women entrepreneurs

Mahila Vikas Nidhi which offers developmental assistance for pursuit of income generating activities to women

Loan facility for small business sector under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana

The Saha Fund is a private venture fund that promotes woman participation in entrepreneurship

Stand-Up India Scheme facilitates bank loans to Women entrepreneur

Under Annapurna Scheme Government of India helps those women who are into the business of food catering.

Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) under ministry of MSME to promote women entrepreneurs.

We know that there is a major problem with India’s labour force: the women are missing.

India currently ranks 70 out of 77 nations on the Female Entrepreneurship Index.

Women entrepreneurs constitute only 10 percent of the total number of entrepreneurs in the country.

Women’s entrepreneurship might be the tool needed to improve the labour force’s gender balance.

When women have productive, paying jobs, that has a positive impact on their men and children, which reflects in higher human development indices.

In economic terms, bringing women into the labour force is known to increase the country’s GDP.

If India’s growth story has to translate into shared prosperity for all its people, then it cannot afford to have one half of its population sit out.

Women are innately more emotionally intelligent, and with passion, motivation and ambition, they make great co-founders.

Women leaders in India can be good to invest in because they control the vast majority of household spending.

Statistics show that business startups with women as co-founders have a bigger success rate than those with only men.

labour force participation rate (LFPR) for working-age women (15 years and older) is abnormally low in India—at about 27.5%, which is slightly better than Afghanistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Young women are studying longer.

As incomes have increased, women who worked only out of necessity have retreated to their homes.

As agriculture has come under stress, the rural women have been squeezed out of their farm jobs.

Educated urban women haven’t moved into the workforce in considerable numbers.

Lack of jobs overall, paired with men taking the lion’s share.

Women want jobs that are close to their homes, and have flexible working hours, according to World Bank research, and these are hard to come by.

There are many jobs to which women’s access is restricted such as those in mining and hazardous industries.

The gender bias that exists in the Indian society is a big challenge for women entrepreneurs.

Fear of instability, prospective quick exits owing to maternity leaves and family priorities have been battled by female entrepreneurs.
Stressed assets in the banking system have reached unacceptably high levels and urgent measures are required for their resolution.

Amending Banking Regulation Act of 1949 through which banking companies can initiate insolvency proceedings.

Empowering RBI to issue directions for resolution, approve for appointment, authorities or committees to advise banking companies for stressed asset resolution.

“Swachh Banking Abhiyan” can be an extension of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to avoid funds to fraud or unrelated businesses.

Creation of a national asset management company with a minority government stake, which would raise debt and manage the asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) and private equity firms that would actually turnaround the underlying company.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 has opened up new possibilities for time-bound resolution of issues related to stressed assets.

IBC was enacted for maximisation of the value of assets in order to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance of interest of stakeholders.

The comprehensive approach is the effective implementation of various schemes through resolution or problems related to stressed assets.

The Economic Survey 2016-17, pushed for the creation of a bad bank in the form of centralised Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency (PARA) to better deal with stressed assets.

Setting up bad banks in India would centralize the sale of stressed assets and lead to a quick resolution.

China’s bad banks are thriving as alternative lenders, evolving from bad-debt managers into some of the country’s largest financial conglomerates.

Setting up a bad bank is a very complex process. It is not a silver bullet which will solve all the problems in the Indian banking sector.

A one-size-fits-all approach to designing a bad bank can be very expensive and less effective.

The most efficient approach would be to design solutions tailor-made for different parts of India’s bad loan problem.

The bad loan problem in India is concentrated in a few sectors like infrastructure and basic metals. An effective solution would be to transfer bad loans from these distressed sectors into sector-specific SPVs, securitize them and sell them in an auction.

To solve the problem of bad loans in India, the RBI has introduced multiple schemes over the last few years: Flexible Refinancing of Infrastructure (5/25 scheme), Asset Reconstruction (ARC), Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR), Asset Quality Review (AQR) and Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A).

However, the “twin balance sheet problem” persists. On the banking side, stressed assets now stand at over 12% of the total loans in the banking system.

Banks are unwilling to take on fresh risks, which has led to negative growth of real credit, the lowest in over two decades.

Stressed assets = NPAs + Restructured loans + Written off assets

A loan whose interest and/or principal have remained ‘overdue’ for a period of 90 days is considered as NPA.

Restructured asset or loan are those assets which got an extended repayment period, reduced interest rate, converting a part of the loan into equity, providing additional financing, or some combination of these measures.

Written off assets are those the bank or lender doesn’t count the money borrower owes to it.

Inability of private asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to play a meaningful role, in spite of enabling regulations and support from the central bank.

Rise in NPAs is due to fraud or diversion of funds to unrelated businesses.

Dealing with Stressed Assets

Concerns / Challenges

Six primary reasons for spurt in stressed assets as cited by Raghuram Rajan

1. High NPAs have held back lending and prevented banks from lowering interest rates.
2. This has in turn discouraged private investment, badly needed to speed up growth.
3. Banks have been reluctant to resolve NPAs through settlement schemes or sell bad loans to asset reconstruction companies for fear of being hauled up by investigation agencies.
4. In the public sector between 2009 and 2016 The performance of Maharashtra companies declined by 33%.
5. Today, more than 80% of stressed assets in the banking sector are concentrated with PSBs.

Arguments for setting up BadBank

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Arguments Against setting up BadBank

A key challenge for the Indian economy is the stressed assets in the banking sector.

High NPAs have held back lending and prevented banks from lowering interest rates.

This has in turn discouraged private investment, badly needed to speed up growth.

Banks have been reluctant to resolve NPAs through settlement schemes or sell bad loans to asset reconstruction companies for fear of being hauled up by investigation agencies.

In the public sector between 2009 and 2016 The performance of Maharashtra companies declined by 33%

Today, more than 80% of stressed assets in the banking sector are concentrated with PSBs.

Contributing Factors

Domestic and global economic slowdown

Delays in statutory and other approvals especially for projects under implementation

Aggressive lending practices during upturn as evidenced from high corporate leverage.

Laxity in credit risk appraisal, loan monitoring in banks

Lack of appraising skills for projects that need specialised skills

Wilful default, loan frauds and corruption
'Cyber planners' and 'cyber controllers' maintain almost total anonymity. Visa restrictions and airport security, including security of the installations to be targeted, would again mean little to attackers, since they will strike where they live, and will no longer have to travel for their action.

Collaboration agreements among terror outfits are increasing, with signs of greater sophistication in the means and methods to perpetuate terror.

'Internet-enabled' terrorism has introduced a far greater degree of complexity into an already difficult scenario. The result is that the 'lone wolf' is no longer alone. Internet-enabled terror involves violence conceived and guided by "controllers" thousands of miles away.

Terrorism can be said today to be the single most serious threat to peace across the world.

Several aspects, political, security and developmental, are affected adversely by terrorism.

The hacker group had said that the Indian banking system is "deeply flawed" and have stated that popular e-wallet firm's servers are compromised, and have been attacked at the root level.

With the growing reach of internet and social media in the recent times, effective measures have to be taken by the government to create a vibrant Internet society, where citizens are now becoming "netizens".

Review of the IT Act to make it stronger.

Setting up a crack team to respond to unusual incidents on a war footing.

Strengthening of social networking sites.

Financial industry including payment and wallet firm have to immediately report any untoward incident to CERT-In.

Review of the "entire IT infrastructure" of India and the need of the hour is "hardening" of the security wall.

Appointing Central Information Security Officers apart from creating awareness among people regarding cyber security.

CERT-In and NATGRID must be efficiently supported by human resource and budgetary support.

In the age of increasing internet usage, an All India cyber security service must be created on the lines of Indian police service.

Awareness programmes regarding the safe usage of Internet and social media among the people.

Training and employing ethical hackers to check vulnerabilities present in the cyberspace and respond quickly when there is a cyber attack.

Internet and social media has been a boon to the mankind since it allows us to stay connected with people and allows us to stay updated. Whereas they are also being used for subversive activities which is increasing lately.

As internet has increased its reach and has become very accessible, it is a tool effectively used by non state actors.

'Internet-enabled' terrorism has introduced greater complexity in an already difficult scenario.

The Internet has become a dangerous 'plaything' in the hands of the many of the new-era terror outfits.

'Cyber-planners', who will be responsible for planning terror attacks, identifying recruits, act as "virtual coaches", and provide guidance and encouragement throughout the process.

Radicalisation via the Internet has attained a whole new dimension. Propaganda via the Internet today involves far more than mere recruitment.

Terrorists using bitcoin and online payment services to fund terrorist activities.

Spreading their propaganda using social media platforms and youtube.

3.2 million (32 lakhs) debit cards belonging to major banks had been compromised in India.

Breach of 500m yahoo user accounts.

Mirai botnet cyber-attack in 2016 that brought down much of America's internet was likely the largest of its kind in history.

Unethical hacking on private accounts of famous personalities as well as common people.

Cyber war and espionage is affecting the economic and political relationships between nation-states as well as changing the shape of modern warfare.

The recent WannaCry ransomware attack had hit about 150 countries globally, including Russia and the US.
The idea of resolution regime is a product of the global financial crisis.

The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance, Bill 2017 when enacted, will pave the way for setting up of the Resolution Corporation.

It will result in the repealing of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 to transfer the deposit insurance powers and responsibilities to the Resolution Corporation.

Resolution Corporation, which is expected to cover all firms regulated by the RBI, SEBI, IRDA and PFRDA.

The Resolution Corporation would protect the stability and resilience of the financial system; protecting the consumers and protecting public funds.

The resolution regime provides mechanisms and guidelines for an orderly management of the distressed bank’s affairs either by reconstructing it or by liquidating it- but without using public money.

It can benefit a large number of retail depositors as it seeks to decrease the time and costs involved in resolving distressed financial entities.

Help in maintaining financial stability in the economy by ensuring adequate preventive measures, as well as provide necessary instruments in an event of crisis.

Once implemented, this Bill together with the Code will provide a comprehensive resolution framework for the economy.

The bill envisages inculcating discipline among financial service providers in the event of financial crisis.

It promotes Ease of doing business in the country.

Improve financial inclusion and increase access to credit, which may lead to the reduction of the cost for obtaining credit.

Increased access to finance enhances enterprise growth, which in turn leads to preserving employment, growth and the creation of new job opportunities.

The global financial crisis of 2008 prompted many countries and regulators to review their financial architecture and come up with a new set of arrangements.

Indian policy makers had to counter liquidity pressures but not tackle the kind of bank failures in the West — especially in the US and UK.

In India there was never a comprehensive framework to deal with bankruptcy.

In this context, Government has come with a solution for bankruptcy cases for both financial entities (Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill 2017) and non-financial entities (Bankruptcy code 2016).

Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill, 2017 is similar to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

FRDI deals only with the companies that are in the financial sector entities such as banks and insurance companies.

The insolvency code Act deals with companies in all other sectors.

Purpose of the Bill is to create a resolution regime for financial institutions when they face crisis without creating financial burden for the tax payers.

FRDI Bill, 2017 seeks to protect customers of financial service providers in times of financial distress.

It aims to inculcate discipline among financial service providers in the event of financial crises, by limiting the use of public money to bail out distressed entities.

The Bill would help in maintaining financial stability in the economy by ensuring adequate preventive measures.

The Bill aims to strengthen and streamline the current framework of deposit insurance for the benefit of retail depositors.

It seeks to decrease the time and costs involved in resolving distressed financial entities.
The advantage of availability of cheap labour is likely to disappear in the near future due to robotics and artificial intelligence.

For example, a robotic tailor could take away jobs in the garment sector which currently provides huge employment opportunities.

The success of IT at the corporate level in India cannot solve its myriad economic and social challenges.

Large numbers of Indian students go for tertiary education abroad and many stay abroad leading to India’s brain drain.

Internet with low bandwidth even at high end, and there is still a low penetration rate of the Internet for the masses.

Little transfer of knowledge created in public sector to productive sector.

High percentage of illiteracy and informal economy in India makes large population to be left out in reaping the benefits of KBE.

Nurture and encourage initiative and out-of-the-box thinking to an extent, ready to accommodate risk taking and have room for failure.

Institutions have to move out of traditional modes of thinking and must recognize that knowledge can exist in all realms, not just in formal systems around academia.

Need to develop and nurture educational institutions in a manner that ensures their linkages to the needs and challenges of the nation — including its economic needs.

Inducing young minds to grapple with the challenges of the nation and society.

Knowledge without action is meaningless. As stated by the Mimanas school of philosophy long ago.

Regulatory, education, and infrastructure barriers must be overcome.

By leveraging its strengths in human capital and ICT services, India can become a major global knowledge-based economy.

India will need supportive laws, up-skilling of labour force, higher spending in R&D and innovative financing for small businesses and enterprises.

If we wish to become a knowledge economy, we should revamp our profoundly inadequate, inefficient and inequitable health and education systems.

World Economic Forum has highlighted the significance of early health and preschooling for employability in a knowledge economy.

Increasing university–industry partnerships to ensure consistency between education, research, and the needs of the economy.

Launching suitable incentives to promote IT applications for the domestic economy, including local language content and application.

Strengthening partnerships between government agencies, research/academic institutions, private companies, and NGOs to ramp up ICT infrastructure and applications.

A shift to innovation-based growth would help avoid the middle-income trap and also address rising income inequalities.

Strengthening intellectual property rights and their enforcement.

Improving e-governance and encouraging ICT use to increase government’s transparency and accountability.

Concerns / Challenges

Introduction

“Knowledge-based economies” — economies which are directly based on the production, distribution and use of knowledge and information.

In this view, investments in research and development, education and training and new managerial work structures are key.

India has the potential to become a leading knowledge-based economy with its youth population and growing information technology though it should overcome some barriers in this regard, Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report.

An economic and institutional regime that provide incentives for the efficient use of existing and new knowledge, and the flourishing of entrepreneurship.

An educated and skilled population that can create, share, and use knowledge well.

A dynamic information infrastructure that can facilitate the effective communication, dissemination, and processing of information.

An efficient innovation system that can tap into the growing stock of global knowledge, assimilate and adapt it to local needs, and create new knowledge.

Four pillars of KBE

Way Forward

Can India be considered a knowledge economy?

Positives

India’s services sector contributed about 61 per cent to India’s GDP, growing strongly at approximately 10 per cent per annum in 2015-16.

ISRO, considered a leading space organisation globally, is one of the best and most competitive in the multi-billion-dollar space launch market.

India is Becoming A Hub For ‘Medical Tourists’

India tops global remittances at $62.7 billion in 2016 according to World Bank.

India’s population living abroad is the largest in the world with 1.6 crore (18 million) people living outside the country in 2015, according to a UN survey.

Though services sector contributes more than 50% to the GDP, there are no substantial high value technological investments in the sub-sectors.

Google is much smaller than the Indian IT company in terms of employees, but it earns much more in one quarter than what the Indian IT company earns in a whole year.

India is at 60th position in World Innovation Index by WIPO, which is based on patents and research papers filed.

Lack of Innovation and Research and Development in India. The number of Nobel prizes won by India despite its huge population is an evidence to this.
As per the law in India, a child marriage is one in which the girl is below the age of eighteen years and the boy is below the age of twenty years.

According to a United Nations report, India has the second highest number of child marriages.

The rates of child marriage vary between states and are as high as 89% and 85% in Bihar and Rajasthan.

Parents consent to child marriage such as economic necessity, male protection for their daughters, child bearing, or oppressive traditional values and norms.

Perception that girls are ready for marriage after menarche (the first menstrual period), poverty, lack of education, caste, birth order and family size.

Patriarchy and gender discrimination against girls.

UNICEF’s State of the World’s Children 2016 report noted that “Girls from the poorest households—and those living in rural areas—face twice the risk of being married before 18 as girls from the richest households or those living in urban areas.”

Parents wanting to rid themselves of the ‘burden’ of a child girl.

In some cases it was astrologers who marked the auspicious time for marriages, saying there will be a long period stretching into years during which there are no good muhurats. Parents are therefore in a hurry to rush their minor wards for marriage.

Marriage brings in new workforce into their families that can enhance production within the household.

The harmful consequences of child marriage are segregation from family and friends, limiting the child’s interactions with the community and peers, lack of opportunities for education.

Early maternal and infant deaths

Adolescent mothers give birth prematurely or to low weight babies. The health of the child and mother are at risk and often they do not survive.

Infant mortality rates are higher than the national average in the states where child marriage is highly prevalent.

Health Risks

Because of lack of protection child brides are often exposed to serious health risks, early pregnancy, and various STIs especially HIV/AIDS.

Violence

Girl children often face situations of bonded labour, enslavement, commercial sexual exploitation and violence as a result of child marriage.

She is forced to take up roles that she isn’t mentally prepared for. It eventually leads to isolation and depression.

Increase social awareness

To transform social norms, programmes must go hand in hand with other interventions to change parents’ attitudes, improve education, incentivise higher level of education, and increase opportunities for girls to learn, work and earn.

The values and norms which support the practice of child marriage need to shift.

To transform social norms, programmes must go hand in hand with other interventions to change parents’ attitudes, improve education, incentivise higher level of education, and increase opportunities for girls to learn, work and earn.

The values and norms which support the practice of child marriage need to shift.

Raise awareness about the harmful consequences of child marriage.

A strong legal and policy system can provide an important backdrop for improvements in services, changes in social norms and girls’ empowerment.

Imparting value based education to the students in school stressing the importance of education and the ill effects of early marriage.

Government could rope in achievers like Sakshi Malik, Dipa Karmakar, PV Sindhu who have achieved great success in their field and parents and students can seek inspiration from their achievements.

Inform the respective Child Development Project Officers, who are designated government officials, to stop child marriage.
Study found that India has been unable to leverage the philanthropic potential of its diaspora because the latter perceives the development sector to be corrupt and inefficient, and is overwhelmed by regulatory constraints and unfavourable tax policies.

In India, a 2013 study by McKinsey found, there are at least 50 sub-sectors that suffer from a funding gap but donor efforts are focused on just seven to 10 sub-sectors, such as disaster relief and primary health and education.

A review of geographic area of operations suggest that certain regions — particularly the North East and Jammu and Kashmir — are underrepresented.

India has ranked poorly on generosity indices—not simply because Indians give less but because the giving is often through informal channels.

A wide range of key development gaps including drinking water and sanitation; urban issues including urban poverty and affordable housing; hunger and malnutrition; and redressal of human rights violations were absent.

There are also a large number of small non-profits that lack adequate transparency, sophistication and organisational capacity, which make them less credible to donors.

People who have created wealth by building successful businesses need to bring their business skills to the table to ensure that the act of giving is effective and efficient.

Government must prepare the ground for greater collaboration with philanthropic foundations.

The government also has a role in ensuring transparency and accountability.

It is important that donors consider the design and impact of their philanthropic activities and the intersection with development activities carefully.

Basic education, health, care for the elderly, the indigent and the infirm — are the key philanthropic priority.

Checks and balances necessary to sustain its legitimacy.

Non-profits need to develop better accountability & transparency measures, reporting systems and deliver to communities on the social commitments made.

Use technology and social media to communicate.

Non-profits success to their stakeholders.

Wipro Chairman Azim Premji received Carnegie Medal, considered the most prestigious prize in philanthropy, for his efforts to reform India’s public school system. India’s young entrepreneurs must be motivated from such examples.

Companies should improve impact by better planning and by collaboration between funders, practitioners and policy makers.

Government, private, philanthropic sectors all need to work together to tackle social issues in the country.

As India grew exponentially over the past decade, so has incomes and charitable initiatives.

Benefitting from the march towards progress, India’s citizens have become much more inclined towards philanthropy and are eager to extend a helping hand to their counterparts.

Earlier, philanthropy was believed to be only for the wealthy, but there has been a shift in the mindset.

It is heartening to see that working towards the well-being of others is increasingly becoming the norm.

Philanthropic foundations take on a greater role in driving development initiatives.

Corporate Social Responsibility activities — another factor that played a major role in thrusting philanthropy rates in India.

The Internet has played a significant role like #ChennaiRains and #ChennaiFloods trended on Twitter where many Indians travelled across the country to volunteer in the city’s disaster relief efforts.

Philanthropic efforts by a Facebook group called "Let’s Feed Bengaluru" which has provided over 30,000 free meals in less than a year since they began their work in October 2015.

Philanthropic donations in India are ahead of donations in other developing countries.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation projects with special emphasis on issues such as vaccines, newborn care, women’s empowerment through efforts like Indian self-help groups, immunization, and preventive interventions in HIV, among others.

"India Philanthropy Report 2017", India’s philanthropy market has “matured” considerably, particularly when it comes to contributions from individual philanthropists.

The report finds that the amount of funds coming from individual philanthropists has grown sixfold in the past five years, from Rs6,000 crore in 2011 to Rs36,000 crore in 2016.

The report estimates that India will be short by Rs533 trillion if it is to achieve its UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Individual philanthropists can play an important role in bridging the gap.
In order to awaken the people, it is the woman who has to be awakened. Once she is on move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

The women is the backbone of agricultural workforce and are a vital part of Indian economy.

When women are empowered and can claim their rights and access to land, leadership, opportunities and choices, economies grow. Food security is enhanced and prospects are improved for current and future generations.

Woman plays a vital role, because agriculture is largely a household enterprise.

key role of women include their contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, dairy, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries, and other allied sectors.

Swaminathan, the famous agricultural scientist describes that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming.

Maintaining the ancillary branches in this sector, like animal husbandry, fisheries and vegetable cultivation, depends almost solely on women.

On an average woman spends nearly 3300 hours in the field in a crop season as against 1860 hours by a man.

Women have played and continue to play a key role in the conservation of basic life support systems such as land, water, flora and fauna.

According to the agriculture census of 2010-11, only 12.69 percent of rural women have operational land ownership.

Farm women felt the impact on their children’s education to a large extent, as they were able to provide them with better educational facilities as well as chances to get an education outside the village.

The 2011 census figures list only 32.8 per cent women formally as primary workers in the agricultural sector, in contrast to 81.1 per cent men.

But the undeniable fact remains that women work harder and longer than male farmers.

Men get more than their share of visibility on TV, in governmental publicity material and within the banking sectors but millions of women farmers have no spouse or person from their ranks.

Women are usually not listed as primary earners and owners of land assets within their families.

So getting loans, participating in mardi panchayats, assessing and deciding the crop patterns, and bargaining for MSPs (minimum support prices), loans and subsidies, remain male activities.

Over the last decade, as farming became less and less profitable and small and marginal farmers began migrating to cities, rural jobs for full-time women daily-wage labourers in the agricultural sector have shrunk alarmingly.

Gender wage gap is highest in agricultural sector.

In the wake of the severe water crisis several women agricultural labourers have to shift professions and they find it difficult to adapt themselves to any other work apart from farming.

Training in the area of Field operations, Conservation of biodiversity and Organic farming etc.

Skill empowerment

Designing of tools for various field operations

Technology development for women

Providing Veterinary knowledge

Creation of self help groups

For financial support

For generation of employment

Projection of successful women in agriculture

Representation of their contribution in economic terms

Giving representation in land holdings

Accessibility to Bank loans

Providing Financial Powers

Changes in legal, financial, and educational systems must be undertaken in order to enhance women’s social and economic contributions

Provide support to those women’s organizations and farmers who promote new conceptual and development programs and who contribute to the implementation of new ideas

Diversifying income-generating activities and the provision of other services in rural areas.

Participation in policies that benefit rural women can ensure truthful answers being given to this vulnerable group.

Governments have a key role to play in supporting the access to land, water and seeds to rural women who are involved in small-scale agriculture.

The farmer has traditionally never wanted anything from a government except a fair support price.

The training of rural women is very important, especially with the adoption of modern agricultural techniques that are tailored to local conditions, with a view to achieving economic development without degrading the environment.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare implements various programmes of farmers including women in agriculture sector.

As per directives for the Women Component Plan, the State Governments have been asked to ensure flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit of women farmers.

Empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity.

Create and sustain agriculture based livelihoods of rural women.

Providing cropping system-based training to women farmers to create awareness on improved technology for increasing production and productivity of crops.

Women are organized into Self Help Groups and farm inputs and technological & extension supports are provided to make women self-reliant.

ICAR- Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA) has been in the forefront undertaking research on issues affecting women in agriculture.

Swaminathan, the famous agricultural scientist describes that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming.
Today the Ashram lives on but the social evils, economic disparities and vested political interests have succeeded in pushing the ideals of the Mahatma on the backseat.

Today caste hierarchy, all kinds of violence instilling insecurity in the minds of people and increasing religious divide are disrupting the very social fabric of India.

In times of turbulence or unrest the civil society raises its voice against the atrocities by holding protests and sitting on dharnas outside the Sabarmati Ashram.

But the Ashram reminds us to be hopeful and optimistic. It tells us not to thwart the vision of the Mahatma even in the face of immense adversity.

The Ashram still preserves the dream that India will eventually live up to and is waiting to see the country free of all kinds of oppressions on its own people.

The Ashram still personifies the ideals of truth and humility of a man who once lived there and lived for a nation and died for a nation.

Gandhiji said he would never return to Sabarmati until India achieved Independence.

He did see India gain Independence on August 15, 1947, but was unable to return to Sabarmati, as he was assassinated by Vinayak N. Godse.

The Ashram tells us about one man’s dedication, determination and ideals but also reminds us of the road we still need to traverse in order to realise Gandhiji’s dream of an India free from injustice.

On its 100th birthday, the Ashram had a wish—“We need Gandhiji more than ever”. It muses “How long will I have to wait to see his dreams fulfilled, an India with equality and equal opportunities for all?”

Introduction

India is a home to many buildings of stark political and symbolic importance like Red Fort, the Ashoka Pillar, the Parliament Building, the Rashtrapati Bhavan which are symbols of our political power and pride.

However, one building stands apart and tallest amongst these—the Sabarmati Ashram—house to Father of our nation during the crucial years of the freedom struggle.

It was not only a shelter and a political space during the freedom struggle but it was also a place where the Mahatma dreamt of a pure India liberated from the evils of untouchability, inequality and societal divides.

The first struggle Gandhiji headed from the Sabarmati Ashram was for the textile workers strike.

It was also from here on the 12 March 1930 that Gandhiji launched the famous Dandi march 241 miles from the Ashram in protest of the British Salt Law.

Most of the constructive activities of Mahatma Gandhi, supplementary to the freedom struggle, like basic education, khadi activities, swadeshi andolan, cleanliness campaign and prohibition were started here.

The Ashram was a human laboratory where Gandhiji could test his moral and spiritual hypotheses.

Over the years, the Ashram has become home to the ideology that set India free and has inspired nations and people in their own battles against oppressive forces.

Conclusion

At a time when the world was witnessing violent warfare and armed revolutions, Bapu started a mass movement for freedom through non-violent means, termed as Satyagrah and ultimately got freedom for India.

The greatest leader the world has seen till date and probably will ever see lived a very humble life.

The humble lifestyle of the Mahatma showed a model way of life for a young country striving for independence.

Satya and Ahimsa were his ideals.

He wished to free the country firstly from the practice of untouchability that had deep roots in the Indian psyche and secondly the strong inequality which governed the society.

Non-violent means of mass scale civil agitation against the oppressive British rule made India a role model for others to follow.

Gandhiji’s charkha and untouchability campaign brought the majority of the deprived masses of India into the national mainstream.

Role of Sabarmati Ashram in India’s struggle for Independence

Importance of Sabarmati Ashram

Today’s Relevance

Gandhiji’s Ideas

The Sabarmati Ashram situated on the banks of river Sabarmati was home to Mahatma Gandhi from 1917 to 1930 and served as one of the main centres of the Indian freedom struggle.

The reason the Sabarmati Ashram is so very important is because of the person who lived in it and the role the ashram played in the nation’s life during his residency.
Indian and American relationship has more or less been guided by the global factors.

In the order of American threat perceptions, China appears to be quite low at the moment, with Russia climbing to the top as a conventional threat. Islamism and the potential for nuclear adventurism by North Korea or Iran have much higher on the list than China. Chinese market and manufacturing processes are essential for America's global operations.

There has been increasing appreciation among Washington's strategic thinkers and policymakers of Pakistan's duplicity in the conflict in Afghanistan. Trump's administration has taken a benign view of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative while American companies are trying to get as much business out of it as possible.

US President Donald Trump and Indian PM Narendra Modi, vowing to fight terrorism together while issuing a warning to Pakistan.

US supports India's concern of Pakistan fuelling terrorist activities. This is manifested by the US support to UNSC resolution-1267 to designate Masood Azhar as an international terrorist.

India also "appreciated" the recent move by the US to label top Kashmiri militant Syed Salahuddin a "specially designated global terrorist".

U.S. administrations have viewed India's attempts to influence America's Pakistan policy with skepticism. While India wants the U.S. to rein in Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, it does not want American opinion on Kashmir—a position that American policymakers consider contradictory. The transfer of arms from US to Pakistan is often a cause of great worry for India.

Stabilising Pakistan and seeking a political deal with the Taliban. Strengthening cooperation against threats including Pakistan-based militant groups Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkaria-e-Taiba.

India and Pakistan should engage in a direct bilateral dialogue aimed at reducing tensions. The Pakistan factor cannot be allowed to derail the positive momentum in India-US bilateral relationship.

Way Forward

Today, both India and the U.S. have relationships with China that have elements of cooperation, competition and potentially, conflict—though in different degrees.

India—especially uncertainty about its behavior—is partly what is driving the India-U.S. partnership.

Three imperatives in the U.S. for a more robust relationship with India and for supporting its rise:

- Strategic interest, especially in the context of the rise of China
- Economic interest
- Shared democratic values

New Delhi's own China strategy involves strengthening India both security-wise and economically and building a range of partnerships—and it envisions a key role for the U.S. in forming the new partnership.

China intends to reduce its dependency on international financial institutions like IMF and World Bank. This is evident from the establishment of AIIB and NDB. US sees India as a balancing force to China.

India has announced to become a permanent member in Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). SCO is often considered as a counter force to NATO. In this context, India shall make a fine balance between these two interests.

India-U.S. partnership "will be of great value in advancing peace, security and stability in the Asia and Pacific regions.

What's China's role in the India-U.S. relationship?

- India and the U.S. recognize that China will play a crucial role in Asia—it is the nature of that role that concerns both countries.

Concerns

- China's claims and assertiveness in South China Sea has led to India-US defence cooperation and Balakot Naval Exercise involving the United States, Japan and India.

Concerns

- India-U.S. partnership "will be of great value in advancing peace, security and stability in the Asia and Pacific regions.

In US there are also worries about the gap between Indian potential and performance.

India and the U.S. should continue to strengthen their broader relationship. But they should also continue to engage with Beijing—this can benefit all three countries and demonstrate the advantages of cooperation.

The U.S. should continue to support the development of India's relationships with its allies and countries in Southeast Asia.

New Delhi has to show that it can walk the talk and follow through on its "Act East" policy—deepening both strategic and economic cooperation.

There should also be consideration of an official China-India-U.S. trilateral dialogue, which could serve at least two purposes: provide a platform to discuss issues of common concern and show Beijing that India and the U.S. aren't interested in excluding it if it is willing to be part of the solution.

U.S. has to recognize that India is likely to maintain other partnerships in its attempt to balance China—including ones with Russia.

It is important for policymakers and analysts in both countries to keep in mind that an India-U.S. strategic partnership solely based on China is neither desirable nor sustainable.

Recommendations

- India and the U.S. should pursue a strategic partnership to advance both their interests in Asia.

- The U.S. should continue to support India's efforts to improve its strategic and economic position in Asia.

- India should continue to pursue a balanced foreign policy that takes into account its relationship with both the U.S. and China.

- The U.S. should continue to support India's efforts to improve its strategic and economic position in Asia.
Banning food and beverages is neither desirable nor feasible. It puts unnecessary fetters on freedoms.

The U.S., which experimented with prohibition for 13 years from 1920, finally lifted it finding it to be impractical and interfering.

It has worst effect on the State’s finances and employment opportunities. Fall in revenue will have a negative impact on deficits and borrowing costs.

Leads to unprecedented increase in crimes relating to drug abuse and bootlegging.

As against 974 cases registered in Kerala in 2013, the State police registered 1,836 drug cases in the first six months of 2016 after the introduction of partial liquor ban.

With the closure of bars, a lot of homes turned into bars, disturbing domestic peace and amity.

Prohibition has criminalized certain societies where drinking is a social norm.

Prohibition may lead to widespread smuggling and illegal sale of liquors, thus defeating the very purpose.

The massive profits from the illicit liquor trade would act as the launchpad for a parallel economy with tentacles in everything from prostitution to gambling and terror.

Prohibition will increase the sale of spurious liquor which has adverse health impacts.

To enforce prohibition in a State like Bihar is a Herculean task, with issues like porous borders with neighbouring States and the proactive agenda of liquor traders.

Vigorous campaign against alcoholism and to set up de-addiction centres in every district. Kerala experiments on similar lines are highly effective.

At present, alcohol policy is a state subject. India must have a national policy/regulatory framework.

The government must draft suitable guidelines and treatment protocols and strengthen the scale-up for screening of alcohol consumption.

Ultimately, every state will have to “balance fiscal targets and constraints with social goals.”

India has a long history of various states experimenting with various laws on liquor, ranging from total prohibition to restricted sale of alcohol to phased closure of liquor shops.

As liquor contributes sizeable revenue to the exchequer, it has never been an easy decision for any state government to impose the prohibition.

Presently, there are four states – Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland and Mizoram – and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, where total prohibition is in place.

Alcohol addiction has both adverse health and social consequences.

High alcohol intake increases blood pressure and enhances the risk of stroke and liver cirrhosis.

Diverting the resource away from basic necessities such as food and shelter affects the welfare of other members of the household, especially children and women.

Prohibition helps money to get directed towards health and education in family. It paves way for development.

Money savings can provide for productive investments.

People will now use the money invested in liquor to add nutrition to their plates, avoid disease and economic ruination. That offsets all revenue concerns.

Drunk driving is a leading cause of road accidents and binge drinking (consumption of an excessive amount of alcohol in a short period of time) is a problem.
Despite India's recent rapid economic growth, the living conditions of a majority of older Indians remain poor. The changing family relationships and severely limited old-age income support—brings in social, economic, and health care policy challenges.

The key question is whether longer lives have translated into healthier lives. The evidence raises serious doubts.

As India's population ages, the nation will face a shrinking pool of working-age people to support the elderly population. Within the older Indian population, women face additional risks. They tend to have poorer health and less access to health care than men of similar backgrounds.

This scheme is applicable for eminent senior citizens and institutes involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons.

Improve the quality of life of the Older Persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities.

Capacity building of Government / Non-Governmental Organizations / Panchayati Raj institutions / local bodies and the Community at large.

Forms part of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and provides social assistance for the old age persons.

Provide dedicated health care facilities to the elderly people through State Public health delivery system at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, including outreach services.

India will benefit from gathering high-quality data on population aging and using it to create and expand income support and health insurance programs for older Indians.

Increased public spending on programmes to accommodate the needs of chronic disease prevention and control by enhancing the skills of health-care providers.

Efforts should be made to strengthen the family care, because the preferred source of support for the aged is still the family.

Multi-generational families of parents, grandparents and children should be encouraged.

Traditional values of filial obligations can also be reinforced in school curricula and through the media.

There is a need for effective legislation for parents' right to be cared for by the children.

Providing old age security, establishing old age homes, expanding geriatric services and liberalizing the welfare policy for older persons.

Training and orientation to medical and paramedical personnel in health care of the elderly.

Promotion of the concept of healthy ageing.

There is also need for the elderly to remain active, to know that they still have a part to play in the family or community and can make a useful contribution to nation and society as a whole.

Concerns / Challenges

India's older population will increase dramatically over the next four decades.

Projections of the old in India by the United Nations Population Division (UN 2011) show that India's population 60 and older, will climb from 8% in 2010 to 19% in 2050.

The changing age structure is rooted in the combined impact of increasing life expectancy and declining fertility. By 2050, life expectancy at birth is projected to reach 74 years.

High Cost of Ageing

Aging population in India is going to cause a huge stress on health care system.

Multi Morbidity, sharply rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and disability of aged population are a major challenge to address.

Declining family support and severely limited old-age income security.

The prevalence of high blood pressure, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, asthma and NCDs are on rise.

The co-occurrence of NCDs and disabilities is more likely to be fatal.

Intergenerational conflict may lead to elderly live in separate residences from their offspring.

Economic dependence is one of the major factors that very often affect the wellbeing of older persons.

Studies report that conditions of poverty, childlessness, disability, in-law conflicts and changing values were targeted to the health care of the elderly.

Aging is predominantly a women's problem. Not only do women live longer but most of them are widows. A women explanation for distress among elderly female is the 'empty nest syndrome'.

The tradition of women marrying men older than them by several years, the increasing life expectancy of women, patrilocal inheritance, all render widows more vulnerable than most other groups in society.

The disintegration of joint families and ever increasing influence of modernization and new life styles, the care of elderly has emerged as an important issue in India.

With a growing trend towards nuclear family set-up, increasing education, urbanization and industrialization, the vulnerability of elderly is rapidly increasing.

Once they retire, elderly people often feel loss of status, worthlessness and loneliness.

The increasing occurrence of dual career families i.e. female participation in economic activity has implications for elderly care.

Changing Social Structure and Institutions

Way Forward
The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves," said Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

The essence and role of education articulated in the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1968/69 continues to be relevant even 25 years after its formulation.

The enforcement of Article 21-A and the RTE Act represented a momentous step forward in our country's struggle for universalising elementary education.

Education is fundamental to our all-round development.

Education contribute to national cohesion, a scientific temper and independence of mind and spirit - thus furthering the goals of socialism, secularism and democracy enshrined in our Constitution.

Education develops manpower for different levels of the economy.

In sum, education is a unique investment in the present and the future.

The state of education in India

India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China.

Due to financial hardship, inferior schools, and social compulsions for early marriage for girls, the majority of young people drop out of school. So they have no access to higher education.

For socially disadvantaged groups discrimination at workplace lowers the rate of return from higher education for them compared to other groups.

Intensive entry examination preparation in coaching classes (or private tuition) with high fees is often out of reach for poor students.

Extreme faculty shortage, deficiencies in library books, laboratory facilities, computer and broadband internet, classrooms, and buildings.

Over all our research quality is much below the world average.

The rise of IT sector and engineering education in India has boxed students into linear path without giving them a chance to explore and discover their passion.

Higher education has become a business in a big way, turning colleges into lucrative degree-giving factories.

Funding of higher education - Sourced from Special cess, CSR, aumun fund, easy loans from banks, progressive fee structure etc.

India should set up 1 or 2 world class universities which should have all resources, funding and global exposure.

Link major R&D centres of country with government colleges in all states, to encourage inclusion of students in research initiatives in the country.

Setting up Higher Education Commission (HEC) as recommended by Yashpal Committee to promote interaction across different departments and universities

Revisiting the role of UGC as observed by Subramaniam Committee

Distance education through use of technology like online videos and courses for those who can't afford to join higher education institutes

Political intervention should be minimized to make educational institutions autonomous and increased competition among them.

If India does not look at the collapse of its higher education closely not only will we be leading to a new brain drain but a collapse of aspirations.

Reasons for lack of Higher Education

The Annual Status of Education Report conducted by Pratham, an Indian NGO, had assessed in 2014 that 75 parr cent of all children In Class III, over 50 per cent in Class V and over 25 per cent in Class VIII could not read texts meant for Class II.

National Survey Sample results in 2015 indicated sharp decline in learning outcomes in mathematics, science and English in the secondary schools.

There is ample evidence that the Indian child is as good a learner as any in the world. It is just sheer lack of basic opportunity that has kept the Indian child at very low education standards.

The main problem in the bureaucratic and political intervention in the educational administration.

The system is not "inclusive" and does not give a second chance to the weaker sections.

The fundamentals of teacher management, teacher education and training as well as school governance and management are lacking.

The curriculum is rote-oriented and little practical thought has been given.

Lack of infrastructure and access promised to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the Right to Education Act (RTE).

Many parents are illiterate so they have little idea what their children are learning.

Evidence shows that in many villages the primary school is deserted, and school buildings are used for storing hay.

RTE requires all children aged six to 14 to attend school but pays little attention to what they learn when they are there.

Poor quality of education in schools include absence of around 25 per cent of teachers every day.

Lack of drinking water and proper toilet facilities at schools.

Concerns / challenges

The state of education in India

National Policy on Education (NPE) states:

Introduction

Way Forward

Concerns / challenges

Recommendations

Due to financial hardship, inferior schools, and social compulsions for early marriage for girls, the majority of young people drop out of school. So they have no access to higher education.

For socially disadvantaged groups discrimination at workplace lowers the rate of return from higher education for them compared to other groups.

Intensive entry examination preparation in coaching classes (or private tuition) with high fees is often out of reach for poor students.

Extreme faculty shortage, deficiencies in library books, laboratory facilities, computer and broadband internet, classrooms, and buildings.

Over all our research quality is much below the world average.

The rise of IT sector and engineering education in India has boxed students into linear path without giving them a chance to explore and discover their passion.

Higher education has become a business in a big way, turning colleges into lucrative degree-giving factories.

Funding of higher education - Sourced from Special cess, CSR, aumun fund, easy loans from banks, progressive fee structure etc.

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Formation of coalition government based on identity and ideology.
Rise of dominant political parties has origin in identity politics in many states.
Rise of regional and state parties is one of the consequence of identity politics in India. For eg BSP, Shivsena etc.
Identity politics has made considerable impacts on international relations more on neighboring countries. One can see the impact of Tamil identity politics on India - Sri Lanka relations.
Identity politics led by caste groups is at peak in India today.
Agitation of third gender community. This is the positive development and it has led to passage of protective legislation for third gender community.
Supreme court’s observation on rights to third gender community highlights the importance of these groups creating their own impact on socio political sphere of country.
Identity politics has also led to vote bank politics where political parties focusing mainly on the needs of particular social groups.
Backward Classes occupying centre-stage in politics, a process that was accelerated after the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations in politics.

Political parties could focus on particular sections deprived of political power and economic opportunities in the society.
Increase in political awareness among marginalized and weaker sections of society.
Identity politics has also given better representation to socially discriminated classes and minorities.
Identity politics has sowed the seeds of hatred and enmity among different sections of society based on castes, religion, ethnicity etc.
Identity politics is responsible for limited or narrow minded views of the citizens and political parties.
Identity politics is responsible for divisive tendencies and could lead to the separatist tendencies. Eg Naga insurgency after independence, Khalistan movement etc.
The development of the modern LGBT movement were closely linked with identity politics.
Identity politics has played important role in bringing marginalized and discriminated sections of society to mainstream politics. However at the same time it has brought some negative developments in Indian polity and society.
Thus we need to ensure that identity politics don’t result into limited or narrow thinking while reaping its benefit.

Impact on polity:
Introduction

Identity politics refers to political positions based on the interests and perspectives of social groups with which people identify.
Identity politics includes the ways in which people’s politics may be shaped by aspects of their identity through loosely correlated social organizations.
Examples include social organizations based on age, social class or caste, culture, dialect, disability, education, ethnicity, language, nationality, sex and gender identity.

Rise of low castes, religious identities and linguistic groups have contributed to the significance of identity politics in India.
Identity politics thus attempts to attain empowerment, representation and recognition of social groups.

In India we find that despite adoption of a liberal democratic polity after independence, communities and collective identities have remained powerful and continue to claim recognition.
Caste has become an important determinant in Indian society and politics.
caste-identities have resulted not only in the empowerment of newly emerging groups but has increased the intensity of confrontational politics and possibly leading to a growing crisis of governability.
Identity schemes based on religion have become a major source of conflict not only in the international context but also become a challenge for Indian democracy and secularism.
Language becomes an important premise on which group identities are organised.
The result of recognition for linguistic groups has disembodied the feelings of national unity and national spirit.

Positives

Identity politics

Identity politics in India

Negatives

Caste

Religion

Language

Impact on society:
Conclusion