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“A MAN IS NOT POOR WITHOUT A RUPEE BUT A MAN IS REALLY POOR WITHOUT A DREAM AND AMBITION”

-SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

The HINDU

Analysis

8th March
Lipstick Under My Burkha has set the Central Board of Film Certification's teeth on edge.

The Examining Committee of the Board stated by way of explanation for denying the firm certification: There are continuous sexual scenes, abusive words, audio pornography and a bit sensitive touch about one particular section of society.

In 1983, the Central Board of Censors was renamed the Central Board of Film Certification, but the hangover seems to continue.

Censor Board chiefs are government appointees and often dovetail with the government of the day despite having their own views.
Intro:- According to a recent report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), India and Pakistan have the lowest rates of women’s labour force participation in Asia, in sharp contrast to Nepal, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that have the highest, with richer nations like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia falling in between.

Moreover, even this low rate of labour force participation seems to be declining.

The National Sample Survey found that while in 1999-2000, 25.9% of all women worked, by 2011-12 this proportion had dropped to 21.9%.

This is in stark contrast to worldwide trends.

Of the 185 nations that are part of the ILO database, since the 1990s, 114 countries have recorded an increase in the proportion of women in the workforce, and only 41 recorded declines, with India leading the pack.

So what does this tell us about India’s growth story?
The importance of access

A heartening explanation could be that with rising incomes, women have the opportunity to escape harsh labour in farms and on construction sites, and focus on their families.

But a more pessimistic and possibly realistic explanation might be that with declining farm sizes, rising mechanisation, and consequently dwindling labour demands in agriculture, women are being forced out of the workforce.

If true, this has serious implications for future policy.

Research has shown that when women have access to more work opportunities, they gladly take them.

Provision of work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has brought more rural women into wage labour.

Among MGNREGA workers in 2011-12, a whopping 45% were not in wage labour before the scheme was initiated.
Moreover, the provision of MGNREGA work has far greater impact on women’s paid work than that of men.

Increased availability of wage work also enhances women’s control over household decision-making.

Since NREGA work by itself cannot be expected to provide consistent stable employment for women, it is imperative to explore other avenues.

From a policy perspective, two main challenges:

1) Need to create opportunities for women to move from agricultural to non-agricultural work
2) Second, we must foster a work environment that allows more women, especially urban and educated women, to take up salaried jobs.

In her research, finds that in villages where roads were constructed both men and women were more likely to undertake non-agricultural work but this effect was greater for women.

Cascading effect - improves transportation services - facilitate movement of the rural workforce, especially women, into non-agricultural work in neighbouring villages and towns.
Work-family equation for women in India is the demand for investing in children’s education over professional achievement.

Fertility decline in the West, where it was fuelled by the desire for self-fulfilment among both men and women.

In India, where small families have emanated from the desire to promote future achievements of children by focusing on their education rather than on better employment prospects for the parents.

Indian firms have chosen to follow the American model with demands for extended work hours as well as attendance on Saturdays and Sundays. (Pyar ka Punchnama).

The study found that young workers in India worked 52 hours per week as against, say, 42 hours by their counterparts in Canada.

Work family balance requires increased participation by men in household - caring for children.
The Economic Survey 2016-17 expressed concern that the demographic dividend is already receding, reducing the opportunity for the Indian economy to catch up with its East Asian counterparts. However, the numeric consequences of reducing obstacles to women’s full economic participation far exceed the demographic advantages of having a larger pool of young workers. It is thus high time to talk of the gender dividend rather than the demographic dividend.
Q- What are the causes of forest fires? How forest fire disaster should be managed? Examine.
How to tame our forest fires

**Intro:** The death of Murigeppa Tammangol, a forest guard who served in Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka, in a forest fire last month, is a sombre(निराशाजनक) reminder of the danger posed by forest fires to our front-line forest staff.

Come March every year, the print media is filed with reports of fires in the dry deciduous forests of India, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

Fighting fires with minimal equipment in challenging terrain is a thankless task that poses grave risks.

Time to ask whether a strict no-fire policy is relevant in ecological and societal contexts, rather than raise ineffective questions about how forest fires can be controlled or prevented through technology.

The bulk of forest fires in India occurs in the tropical dry forests of our country—Almost 70% of forests in India are composed of these types.
Recent research on the ecology and bio-geographical origin of these forests indicates that fire occurrence and light availability are important factors that maintain the ecosystem.

Field ecological research, indicates that many tree species distinct to dry forests have coevolved with fires and have developed fire-resistance features like thick, spongy bark.

Blanket ban woes

The roots of our current fire crisis lie squarely in the blanket implementation of a no-fire forest policy.

This 'one-size-fits-all' approach of fire protection is perhaps incompatible with the ecology of India’s tropical dry forests.

For example, the fires in Bandipur Tiger Reserve were immensely difficult to control because of ample fuel supplied by the alien invasive species Lantana camara.

Recent ethnographic [Q-?] and empirical(based on- verifiable by observation) research from the neighbouring Biligiri Rangaswamy Tiger Reserve [Q-place-?] indicates that a no-fie policy was likely responsible for the spread of Lantana in the first place.
Tribal elders of the area predict that future forest fires will be difficult to control unless Lantana biomass is physically reduced first.

Forest dwellers (में रहने वाले लोगों) set fire to forests to clear walking paths, to collect non-timber forest products like gooseberry (करोंदा) and mahua flowers, and to encourage the fresh growth of grass for their livestock, and sometimes as a part of ritual practice.

Agriculturists set fire to hill forests so that the fertilising ash from fire washes down to their fields with the monsoon rains.
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Conclusion...

- The forest department, on the other hand, has historically prevented fire in order to protect timber stocks.
- Instead of viewing forest fires as being purely destructive in nature, forest managers should perhaps expand their world view and be more inclusive to information from ecological and local knowledge systems that view fires as being both rejuvenating (revive) and revitalising.
Continue...
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**Intro:** North Korea’s provocative action firing four missiles into the Sea of Japan a few hundred kilometres from the Japanese coastline has triggered fears of renewed tension between nuclear armed powers.

The first test would be of the strength of bilateral U.S.-Japan ties on the watch of U.S. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un had already given these two leaders a wake-up call when his regime fired a medium-range missile last month.

Mr. Trump has assured both Mr. Abe and South Korea’s acting President, Hwang Kyo-Ahn, of his ironclad commitment to stand by them through this crisis.

On the North being close to testing an ICBM.

International community, led by the U.S. and nations within striking distance of the North’s aggression, has hardly managed the conflict consistently.
The commendable effort of the Six Party Talks to invest diplomatic currency in bringing Pyongyang back to the negotiating table got derailed early on in President Barack Obama’s first term.

The six-party talks are a series of multilateral negotiations - attended by China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the United States for the purpose of dismantling North Korea’s nuclear program.

The talks are hosted in Beijing and chaired by China.

The cycle of sanctions and international isolation fuelling further.

This time the conflict seems to be following a distinctly more unstable trajectory as Mr. Trump has authorised the deployment in South Korea of the first elements of the U.S.’s advanced anti-missile system, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)

U.S. and South Korea had conducted military drills in the region.
On the other, Washington has clearly decided to ignore the justifiable fears of Beijing and Moscow that THAAD’s nuclear umbrella threatens their interests in the region too, not North Korea’s alone.

Unless de-escalation becomes a priority for all parties involved, the Korean Peninsula region will remain a flashpoint.
CAG to undertake audit of demonetisation fallout

Cost of printing notes and errors in identifying tax evaders could be covered, says Shashi Kant Sharma

JOSY JOSEPH
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India will soon begin an audit of various aspects of demonetisation announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 last year.

By this measure, the Centre had withdrawn ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes from circulation.

"Demonetisation per se is a banking and money supply issue and as such, outside the CAG's audit jurisdiction. But the CAG is well within its rights to seek audit of the fiscal impact of demonetisation, largely its impact on tax revenues. That way the issue gets linked with the public exchequer," CAG Shashi Kant Sharma told The Hindu.

He pointed out that there are other linkages of demonetisation with the public exchequer that will also be covered by the audit.

"This would be 'expenditure on printing of notes, RBI dividend to the Consolidated Fund,' the CAG said.

"The huge amount of data generated by banks and the Income-Tax Department in the wake of demonetisation would also be covered, he added.

"This banking transaction data and the follow-up by the Revenue Department can also be subjected to CAG audit. Audit can look into various risks, such as errors and omissions in identifying the potential tax evaders, failures to pursue the identified suspects, selective and arbitrary issuance of leads and consequences thereof. Many of these issues will be covered in our audits which we propose to take up in the coming days," Mr. Sharma said.

The CAG said he had conveyed to the government his stand on the recent move of the GST Council to delete section 65 of the preliminary draft that authorised CAG to audit GST (Goods and Services Tax).
SC opens surrogacy window for singles

Draft bill allows only infertile, legally-wedded Indian couples to avail this option

KRISSHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Producer-director Karan Johar, who became father of twins through surrogacy three days ago, may not be one of the last among single men and women in India who can do so.

The draft Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2016, which is being examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, expressly allows only infertile and legally-wedded Indian couples to have children through surrogacy.

The representation will be forwarded to the office of the Solicitor-General of India, who will formally hand it over to the legislative panel for consideration.

“There is no specific provision about single parents in the Bill, but the Bill also does not specifically prohibit them,” senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, for a petitioner, submitted.

Bunch of petitions

The Supreme Court is hearing a bunch of petitions challenging commercial surrogacy and the treatment of babies as a ‘commodity’.

Mr. Naphade submitted how unmarried celebrities in India have been increasingly opting for surrogacy.

He further suggested that there should be a separate register maintained for surrogate children and sensitised staff should conduct inspections on the ground in such cases. The Bench responded that it would consider the prayer if Mr. Naphade would file a proper application.

Overseas Indians

However, the Bench did not seem inclined when another lawyer suggested that the draft Bill should also permit overseas Indians to have surrogacy from India in view of a natural inclination to have children of the same genetic make.

“How can we go on dictating to the law-making powers like this? Let the law come and if you are aggrieved about the law, then come to us,” Justice Gogoi reacted.

‘Altruistic surrogacy’

The draft Bill does not cover categories other than married Indian couples, like single women or men, gay or lesbian couples, etc. The window for “altruistic surrogacy” is only open for childless Indian married couple. The Bill also does not allow married couples who have children, adopt or surrogate or biological, to have children via surrogacy.

The stated objective of the new Bill is to constitute a National Surrogacy Board, State Surrogacy Board and appointment of authorities for regulation of practice and process of surrogacy. In short, the law is meant to end commercial surrogacy or, as the Supreme Court had once in 2009, termed “fertility tourism” in the country.

The Supreme Court had initially intervened some years ago on a petition filed by German couple Jan Balaz and Susane Lohle, who wanted Indian citizenship for their surrogate twin born of a Gujarati woman.
Island nation denies hand in killing, but says it will counter poaching activities

Envoy meets Sri Lankan PM

KALLOI BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Urging safety for Tamil Nadu fishermen, India sent its High Commissioner to meet Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in Colombo on Tuesday. The diplomatic step came after the killing of a Tamil Nadu fisherman, allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy on Monday.

“The Government of India is deeply concerned about the killing of an Indian fisherman. Our High Commissioner to Sri Lanka has taken up the matter with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Navy has promised a full and thorough investigation,” a government source told the media.

In the high seas

The government-level response came after the death of a 21-year-old fisherman who was allegedly fired at by the Sri Lankan Navy near Rameswaram on Monday. Several other fishermen were injured. Local people said the boat was in the high seas at the time of the incident.

Sri Lankan authorities denied that the Navy shot the Indian national, but maintained that they were authorised to counter poaching.

Bolt from the blue: Fishermen carry their fellow mates who were injured in firing by the Sri Lankan Navy near Rameswaram.

L BALACHANDRAN

2016, had also decided to prevent “physical harm” to the fishermen and opening of a “hotline” for quick discussion and response to crises. Sri Lanka had demanded that Indian fishermen stop bottom trawling fishing technique, which it considers unsustainable.

The next JWG meeting will be held in Colombo in April for a comprehensive review of the fishermen’s issue.
41 named in Panama Papers under ED lens

Agency begins investigations against Indian nationals whose names cropped up in the leak

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has instituted formal investigations against 41 Indian nationals whose names cropped up in the Panama Papers leak for alleged undisclosed business interests in offshore companies. Notices have also been served on several entities to join the probe.

In at least 20 cases, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has confirmed prima facie violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) rules by the suspects, mandating further scrutiny by the Directorate.

The agency, which is also conducting preliminary inquiries in more than 300 cases, is gathering details to quantify the exact amount involved. Indian authorities are also approaching their counterparts abroad to permit use of the data shared with the Income Tax Department under the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty for probing money laundering offences. Over 250 requests seeking information are pending with the tax authorities.

3 types of violations

Now under investigation are largely three types of violations: the first being the incorporation of companies overseas, and the second, acquisition of the majority shares of such companies, in contravention of FEMA rules that were valid till 2013. If investments for acquiring the shares were not made through the RBI’s Liberalised Remittance Scheme, it would amount to yet another violation attracting penalty.

However, the third and most serious, violation is opening the accounts of such companies and using them to stash funds diverted from various sources abroad.

The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act stipulates that even those who took recourse to the voluntary disclosure of income scheme, launched in 2015, will come under the scanner if they are found to have not fully declared the overseas assets they held during the check period.

The ED has sent 13 requests to the Egmont Group, an international platform comprising Financial Intelligence Units of 152 foreign jurisdictions for secure exchange of expertise and financial intelligence on money laundering and terror funding, seeking information on suspicious transactions.

FILE REPORTS ON PANAMA PROBE: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to place before it in a sealed cover all six reports of the Multi-Agency Group (MAG) constituted to probe the Panama papers leak case.

The direction came after the Centre told a Bench that the Multi-Agency Group had completed the sixth report of its ongoing probe and the government was prepared to place all reports before the court.
India first in bribery rate, says global NGO

Survey conducted among 16 Asia-Pacific nations

India had the highest bribery rate among the 16 Asia-Pacific countries surveyed by Transparency International between July 2015 and January 2017, with nearly seven in 10 people who had accessed public services in the country during the period paying a bribe. As much as 69% of the study group in India said they had paid a bribe, given a gift or done a favour to receive services. Vietnam follows with 65%, Thailand 41% and Pakistan 40%. China reported a much lower 26%.

Japan scores

Japan had the lowest incidence of bribery at 0.2 per cent. South Korea and Australia recorded 3% each, Hong Kong 2% and Taiwan 6%. While 46% to 60% of Indians said they paid bribes for various public services, including in public schools and hospitals, and for getting IDs, voter cards and permits and accessing utilities and the police, 31% to 45% said they paid bribes for court services as well.

The survey was conducted among more than 21,000 people in the region. "More than 900 million people in the 16 Asia-Pacific places surveyed have paid a bribe in the last year, or more than one in four people, when accessing basic services like medicine, education or water," the survey said.

"The results from across the region show that it is a key law and order institution – the police – that was thought to suffer most from corruption," the survey said. While nearly two in five said the police were mostly or entirely corrupt (39%), many people in the region also perceived political decision-makers at both the national and local level to be highly corrupt, it added.

Over a third said that their legislative representatives, officials and local councillors were highly corrupt (from 35 to 37 per cent). Religious leaders were seen as far cleaner, with fewer than one in five saying they were highly corrupt (18 per cent).

PM on two-day visit to Gujarat

Inaugurates petrochemical plant and India’s largest cable-stayed bridge

MAHESH LAGA
AHMEDABAD

After hectic campaigning for the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday embarked on a two-day visit to his home State of Gujarat, where he inaugurated a petrochemical plant in Dahej and India’s longest cable-stayed bridge across the Narrows in Bharuch.

With an eye on the Assembly polls to be held later this year, Mr. Modi said his government at the Centre was helping the State in boosting its infrastructure and had cleared new projects to help Gujarat.

While inaugurating the bridge in Bharuch, Mr. Modi announced that the Central government would convert eight 1,200-km State highways into National highways at an investment of Rs 2,000 crore. “It is the road sector or railways, work is happening at a much quicker pace since we assumed office, and the pace of highways construction is up 11 times to 22 km per day from merely 2 km per day,” Mr. Modi said, while throwing open the bridge on the Mumbai-Delhi national highway.

Interestingly, the bridge inaugurated by the Prime Minister was approved during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime when Congress leader from Bharuch, Ahmed Patel, had raised the issue of heavy traffic and the need for a new bridge.

In Dahej, a major industrial hub near Bharuch, Mr. Modi dedicated to the nation the newpetrochemical complex OPaL, built with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore by three central PSUs.
N. Korea, Malaysia ban each other’s citizens from leaving

Pyongyang demands a ‘fair settlement’ of the Kim Jong-nam murder case

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KUALA LUMPUR

North Korea closed its borders on Tuesday to Malaysians who want to leave the country, sparking Malaysia to issue a retaliatory order and drawing hundreds of ordinary people into an increasingly bitter diplomatic battle over the killing of an exiled member of North Korea’s ruling family.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak denounced North Korea’s order as a violation of international law, calling it “an abhorrent act, effectively holding our citizens hostage”. The police have been ordered to stop North Koreans from leaving Malaysia “until we are assured of the safety and security of all Malaysians in North Korea”, Mr Najib said in a statement.

Worsening ties: Malaysian police cordon off the North Korean embassy in Kuala Lumpur after the diplomatic battle between the two countries escalated on Tuesday. AP

Commonwealth card mooted

Business travel card scheme aimed at promoting trade, investment in grouping

VIRGINIA RAM
LONDON

Commonwealth nations could consider a scheme similar to the Business Travel Card scheme, used across the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, as a means of promoting intra-Commonwealth trade and investment, the chairman of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council said.

His comments come ahead of the inaugural Meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers in London on March 9-10, convened by the CWEIC, and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Lord Marland, the chair of the body that represents private sector businesses within the Commonwealth, and a former U.K. trade envoy, said that the issue of immigration policy between Commonwealth countries was one for ministers to discuss, but the travel card scheme could be one of the ideas looked at.

Pro business: Scheme may allow short-term, multiple-entry permits to visit member states. GETTY IMAGES/STOCK PHOTO

“I think there is certainly a case for allowing entrepreneurs and skilled professionals greater freedom to work across the Commonwealth,” he said in an email interview with this paper. Under the APEC scheme, which includes 19 fully participating countries, including Australia, Hong Kong, Russia and Singapore, business travellers are able to apply for five-year-long, short-term, multiple-entry permits to other member states, freeing them from the need to apply for visas every time they travel.

Exploring opportunities The inaugural trade ministers meeting was planned before last June’s Brexit referendum, but is being seen as particularly relevant in Britain, which is seeking new alliances outside the union. While Prime Minister Theresa May visited India last year, her government had signaled its eagerness to boost ties with other Commonwealth countries.

“This meeting is not a response to Brexit but an opportunity for all 52 Members of the Commonwealth to explore the opportunities for trade and prosperity which exist within the Commonwealth and develop their trading relationships with one another,” said Lord Marland.

He added that Brexit provided an opportunity for the U.K. to play a bigger role in developing trade relationships between Commonwealth countries.

“The lack of formal mechanisms to promote trade and investment has been a challenge, but the fundamentals and ‘Commonwealth Factor’ remain strong and the trade ministers meeting is a positive step towards unlocking the potential,” Lord Marland said.
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The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a United Nations agency dealing with labour issues, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.

- The ILO has 187 member states: 186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO.
- In 1969, the organization received the Nobel Peace Prize for improving peace among classes, pursuing decent work and justice for workers, and providing technical assistance to other developing nations.

- **Ethnographic** - Relating to the scientific description of peoples and cultures with their customs, habits, and mutual differences.
The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India** is an authority, established by the Constitution under **Constitution of India/Part V - Chapter V/Sub-part 7B/Article 148**, who audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.

The CAG is also the external auditor of Government-owned corporations and conducts supplementary audit of government companies, i.e., any non-banking/ non-insurance company in which Union Government has an equity share of at least 51 per cent or subsidiary companies of existing government companies.

The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and Committees on Public Undertakings (COPUs), which are special committees in the Parliament of India and the state legislatures.

The CAG is also the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, the affairs of which are managed by officers of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, and has over 58,000 employees across the country.

The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151.

The CAG is ranked 9th and enjoys the same status as a judge of Supreme Court of India in Indian order of precedence.

The current CAG of India is Shashi Kant Sharma, who was appointed on 23 May 2013. He is the 12th CAG of India.
The **Biligirirangana Hills**, commonly called B R Hills, is a hill range situated in south-eastern Karnataka, at its border with Tamil Nadu (Erode District) in South India. The area is called **Biligiriranganatha Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary** or simply BRT Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a protected reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

The **Central Board of Film Certification** (CBFC) (often referred to as the **Censor Board**) is a statutory censorship and classification body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It is tasked with "regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952". Films can be publicly exhibited in India only after they are certified by the Board, including films shown on television. CBFC India is considered to be one of the most powerful film censor boards in the world due to its strict ways of functioning.