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- ❖ **India-Nepal Relations**
- ❖ **India-Latvia Ties**
- ❖ **Managing Indo-Bangladesh Border**
- ❖ **Cooperative Federalism**
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## An International Journal of Ideas

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### **Boom or Gloom!**

Efforts have been made by the ruling dispensation at the Centre to present a rosy picture of nation's economy in its *Economic Survey* for 2016-2017 presented in Parliament a couple of days before the actual presentation of the budget. The Survey broadly reaffirms the positive growth numbers that have been projected by many global agencies, including the International Monetary Fund and this can be construed to provide a measure of confidence to the Union Finance Minister to show the business-friendly side of his government with a reform-oriented road map.

The possibility of India achieving 7-plus per cent GDP growth for the third year in a row has been envisaged in the Survey. A 7.2 per cent growth rate in 2014-15 and a possible 7.6 per cent expansion in 2015-16 have to be read in the context of the global slowdown and domestic concerns about the farm sector after insufficient monsoon rains followed by a warm winter. Sanguinity expressed in the Survey about 7 to 7.75 per cent growth in the coming fiscal year — in fact, the claim is made that “conditions do exist for raising the economy's growth momentum to 8 per cent or more in the next couple of years” — is nonetheless subject to close scrutiny. While advising that the Centre should be in a position to adhere to its fiscal deficit target of 3.9 per cent of GDP, the Survey indicates that a robust expansion in the service sector, accelerated growth in industry and a pick-up in IIP (Index of Industrial Production) have all created a climate of optimism. Still, given the extremely uncertain external environment, the Survey warns that “India's growth will face considerable headwinds”.

The Survey offers a prescription to deal with the malady of becalmed global demand. It makes a strong case for giving a big push to agriculture, health and education. While dwelling on the industry demand for addressing the “exit problem” that is hurting the economy, the Survey lists the enormous fiscal, economic and political costs involved in sustaining incapacitated ventures. It also suggests that India move from a pro-industry approach to one that is “genuinely pro-competition”. The growth momentum, it is felt, could well be sustained by “activating domestic sources of demand”. Interestingly, the Survey sees in the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations a demand-booster. The Reserve Bank of India, however, has chosen to view the pay panel-induced payout from the prism of inflation.

Hoping for continuing low commodity prices, the survey suggests ways for fiscal consolidation. Since the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations and the One Rank, One Pay (OROP) scheme will put an additional burden on the exchequer, the government will have to find ways to manage its expenditure and raise revenue. One desirable thing the government is unlikely to do is: raise the duty on gold imports. The survey repeats old solutions: widen the tax base, improve tax compliance through better tax administration, hike property taxes and tap new resources. The Survey's call for a quick resolution to the twin balance sheet challenges — the impaired finances of public sector banks and corporate houses; indeed, requires a holistic and fair solution. Suggestions such as plugging leakages in subsidy payouts, bringing more income-earners into the tax net, phasing out tax exemptions, not raising exemption threshold limits, introducing differential power tariff and imposing higher property taxes are all resource-raising options listed to deal with the resource crunch. How much of this purposefulness will in fact inform the new Budget will be ascertained in the aftermath of the presentation of the actual budget.

One should not forget that it is still the monsoon, oil prices and the global economic situation that largely determine the country's economic future. Exports account for a fraction of the GDP. The windfall from oil has left the government in a financially comfortable position. However, it also recognises two short-term challenges: the worsening financial position of public sector banks and corporate houses. Undoubtedly, the *Economic Survey* for 2015-2016 tends to paint a rosy picture and has found excuses if there is a lower-than-expected performance and one is tended to ascribe to the view that ‘the government is seldom responsible for a bad financial year and it always takes credit if the going is good.’

— BK



# Cooperative Federalism in India

Deepan Das\* & Raja Doley\*\*

*[Recent years have been marked by increasing emphasis on cooperative federalism as a way out to envisage smooth functioning of federalism in India where political dispensations at the Centre and most of the states of the Union belong to different ruling parties. Undoubtedly, lofty and tall promises are made by the dispensation at the Centre to maintain cordial administrative, fiscal and political relations with the dispensation in the states where other parties are in power; however, the ground realities vastly differ from the promises. Ed.]*

The Constitution of India provides for a structure of governance which is basically federal in nature. A clear demarcation of the jurisdictions, powers and functions of the Union and the State Governments is envisaged in the Constitution. The Constitution of India, within the ambit of this basic framework of federalism, has provided overriding powers to the Central government.

States are expected to exercise their executive power in compliance with the laws made by the Central government and must not impede on the executive power of the Union within the States. Governors are appointed by the Central government to oversee the States. The Centre can even take over the executive of the States on the issues of national security or breakdown of constitutional machinery of the State.<sup>1</sup>

Keeping in view the overriding powers vested in the Central government, the spirit of cooperative federalism is essential to guide the relations between the Centre and the States on the one hand, among different States and between the States and the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) on the other. The essence of co-operative federalism is that the Centre and the State Governments

should be guided by the broader national concerns of using the available resources for the benefit of the people.

Cooperative federalism facilitates harnessing of all the available resources by the Government at different levels in a coordinated way and channelizing them for use for the common good of the people. This calls for a harmonious relationship and cooperative spirit between the Centre and the States and among the States themselves.

As long as the Central and State governments were ruled by the same political party, the cooperative framework worked very well. Since the 1970s when different political parties were in power in the Centre and the States and more recently when coalition governments of national and regional parties came to power in the Centre from the latter half of the 1990s onwards, there have signs of stresses and tensions in inter-governmental relations between the Centre and the States.

## Coalition Politics and Federalism

The advent of coalition politics in India since 1970s onwards in general and from the mid-1990s onward in particular, the Centre-State relationship started coming under considerable strain as different political parties assumed power at the Centre and in different States. The rise of regional parties articulating the

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aspirations of the people emphasized the need for democratic decentralization and devolution of powers, goals that were enshrined in the Constitution.

Undoubtedly, the model of 'cooperative federalism' lost not much time in emerging as a reference point in the narratives on evolving principle of federalism in the Indian Constitution; nonetheless, this also proved instrumental in giving rise to an intense debate on the issue of federalism in the public domain with the result that expert opinion is acutely divided on its interpretation as enshrined in the Constitution.

These developments spurred some states to demand reformulation of Centre-State relations in accordance with the changing political and socio-economic dynamics in the country. The first initiative was taken by the DMK-led government of Tamil Nadu in 1969 by constituting a three-member commission, known as Rajamannar Commission, to examine the working of India's Constitution and to recommend the reallocation of powers between the central government and the states.

The Sarkaria Commission, which submitted its report in 1988, carried 256 specific suggestions for improving Centre-State relations and a number of these suggestions were implemented. Subsequently in 2002, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) established by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government accorded sufficient attention to the issue of Centre-State Relations.

Another Commission on Centre-State relations was established by the then UPA government in April 2007 to take a fresh look at the relative roles and responsibilities of the various levels of the government and Centre-State relations. The Commission, which submitted its report in early 2010, came to the conclusion that 'cooperative federalism' would be the key for sustaining India's unity, integrity and social and economic

development in future. It further observed: "The principles of cooperative federalism thus may have to act as a practical guide for Indian polity and governance."<sup>2</sup>

In its recommendations, the Commission particularly focused on the role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Center *vis-à-vis* states as follow: (i) during major and prolonged outbreaks of communal violence, caste violence or any other social conflict leading to prolonged and escalated violence; (ii) in the planning and implementation of the mega projects like the inter-linking of rivers, that would normally take 15-20 years for completion and hinge vitally on the support of the States; (iii) in promoting effective devolution of powers and autonomy to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Local Bodies including the Autonomous Bodies under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution within a specified period of time; (iv) in promoting the concept and practice of independent planning and budgeting at the district level; and (v) in linking Central assistance of various kinds with the performance of the states.<sup>3</sup>

### **Emerging Challenges**

The political and socio-economic development which have taken place in India, especially in the wake of liberalization of the Indian economy after 1991, have reportedly given rise to new realities that have come to exert considerable pressure on the principles of federalism and functioning of the Central Government *vis-à-vis* States.

The government of West Bengal adopted a tough stance on River Teesta and border agreement between India and Bangladesh. In June 2011, The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking imposition of economic sanctions on Sri Lanka. Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have been asking the Centre to take them on board while discussing water issues with Pakistan.

Several states have expressed opposition to the proposal for FDI in retail sector on the plea that it would hurt the interest of farmers and retailers in their states, thereby, forcing the Central government to shelve the move. Other proposals like establishing National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), the Lokpal Bill, the amendment to the Railway Police Force Act to abolish state controlled Government Railway Police (GRP) and the Border Security Force Amendment Bill extending the policing powers of the paramilitary forces etc., have been pending with the Centre in the wake of fierce opposition from regional parties and affected states with strong arguments around the interpretation of federal principles in the Indian Constitution under the changed circumstances.

The BJP-led NDA government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which assumed power at the Centre in the aftermath of May 2014 general elections, has launched four inter-related policy initiatives which are expected to alter the dynamics of Union-State fiscal relations.

In the first place, it has accepted many recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, with specific reference to the statutory increase in the share of divisible tax-pool from 32% to 42%. As the Union government has also raised the non-statutory share from 21% to 26%, about 68% of the division pool is to be transferred to the states. This finds reflection in the Union Budget for 2015-16.<sup>4</sup>

The second policy initiative is the establishment of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog on 1 January 2015 as a replacement for former Planning Commission. It has the potential to better facilitate Union-State Policy coordination and coherence. Inclusion of the Chief Ministers of the states, and their regular interactions with the Union government would help in policy and scheme formulation and design.

The third policy initiative is the urgency demonstrated by the current government in implementing Goods and Services Tax (GST) and bill to this effect has already been passed by the Lok Sabha. The GST is said to enable both the Union and the states to levy a sales tax on goods and on services, thereby, helping to unify the whole country as a market, and lead to uniformity in taxes on goods and services.

The fourth initiative undertaken by Modi's government pertains to generating resources from non-conventional sources, such as use of auctions, and increasing state assets more productively. Thus, the auctioning of coal blocks from 32 mines is expected to generate Rs 2 lakh crore, most of which will be turned over to the concerned states, substantially improving their fiscal base.<sup>5</sup>

Recently, Prime Minister Modi has pitched for a 'Team India attitude' to take the country forward by saying that it is high time the Centre and states sink differences and work together. While endorsing Modi's views, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who was also present on the occasion, said a joint effort by the Centre and the states to take the country ahead was inevitable and the Centre and the state will have to work together.<sup>6</sup>

Critics have pointed to some practical difficulties as well. Undoubtedly, the Centre has increased the percentage of tax money that would be given by it to the states; nevertheless, it comes with a serious catch. The Union government was simultaneously either severely cutting back or completely discontinuing their funding of many schemes run in the states where the money used to come primarily from the Centre. Hence, if the schemes were to be continued, the increased allocation for tax money to states would simply be used to continue earlier existing schemes. Many states have protested this because this is no real financial devolution at all. The GST is likely to take away several taxation powers from the states.<sup>7</sup>

It is further pointed out that the Centre has been slapping certain kinds of taxes called “cess”, which are cunningly outside the purview of its sharing-with-states “generosity”. What it means is that the Union government is actually extracting more money from the people, with the new extractions being called “cess”, that is, of the type that won’t be shared with the states. A cess is essentially a tax whose collections are earmarked for a particular purpose.<sup>8</sup>

### Conclusion

Cordial relations between the Centre and the states are essential for meeting successfully the vast array of problems confronting the country. Undoubtedly, the new dispensation led by Modi has reportedly taken some initiatives in Centre-State fiscal relations to show that it is willing to strengthen the process of cooperative federalism; nevertheless, these initiatives have not been translated into reality thus far.

As Granville Austin wrote “cooperative federalism produces a strong central, or general, government, yet it does not necessarily result in weak provincial governments that are largely administrative agencies for central policies. Indian federalism has demonstrated this.” Another expert has suggested: “It is important for the National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre not to act on the basis of its brute majority. India is a parliamentary democracy and it is the responsibility of the government of the day to ensure equity, putting aside partisan considerations.”

### Notes

1. For division of powers between Centre and the States and other details see, D. K. Singh, *V. N. Shukla’s Constitution of India*, (7 Edition), Delhi: Eastern Book Company, 1982, pp. 696-705.
2. Government of India, *Report of the Commission on Centre-State Relations, Vol. I*, New Delhi: Ministry of Home Affairs, 2010, p. 90.
3. Compiled from various volumes of the Commission, *ibid.*
4. Mukul Asher, “Cooperative federalism requires greater competence by states”, *Times of India*, 8 April 2015.
5. *Ibid.*
6. Arshad Ali & Priyadarshi Siddhanta, “PM Modi asks Centre, states to work as Team India: Mamata agrees”, *Indian Express*, 11 May 2015.
7. Garga Chatterjee, “Cooperative Federalism”, *echoofinfia.com*, 19 December 2015, available at <http://echoofindia.com/reflex-action/cooperative-federalism-100390>.
8. Biswadip Mitra, “A note on cooperative federalism”, *The Statesman* (New Delhi), 25 January 2016, available at: <http://www.thestatesman.com/news/india/a-note-on-cooperative-federalism/118753.html>.



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# The Indo-Latvian Bilateral Ties

Dr. Ahalya Sial\*

*[The paper intends to explore India's evolving bilateral ties with Latvia since 1991. India first recognised the independent statehood of the Latvia during interwar period when India was under British rule. After remaining for long fifty painful years under Soviet authoritarian rule, Latvia regained democratic independent statehood in 1991.]*

India and Latvia have enjoyed close and friendly relations since Latvia's independence from Soviet Union. Again in 7 September 1991, India recognized Latvia as a sovereign and independent state. India and Latvia signed the first joint statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations in 25 February 1992. Subsequently, the two countries have been exchanging their high levels of political, cultural and commercial visits in the field of co-operation.

The diplomatic relations between two countries became deeper when Latvia opened its Embassy in New Delhi on 16 January 2014. India-Latvia Friendship Pins are also available in the reverse grouping of the two countries' flags: the India flag shows a Crossed Flag Pin with the Latvia flag. Today Latvia has emerged as a dynamic and young democratic Baltic nation in Europe and established its bilateral ties with many countries.

This tiny beautiful country has occupied significant position in international politics after taking over the Presidency of European Union Council from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015. The Latvian Presidency has put much effort into creating and promoting favourable conditions for the socio-economic development of the European Union.<sup>1</sup>

The bilateral ties between the two republics have been developed by mutual interaction throughout their historic times and both the countries share the bond of Indo-European language. According to O'Connor, Kevin (2006), Latvians, and

Lithuanians, however, speak related Baltic languages of Indo-European origin<sup>2</sup>.

The Republic of Latvia (*Latvija*) is a tiny distinctive nation nestled in Central and Eastern Europe along the northern shore of the Baltic Sea. The geographical factor has been a major source of problems for foreign domination in Latvia since centuries. Latvia is the second largest (land and people) Baltic Republic encompassing 24,900 square miles. The country established its first democratic independent statehood in 1918 after the collapse of Russian and German Empires.

However in 1934, Latvia lost its democratic status because of the emergence of authoritarian rule by *Karlis Ulmanis*, who was considered as the father and founder of democratic independent Latvia during interwar period. Latvia was incorporated into the Soviet Union during the Second World War on the basis of secret protocol of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact which was signed on 23 August 1939 between Soviet Union and German Third Reich. Latvia resisted Soviet occupation without success.

During the Second World War, Latvia experienced three invasions and occupations, by Soviets, Germans, and then Soviets again. Latvians remained under Soviet rule till the collapse of Soviet Union. The severe authoritarian Soviet policy brought back together the people of Latvia to re-discover their lost national identity during Gorbachev's era. In 1991 Latvia and the other two Baltic Republics; Lithuania and Estonia re-established their democratic independent statehood.

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The legacy of Soviet regime still strongly exists in the social and political life of Latvians. Hence, the legacies of Soviet era became the key source of the present political change in the republic of Latvia. Latvia has experienced dynamics of political change, the political system of Latvia transformed from an authoritarian Soviet regime to Western-oriented liberal democratic form of government. After re-establishing the democratic independent statehood, the country's foreign policy has witnessed noteworthy regional and international facets within a short span of twenty-four years.

Accession to the European Union and NATO in 2004 and membership in the Council of Europe has deeply influenced Latvia's government to seek to establish a modern Latvian nation in Eastern Europe. Now Latvia has become the significant member of European Union. In 2015, Latvia took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and it had become the great challenge for the country.

India and Latvia have developed close and cordial relations in the fields of trade and commerce as well as developed sturdy cooperation in technology and cultural interactions since Latvia's independence from Soviet Union in 1991. Their relationships developed very closely in September 1995, during MOS (EA) visit to Latvia. In 1995, the two countries signed on some important issues: the Declarations of Principles and Directions of Co-operation, Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Arts, Education, Science, Mass-Media and Sports, Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation and Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations.

Air services Agreement was signed in October 1997 during the Latvian presidential visit to New Delhi. Agreement on Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation was signed during the First Round of FOC in Riga, Latvia in June 2001. "In December, 2010, an India-Latvia Parliamentary Friendship Group in

the Latvian Saeima (Parliament) was set up under the chairmanship of Atis Lejins and included a total of 18 MPs. A similar Group in Indian Parliament has also been set up and includes a total of 26 MPs" (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India).

Recently, on 12-20 September 2013, Latvia's Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics paid a successful official visit to India in an effort to build stronger ties between the two countries. During the visit, the Minister held important meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid; both the leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and important international affairs issues.

The Foreign Minister was accompanied by a business delegation, representing the sector of education (Mārcis Auziņš, Rector of the Latvian University, and Ilmārs Kreituss, Pro-Rector of Riga International School of Economics and Business Administration - RISEBA), business consulting (Rūdolfs Kalniņš, SIA Securitate), transit and logistics (Guntis Drunka, Deputy Manager of Ventspils Free Port), as well as metalworking and film industry<sup>3</sup>.

"The Latvian and Indian foreign ministers signed an agreement on the prevention of double taxation and tax evasion. The parties expressed confidence that the agreement will facilitate mutual economic cooperation by ensuring a more favourable environment for business activities. In turn, the Indian foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the good relations between Latvia and India, which are reflected both by the establishment of a Latvian Embassy and the current visit of the Latvian foreign minister and a delegation of business representatives"<sup>4</sup> (*Baltic Course*, 19 September 2013).

The bilateral ties between the two republics have been developed by mutual interaction throughout their historic times and both the countries share the bond of Indo-European languages.

On 15 September, Latvian Foreign minister met with the Governor of Andhra Pradesh Ekkadu S.L. Narasimhan and expressed Latvia's interest

in building cooperation with this developed region of India. The Minister expressed that the Foreign Ministry of Latvia was planning to appoint a Latvian honorary consul in Hyderabad district. The Governor expressed support for Latvia's cooperation initiatives and mentioned cooperation in the fields of energy, higher education, environmental protection and infrastructure development as offering excellent prospects.

Also Ekkadu S.L. Narasimhan indicated that "we know about Latvia's success in economy and the development of the state. We are interested in Latvian experience with the production of renewable energy, especially with the use of wind and water energy," "It is important to develop tourism and cultural contacts, so that we could learn more about Latvia, and you – about India and Hyderabad District," the Governor continued. The Rector of the University of Latvia Mārcis Auziņš told the Governor about the Hindi Language and Cultural Cooperation Centre at the University of Latvia and plans for future cooperation with India's universities<sup>5</sup>.

The Latvian and Indian foreign ministers signed an agreement on the prevention of double taxation and tax evasion. The parties expressed confidence that the agreement will facilitate mutual economic cooperation by ensuring a more favourable environment for business activities. The foreign ministers also discussed bilateral relations, as well as international affairs<sup>6</sup>.

Educational cooperation, one of the central topics for the visit of Latvian delegation to India, was continued during the discussion of the Foreign Minister and representatives from Latvian universities with the administration and staff of the University of Hyderabad. Latvian and Indian university staff shared opinions on study and research process and agreed about the exchange of students and academic staff. To facilitate further contacts, a cooperation agreement between the University of Latvia and the University of Hyderabad will be drawn up and signed in the near future.

In Hyderabad, the official delegation of Latvia and entrepreneurs had a meeting with representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Srinivas Ayyadevara. A great interest by the Indian business people present at the meeting was felt in possibilities for developing trade cooperation with Latvia and investing in this country. Minister Rinkņevs and Latvian business people gave answers to questions about Latvia's business environment, financial and tax policy and the adoption of the euro planned next year. Minister Rinkņevs gave interviews for the media of the state, including the EENADU television company<sup>7</sup>.

On 16 September, the delegation headed by the Foreign Minister visited Tamil Nadu, where meetings were held with the Governor and representatives from the Chamber of Industry and Commerce. At the University of Madras, a cooperation agreement was signed between that university and the University of Latvia and a lecture was delivered to outline Latvia's perspective on the European Union-India relations.

Also Foreign Minister Rinkņevs' visited the capital of the country, Delhi, from 18 to 20 September, Rinkņevs met with the country's Minister of Culture Chandresh Kumari and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology Kapil Sibal. Besides, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkņevs delivered an address at the International Relations Institute of Jawaharlal Nehru University<sup>8</sup>.

The Centre for Indian Studies and Culture in the University of Latvia was launched on 29 October 2012 to develop the educational relations between the two countries. The Centre is chaired by Prof. Sigma Ankrava, an expert on Indo-European cultural relations. "Having done extensive research in Indo-European cultural relations, Ankrava is convinced that Latvia shares a large part of its heritage with Aryans. Latvians, according to many historians, originated from the Southern Urals. Their migration happened to the West and to the East over the Hindukush. So,

many cultures and traditions are similar”, says Ankrava<sup>9</sup>.

Prospects for Indian exporters in Latvia are ample. Chemical and allied products, foodstuffs and textiles have traditionally been Indian strongholds among our export products to Latvia. As there is a huge demand for these products, so India can continue to build on its position to increase its stake in these areas in total Latvian imports.

In recent years there have been increase in demand for oils & fats in Latvia. India’s share has also increased in total Latvian imports. Export of vegetables is another area where more efforts can be made to increase India’s share as

India has lot to offer in this area. There is a sizeable market for footwear etc in Latvia. ICT remains the pivotal area where India can collaborate with the Latvian companies.

### India’s Bilateral Trade with Latvia since 2007

Indo-Latvian relations are cordial and are warming up though there is room for improvement on the trade and economic fronts. Trade and investment is steadily increasing between the two countries. Latvia is visualized as the nation that occupies a pivotal position as gateway to the opportune Baltic market. Latvian leadership at all levels is keen to strengthen relationship with India and would like to see this relationship grow.

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
India’sExports	59.50	44.93	47.17	103.19	96.18	104.08
India’sImports	40.95	113.87	154.94	196.32	141.53	70.26
Total	99.95	158,80	202.11	299.51	237.71	174.34

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Prospective areas of cooperation and trade/ investment between two countries include: oil and petroleum, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, telecommunications, IT and software development, heavy engineering; export of textiles (especially denim), gems and jewellery, chemicals and dyes, vegetables and fruits, Leather and leather products, third country exports.

The Republic of Latvia and India have established excellent cooperation in various sectors. Now the economic and cultural ties between the two countries have been largely extended and the diplomatic, trade, economic and technical relations well established. Both the countries are parliamentary democracies and have enjoyed very close and friendly relations since Latvia’s independence from Soviet Union in 1991.

The bilateral development co-operation has seen remarkable and progressive expansion in the

recent years between two countries. Both countries should continue their efforts in further strengthening their friendly relations for mutual benefit in particular and in the larger interest of international peace and security.

### Notes

1. Latvian presidency of the council of the European Union, [https://eu2015.lv/images/news/EU2015LV\\_results\\_en.pdf](https://eu2015.lv/images/news/EU2015LV_results_en.pdf)
2. O’Connor, Kevin (2006), *Culture and Customs of the Baltic States*, Westport: Greenwood Press.
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, September 2013, [www.mfa.gov.lv](http://www.mfa.gov.lv)
4. Baltic Course (BC), Riga, 19.09.2013, [http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/good\\_for\\_business/?doc=80849](http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/good_for_business/?doc=80849)
5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, September 2013, [www.mfa.gov.lv](http://www.mfa.gov.lv)



# India-Nepal Relations: Issues and Prospects

Dr. Pravesh Kumari\*

*[Relationship between India and Nepal is unique and there exist historical geographical, cultural, linguistic, ethnic, social and family links between people living in both countries. The signing of the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950 established the framework for the unique ties between the two countries. Nepal, a small landlocked country situated in the lap of the majestic Himalayas, is a beautiful country with innumerable peaks including the world's tallest peak the Mount Everest. Nepal is located in an important strategic position in the southern slopes of the Central Himalayas. It separates Tibetan plateau from the Indian plains, southern region of Nepal from border with Utrakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal states of India.]*

**T**he geographical position of Nepal brings it different kinds of sufferings as the transit problem, which makes extremely difficult for it to conduct international trade. At the same time, it is the geographical location of this small but beautiful Himalayan country which makes it extremely important as far as the security of two major countries of Asia, India and China, is concerned. It looks as though it is sandwiched between India and China but its strategic importance is such that if it offers itself as a battleground to any of these two powers, that power will win.

India and Nepal have shared close culture and economic ties and special relationship for long time. India has mainly tried to address its legitimate security interests while extending all help and assistance for stability and development in Nepal. As and when India's security interests were undermined by Nepal, the relations in other areas also suffered. Nepal has used the China card many times to seek extra favour from India or to maintain equal distance from both big neighbours, thus in spite of many commonalities, the relations between India and Nepal have not always been smooth.

Hence, this paper is divided into four parts- the first part deals with the introduction of the subject, second part discusses situation and relationship between the two countries, third part

is devoted to the dynamic issues and the prospects of India and Nepal relations and the fourth part concludes with certain suggestions to improve India Nepal relations.

## **India-Nepal Relations (1950-1999)**

India-Nepal relations have been shaped by long standing geographical, historical, cultural, social and economic ties that the people of the two countries have shared with each other in almost every walk of life. A long time matrimonial relationship between the Royal house of Nepal and India has been maintained. Nepal was being ruled by Rana oligarchy till 1950.

When there was a revolution in which the Nepalese people and King Tribhuvan participated and succeeding in overthrowing the Ranas and in bringing democracy to the country, the Indian government supported the democratic forces in Nepal to succeed in the ending the despotic regime.

The signing of India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950, which envisaged special relationship, characterized open borders, unrestricted movement of people and goods across the border and mutual consolations in case of any threat to each other's security. Along with this treaty another treaty of trade and commerce was also signed, which provided Nepal transit facilities through Indian Territory for import and export of goods. These two treaties addressed Indian security concerns and consolidated special relationship between the two countries.

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In 1950, India had paramount influence not only in international relations but also in democratic affairs of Nepal. In 1951, both decided to establish border checkpoints along Nepal's boundary with China (Tibet). These checkpoints were manned jointly by Nepalese defence personnel and Indian wireless operators. Also in 1952, an Indian Military Mission was established in Nepal.

This pattern of relations continued till King Mahendra's accession to the throne in March 1955. Unlike King Tribhuvan, he did not owe his position to Indian support and wanted to have a free hand in foreign policy matters such as diplomatic relations. In 1958 Indian military mission was reorganized as Indian military training and advisory group with reduced role and importance. B.P. Koirala became the first Prime Minister of Nepal and election was held for the parliament of Nepal.

In 1960, King Mahendra dismissed Koirala's ministry and assumed the power himself, which resulted in a period of stress and strain between the two countries. Following the Indo-China war of 1962, the China factor became important in India-Nepal relations. China started giving aid to Nepal and it also built Kathmandu-Kothari road, which provided a direct strategic link between China and Nepal through Tibet.

China factor still continued to cause concern for the Indian security interests in Nepal. The divergence in security perceptions of the two countries became more visible when Nepal asked India to withdraw its personnel from Nepal, especially from the Indian check-posts and Indian military and training group in August, 1970.

King Birendra, who succeeded to the throne in 1972, proposed Nepal to be recognized internationally as a zone of peace in 1975. He received support from China and Pakistan. In New Delhi view, if the King's proposal did not contradict the 1950 treaty, then it was unnecessary and if it was a repudiation of the special relationship, then it represented a possible threat to India's security and could not be endorsed.

Nepal's reiteration of the peace zone proposal in 1984 didn't evoke any reaction from India. In 1978, India had agreed to separate trade and transit treaties thereby satisfying long term Nepalese demand. Nepal was visibly happy. Climax of anti-India policy of Nepal reached in 1988 when Nepal bought arms from China, which was a clear violation of the spirit of 1950 treaty of peace and friendship.

On 23 March 1989, the treaties of trade and transit lapsed. India declared a blockade of goods to Nepal after delays in renewing trade and transit between the two countries that caused hardships of the people in Nepal. The popular movement against the Panchayat system gathered momentum and the king had to dismantle partyless system and to transfer sovereignty to Parliament in 1990.

Indo-Nepal relations began to receive fresh impetus with the establishment of democratic rule in Nepal in April 1990 under the system of limited monarchy. Since India had been consistent in supporting democratic forces in Nepal, India's policy of extending full support to newly founded multiparty democracy in Nepal was a logical result. This phase of bilateral relations started with a positive note. Nepal's multiparty democratic elections were first held in May 1991. The Nepali Congress party led by G.P. Koirala won this election with a clear majority.

During the December 1991 visit to India by Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, the two countries signed new separate trade and transit treaties for five and seven years and other economic agreement designed to accord Nepal additional economic benefits. The hijacking of Indian airlines aircraft from Kathmandu airport on Christmas Eve in 1999 and its landing in Kandhar airport in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan made a profound change in Indo-Nepal relationship. India expressed concern about threat to its security by foreign forces operating from Nepalese soil.

### **India-Nepal Relations in 21st Century**

The beginning of new millennium was marked by two events, which were to affect Nepal

profoundly. The first was royal massacre in June 2001 when crown Prince Dipendra, who was supposed to have committed suicide, massacred the entire family of king Birendra including the Queen. His brother Prince Gyandra succeeded him. The second was growth in the Maoist insurgency in the country. In 2005, after king Gyanendra took over, Nepal's relations with India soured.

However, after the restoration of democracy, Prachanda, the then Prime Minister of Nepal, visited India in September 2008. He spoke about a new dawn in the bilateral relations between the two countries. He said, "I am going back home with the hope that a new era has dawned. Time has come to effect a revolutionary change in bilateral relations. On behalf of new government, I assure you that we are committed to make a fresh start."

He met Indian Prime Minister and asked India to help Nepal in forming a new constitution, and invest in Nepal's infrastructure. During the course of his visit to India, he forcefully reiterated the demand for the revision of the 1950 treaty of peace and friendship as it was unequal and against the sovereign right of Nepal. India promised to provide a credit line of up to 150 crore rupees to Nepal to ensure uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products as well as lift ban on the export of rice, wheat, sugar and sucrose for quantities agreed to with India. Nepal was also to be provided with Rs 20 crore as immediate flood relief.

However, in recent years, the increasing dominance of Maoists in Nepal's domestic politics along with increasing of economic and political influence of the People's Republic of China have proved instrumental in prompting Nepal to gradually distance it ties from India. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi visited Nepal in August 2014, marking the first official visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 17 year, and provided Nepal with US\$ one billion as concessional line of credit for various development purposes to Nepal and a HIT formula, but he insisted that Indian immigrants in Nepal didn't pose a threat to Nepal's

sovereignty and therefore open border between Nepal and India should be a bridge and not a barrier.

Nepal and India signed an important deal on 25 November 2014 as per which India will build a 900MW hydropower plant at a cost of another US\$ one billion. Once this plant starts producing electricity by 2021, Nepal will get 22% of the power free of cost and the rest will be exported to India.

### **Issues in India-Nepal Relations**

India-Nepal relations are based on historical, cultural, geographical and economic linkages. Both the countries have periodically acknowledged each other's value and importance and have also described the relationship as 'special' on various occasions. However, this relationship sometimes reaches the lowest ebb due to anti-India sentiments in Nepal, in reaction to the perceived political interference by India.

In context of India-Nepal relations, there are many issues that are either sources of intimacy or irritation. These issues give rise to suspicion and conflict and also encourage cooperation and partnership between the two neighbours.

**Geographical Issues:** The case of Open Border—The issue of open borders has also been often debated in Nepal in recent years. The border management between the two countries has emerged as a challenging task in view of the new problems and threats. Both countries share a long porous border, which can be crossed by the citizens of either country without any visa requirement. The most serious and adverse impact of open and uncontrolled border has been in the form of growing anti-social and lawless activities.

The unrestricted border has indeed been responsible for all sorts of criminal, anti-social and illegal activities such as robbery, murder, smuggling of goods to evade custom duties, drug trafficking, arms smuggling etc. Recently there have been increased terrorist activities along Indo-Nepal border.

The recent arrests of some high profile terrorists like Adul Karim Tunda, Mohammad Ahmad

Sidibappa and Qlias Yasin Bhatkal have brought the India-Nepal border into sharp focus. Differences of opinion, however, exist as to the exact location from where these terrorists were arrested. While India maintains that the Tunda was arrested at the Banbasa – Mahender Nagar border point and Bhatkal in Raxaul, some media reports indicate that Tunda was arrested from Kathmandu airport and Bhatkal was picked up from a hideout in Pokhara during a joint operation with Nepalese law enforcement authorities.

Whatever may be the case, these arrests highlight the fact that terrorists and criminal groups are increasingly using Nepal as a base because the open border with India allows them to enter and exit India with ease.

All these issues have potential to generate political confusion and create deadlock in the relations between the two countries. India has been seeking Nepal's cooperation in managing the border through several bilateral mechanisms. However, domestic political turmoil, lack of political will and resource crunch have so far prevented Nepal from effectively cooperating with India.

**Security Issue:** India and Nepal have common borders with Bhutan too. Nepal and Bhutan appear to be of crucial importance from the point of view of India's security. Hence, any effort towards security of the border is possible only in cooperation with these countries. Their attitude and perceptions of India's defence need and interests are important. In the 1950 treaty, Nepal and India both agreed not to tolerate any threat to the security of the other by a foreign aggression and both the governments shall consult with each other. Besides looking after Nepal's need for arms, ammunition and such other materials, India agreed to pay a sizable annual cash subsidy to Nepal along with positing of India technicians on Nepal's Northern border check-posts and Indian military liaison group in Nepal.

Thus, under the arrangement, Nepal fully accommodated India's security interests. This mutually agreed arrangement went smoothly till the death of King Tribhuvan in March 1955. With the accession of king Mahendra to the throne,

the principle of special relationship with India was rejected and concept of equal friendship with both neighbours – India and China – was adopted.

King Mahindra undertook a three-week long visit to China in 1961. This visit resulted in the conclusion of an agreement on the construction of a highway linking Kathmandu with the Tibetan border town of Kodari with Chinese assistance and a clear cut assurance of Chinese help. Steps were taken to diversify Nepal's aid the trade relations, especially with China.

Relations between India and Nepal got a serious blow when the future of mutual security arrangement was put into jeopardy by when Nepal asked India to withdraw its technicians and Indian military liaison group posted along Nepal's northern border check-post. After prolonged and intense deliberations, India agreed to withdraw its technicians and Indian military liaison group. However, the 1950 treaty and 1965 agreement on import of arms between India and Nepal remained undisturbed.

In 1975, king Birendra proposed that Nepal be recognized internationally as a zone of peace for which he received support China and Pakistan. However, in New Delhi view, if the King's proposal did not contradict the 1950 treaty and was an extension of non-alignment, then it was unnecessary; if it was a repudiation of the special relationship, it represented a possible treat to India's security and could not be endorsed. India's negative response to Nepal's 'zone of peace' declaration resulted in Nepal's bid to violate India's security interests and started receiving arms from China at throw away prices.

Nepal claimed that these arms were meant for internal defence of the kingdom. India viewed it as complete violation of 1950 treaty of peace and friendship and 1965 agreement between India and Nepal. In the 1989 statement on the relations between the two countries, the basic issue was Nepal's ignorance of India's security concerns as stipulated in the treaty. Nepal, thus, is a strategically important country in the context of India's northern defence parameters. India-Nepal relations, as briefly surveyed above, clearly

establish the sharp decline in the traditional pattern of independence and reciprocity in the field of mutual security.

**Revision of 1950 treaty of Peace and Friendship:** The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship brought India and Nepal closer to each other whereby India promised to help it in its economic development. Likewise, Nepal agreed to cooperate with India in matters concerning defence in the changing political situation. However, Nepal wants to break away from the special relationship with India. India has agreed in principle to revise this and other treaties but no concrete steps have been taken in this direction thus far. As per the existing provisions of 1950 treaty, any party may leave it by giving one year notice to other party.

However, even the Maoist government in Nepal had not exercised this option so far. The treaty of peace and friendship has been a key bone of contention right from the time of its signing and the large section of Nepali population is demanding its revision and amendment if not outright abrogation as it infringes upon Nepal's independent decision-making power on certain issues, including the one concerning the purchase of arms and weapons from third countries for the Nepal Army.

In the past, India was not prepared even to talk about the 1950 treaty let alone review and change it. But the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after coming to power, has frankly asked Nepal on the issue concerning the review of 1950 treaty, to come up with a proposal on which negotiation could be held. India has, therefore, thrown the ball into Nepal's court. The revision of treaty may have major impact on the future relationship between the two countries.

**Economic Issue:** India and Nepal are two traditional trading partners and bilateral trade between the two countries has often been quite smooth. The beginning of Indo-Nepal economic relations can be traced back to 1950 when the two countries signed the treaties of friendship trade and commerce. Indo-Nepal economic relations have been governed by the bilateral

treaties of trade and transit and agreement for co-operation to control the unauthorized trade signed in 1978, 1991, 1996, 2002 and 2009.

Nepal and India share an open border of more than 1600 km. and import and export is operated through 22 transit points as per the treaty of transit. Due to open border, it is frequently reported that goods and articles are imported and exported through unofficial transit points. The unofficial trade affects the government revenue of both countries. It is, furthermore, recognized that river-side routes are also used for unauthorized trade. It has been, indeed, very difficult for the both sides, even if they adhere to the agreement on the cooperation, to control unauthorized trade.

### **Prospects**

Undoubtedly, the prospects of India-Nepal relationship of friendship based on trustworthiness look bright; nevertheless, there are still certain issues which have been causing trouble in the friendly relationship. India and Nepal share common features in many respects, particularly in the social and economic aspects. However, India has been more advanced than Nepal in some of the specific sectors, such as the commerce and industry, information and communication technology, education and health sectors. India, being a large country on the basis of geographical and physical structure, population and resources, possesses comparative advantage over Nepal.

Natural scenarios have made Nepal a beautiful country that possesses several mines and minerals along with huge water resources. The country is heading towards the industrialization regime. Against this background, India can cooperate with Nepal in many aspects. Both the countries can share mutual benefits by doing so. Some of the key areas where India and Nepal can cooperate with each other are identified below:

**Hydroelectric Power:** Water resource is considered as the backbone of Nepalese economy. Nepal has one of the highest potential for development of hydroelectric power as it is endowed with adequate amount of water

resources. The hydropower potential of Nepal's rivers, based on average flow, has been estimated at 83,000 mw. Hydropower generation can be seen as one of the most significant potential areas to cooperate and also to invest in case of Nepal for not only meeting its domestic needs but also generating the power to export.

Furthermore, the regional electric grids, to which Nepal's surplus could be exported, are likely to benefit a lot from the development of prime sites at relatively low capacity factors. Bilateral and multilateral donor agencies are interested in funding hydroelectric power development projects in Nepal when they are assured that there exists a market in India.

Seti, Koshi, Upper Karnali, Gantak are some of the hydel project that have attracted interest of foreign investors. Nepal and India signed an important deal on 25 November 2014, according to which India will build a 900-MW hydropower plant at a cost of another US\$ 1 billion. Once a plant starts producing electricity by 2021, Nepal will get 22% of the power free of cost and the rest will be exported to India.

**Tourism Industry:** Tourism stands out as one of the most important sectors in which Nepal has a comparative advantage and rest potential due to its rich cultural heritage and unrivaled natural scenic beauty. Tourism has emerged as one of the most dynamic and promising sectors in the country providing employment opportunities and income generation for small and large entrepreneurs. Tourism sector provides for economic cooperation in a number of areas like tourism infrastructure, hotels and resorts, games etc.

Tourism products like holiday-homes, mountain sports, adventure travel and amusement parks are some other potential areas. The construction of hotels and resorts offers very promising prospects for profitable investment. Foreign direct investment has been encouraged in capital intensive tourism industries such as hotels, resorts and in the areas which transfer modern technology and skills. Being a neighboring country, India could also gain the benefits from the tourism development in Nepal.

**Technology Transfer:** Technology transfer can be made under an agreement between an industry and a foreign investor in matter of use of any technological right, specialization, formula process, patent or technical know-how of foreign origin, any trademark of foreign ownership and acquiring any foreign technical, consultancy, management and marketing services.

**India Nepal Joint Ventures:** India has been the biggest aid donor and trade partner of Nepal since the very beginning. The 1950 treaty provided for preference to Indian government and private investors to participate in the socio-economic development of Nepal. This also facilitated access to the ventures by partnership to share risk and expertise between the two neighbors. Open borders, geographical proximity, socio-economic and cultural similarities have as well encouraged small and big investors of India to invest in Nepal. The joint venture programme is the most effective means of bilateral cooperation.

Sharing of skills, technology and resources to seek equitable benefits could be made possible through such ventures. Indian joint ventures are mostly in the field of manufacturing sectors, hotel and tourism. These joint venture are associated with different sectors that include tourism, infrastructure and export-oriented industries liked garments and carpets. A number of Indian companies, including Dabur, Hindustan Lever, Colgate etc. have established their manufacturing base in Nepal with the objective to export their finished products in India. It has also been stated that the Government of India has established a special "Nepal window" to facilitate appropriate Indian investment in Nepal, as there is no outgo of foreign exchange.

Nepal has much liberalised financial sector. However, for Indian and other foreign firms to be able to continue their operations in Nepal, the regulations have to be implemented more effectively. The regulatory authorities should ensure that financial institutions adopt prudential norms so as to create a conducive environment for local and foreign financial institutions. Addressing the problem related to political

instability will also help in creating a favourable environment.

### **Conclusion**

Relationship between India and Nepal has traditionally been close since ancient times. The beginning to Indo-Nepal cooperation can be traced back to 1950 when the two countries signed the treaties of friendship and trade and commerce. The Indian security perceptions of Nepal are based on the 1950 treaty of peace and friendship. After a close analysis of India-Nepal relations, which are so deeply rooted in all the economic, political, ethnic and cultural fronts; a close look at Nepal compels us to think that India and Nepal are just the two sides of a coin. In spite of having such a close relationship, there have been some issues with the potential of disturbing the relationship such as, security, economic interaction, the 1950 treaty, and open border issues etc.

The main players influencing the political situation in Nepal are the mainstream political parties, the civil society and Nepal Army. The type of political establishment in Nepal had been the matter of concern for India since long, particularly when India sees that Nepal is inclining towards China. Nepal had been playing China card with India very often, sometimes to obtain some special concessions from India and sometimes just to please its other neighbour China.

As for India, Nepal is an important strategic neighbour with which it has had a lot of constructive and cooperative relations. Yet, on the other hand, relations have also suddenly turned hostile sometimes. There remains prevalence of an anti-India sentiment in Nepal. The reasons are complex and have much to do with small-country-fear-psychosis that prevails among India's neighbours. India wants to have a close and cordial relationship with Nepal for its security reasons and also to use Nepal's water resources, which it has in plenty and mostly unused.

It is obvious that every country has its own interests and it tries to pursue the policy which

serves its interests. But, when it comes to the matter of a stable relationship between any two countries, both need to find convergence of interests. The following are some suggestions for improving the relationship. First, India needs to further intensify its people-centric economic diplomacy in Nepal, which would earn people's goodwill and undermine anti-India sentiments. India needs not to interfere in the internal political process of Nepal. This is the most viable and realistic course available to India policy makers to deal with growing complexities of Indo-Nepal relations.

Second, the leaders of both the sides had helped to remove misunderstandings. Personal contact reinforced by ideological identity was used as an instrument for improving bilateral relations. Third, conventional security certainly cannot be the sole basis of India-Nepal relations. Therefore, the 1950 treaty should be revisited to not only address Nepal's concerns but also to include India's concerns about non-conventional threats that have emerged in recent years.

For its transformation, Nepal needs energy, connectivity, a new Constitution that is durable, inclusive and democratic, and a political disposition that unfetters its economy and supports the entrepreneurial talent of its people. Prime Minister Modi will likely indicate that India stands ready to substantially augment its development partnership with Nepal. But both the countries should keep in the mind the fact that friendship cannot be a one-way traffic and they should redefine rules governing bilateral relationship.

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# Managing Indo-Bangladesh Border and Security

Dr. Prasanta Sahoo\*

*[Border management and national security are closely linked with each other. Border management is an important task not only for India or Bangladesh, but also, for every nation of the world. South Asian subcontinent is a unique and India-centric region by nature. All the South Asian countries share common value, identity, political system and social conditions and cultural similarity. Therefore, trans-border affiliation of socio-cultural, political, economic and religion is prevailing in the entire region.]*

**B**eing the centerpiece of South Asia, almost all the countries share their physical borders only through and with India. The unique nature of India-Bangladesh border has made the task of management most difficult and vulnerable one. This has become the biggest threat to national security of both the countries.

The concepts of self-determination, sub-nationalism, ethno-nationalism, insurgency movement and non-military threats have complicated the issue of security. Illegal migration creates serious security problems—political, societal, economic, environmental, and human rights—to the host country. Globalization, however, argues for economic integration and interdependence which lead to more open borders and more harmonious cross-border relations.

But, the cross-border transportation and communication networks used by terrorists are also the arteries of a highly integrated and interdependent economy. Unfortunately, the way in which India-Bangladesh border control is implemented and managed would reduce the benefits of openness of border significantly and affect the furtherance of socio-cultural relations and economic integration.

## Defining Border, Border Management and National Security

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**Border:** One of the four important characteristics of nation-states, according to Prescott, is its territory over which it exercises its complete sovereignty. Territorial sovereignty is zealously guarded by states, and nothing is allowed to interfere in the exercise of this right. Boundary or Border, as it is inextricably linked with the state system, separates the area subject to different political control or sovereignty. The relations between two neighbouring nation-states are largely dependent on this boundary system. The relations “reach their most critical stage in the form of problems relating to territory, which brings national security under severe threat.”

**Border Management:** Border management has become a complex phenomenon in the present world order. It is a function of a country’s external and the internal situations, as well as their interplay. According to the Group of Ministers Report (2001), the border management must be interpreted in its widest sense and should imply co-ordination and concerted action by political leadership and administrative, diplomatic, security, intelligence, legal, regulatory and economic agencies of the country to secure the frontiers and sub-serve the best interests of the country.

Parkas Singh, former DG, BSF, has stated that “border management is a fluid concept in the sense that the level of security arrangements along a particular border would depend upon the political relations, the economic linkages, the

ethno-religious ties between people across the borders and the configuration of the border itself”.

**National (Border) Security:** Improper management of international borders poses serious threats for the national security of countries. Morton Berkowitz and P.G. Booke defined national security as the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threat. Besides military security, the concept of security includes socio-cultural, economic, political, environmental and psychological aspects of security. Bary Buzan, who analyses the concept of security holistically, viewed security as a complex combination of individual, national and international security. The terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001 and the Afghanistan and Iraq wars thereafter have radically changed the security environment facing countries.

### **Origin and Nature of India-Bangladesh Border**

India-Bangladesh border covers a length of 4,096.7 kilometers of land border and a maritime border of 180 kilometers. The land-border abutting five Indian States is - Assam (362 Kms), Meghalaya (443 Kms), Mizoram (318 Kms), Tripura (856 Kms) and West Bengal (2,216.7 Kms)) and five out of six Bangladeshi Divisions (Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet).

**Origin of the Border:** Radcliffe demarcated the boundary line between India and Pakistan which has given rise to a number of boundary disputes. Bangladesh was carved out of East-Pakistan and inherited the same border with India. The origin of the problem must be traced to the Radcliffe commission’s ‘blunder lines’.

**Nature of the Border:** The region includes desert lands, plains, numerous mountain ranges, rivers, wetlands, jungle terrain, large estuaries, Char lands, enclaves and shared aquifers and has various climates, with a remarkable biological diversity including many rare and native species and national parks and protected areas. The

border, which was carved out by the Radcliffe Line, was not fully demarcated on the ground. As a result, the border cuts through the middle of several villages, rivers, mountains, char lands, agriculture lands, public institutions and it has become the reason of emerging many enclaves in the region. In some cases, while one section of a house is in one country, another is in the other.

### **Border Management and National Security Challenges**

According to some scholars, the definition and scope of the term ‘National Security’ is very elastic one. It is closely tied to concepts of power and peace and to threat perceptions. In its simplest context, security is closely associated with a state’s vital national interests, its sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and economic viability.

K. Subrahmanyam, an Indian specialist on security and defence studies, has this to say: “national security does not merely mean safeguarding territorial integrity. It means also ensuring that the country is industrialised rapidly and has a cohesive egalitarian and technology society. Anything which comes in the way of this development internally or externally is a threat to (India’s) national security”. There are several non-military challenges to the national security of both the countries of India and Bangladesh.

**India’s Perspective:** Due to continuous illegal migration from Bangladesh, the entire complexion of populations in several districts and areas in the northeastern states, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal has undergone a dramatic transformation. As per Indian Home Ministry, over 20 million illegal Bangladeshi immigrants are residing in the country, of which above 10 million are in Assam and West Bengal alone.

There are several disclosures in regional and Western media of Bangladesh emerging as a new safe-haven for the Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. The Harkat-ul-Jehadi-e-Islami, Bangladesh (HuJI-BD), has linkages with

Pakistan-based terrorist groups such as the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). According to Indian intelligence agencies, 172 terrorist-training camps in Bangladesh train northeast insurgents, giving patronage and protection.

Illegal border trade/smuggling is another big challenge along this border. India's export to Bangladesh is more than US \$ 2 billion while informal exports are believed to account for the same amount. Border skirmishes and border conflict is occurring on the regular basis along the border. Since long, hundreds of thousands of innocent people have been killed in this border area.

***Bangladesh Perspective:*** Bangladesh is the only country in South Asia that is considered to be uniquely homogenous, yet it is not free from the crisis of national integration. The tribal people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh are demanding separation and have been waging an insurgency movement. Furthermore, the Islamic consolidation in Bangladesh fears about the country getting radicalized were expressed following the electoral victory of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in 2001, with the help of the Islamist fundamentalist parties like the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ).

Political power in Bangladesh inter-changes among Awami League, the military and BNP which is a conglomeration of anti-India and fundamentalist outfits like Jamat-e-Islami. Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia once described the insurgents in the northeast India as freedom fighters.

### **Impact of Bilateral Issues on Border Management and National Security**

***Dispute on Maritime & Riverine Border:*** Another feature of the India-Bangladesh border is the fifty-four cross-border Rivers. The river border poses a different kind of problem because of the sifting river roots, soil erosion or frequent floods. River border lines tend to change course periodically leading to a host of disputes,

associated with the difficulties in establishing ownership of the newly created territories. Similarly, India's maritime boundary with Bangladesh has been a disputed one. Unlike Pakistan, Bangladesh also favours the 'equitable' rather than the 'equidistant' principle preferred by India to fix these frontiers. The maritime dispute has been resolved with the international resolution in 2015.

***Enclaves and Adversely Possessed Lands:*** The problem of enclaves, adverse possession and disputed land are prevalent on the India-Bangladesh border. Enclaves have become convenient points for smuggling, avoiding customs and excise duties, importing of contraband, and are a point of entry for illegal aliens. There are 111 Indian enclaves (17,157 acres) in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladesh enclaves (7, 110.02 acres) in India. Adverse possession mostly takes place due to the riverine nature of the border at certain places that leaves chars after the floods. There are 2, 853.50 acres of Indian land under adverse possession of Bangladesh and, 154.50 acres of Bangladeshi land is under adverse possession of India.

***Undemarcation of 6.5 kms Border:*** Another most important problem of the India-Bangladesh border is the 6.5Kms of un-demarcated borders. These non-demarcations of land borders are firstly, on Daikhata in Berubari area of West Bengal. Secondly, on the Muhuri River Belonia sector in Tripura. The dispute in this area could not be solved due to the change in the course of Muhuri River and the formation of a char (approximately 46 acres). Third dispute is on the Lathitila/Dhumabari area of Assam. The dispute on this area involves the stretch of about 2.5Kms length (approximately 135 acres of land). This is the most important issue, which makes the border question unresolved.

***Politicization of the Issue:*** Though, the issue is very sensitive and has security consequences, all the political parties in India and Bangladesh have been trying to get benefit out of it. The sensitive issues like border management,

national security and the issue of migration have been politicized and discussed on the floor of the parliament and state legislative assemblies, and much sensitive information has been publicized. There are many evidences that at the time of general elections in the Border States truckloads of Bangladeshi enter into India and return to their homeland after casting their votes.

### **Bilateral Cooperation in Major Sectors**

**Economic:** Both India and Bangladesh need to come closer and cooperate with each other in the fields of economic, trade, commerce, investment and other economic related areas. Both the governments have recognized the need and requirement of each other in the context of their developing economies. Both the countries have essential similarities in these sectors like big population, emerging middle class, large market, and growing per capita income.

India has been promised to develop Indian side of Bangladesh like Petrapole and some other areas close to Indian international border. Now the Indian business tycoons have started investing billions of dollars in Bangladesh.

**Education:** All courses offered by any university or institute in India are open to Bangladeshi nationals under the foreign student category. However, except religious courses all other courses like MBBS, BE, MCA, MBA, Hotel Management and other professional courses are permissible. For general courses such as Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Arts, Pure Science, Commerce, Cultural Courses, Education and Law, the Bangladeshi students can approach for admission.

High Commission of India announces yearly ICCR scholarship and Government of India Self-Financing Scheme in third week of December. India is also cooperating in IT sector. India has assisted by sending so many computers and other educational equipments to Bangladesh. Exchange of teacher is another area of cooperation.

**Science and Technology:** Interaction on science and technology between India and Bangladesh started with the signing of an Agreement in 1982. In the 5th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Commission held in New Delhi in March 1997, it was suggested that a Joint Committee be set up at the inter-governmental level to work out a Programme of Cooperation (POC) in Science & Technology keeping in view the interest of both the sides which was done in July 1998.

A Protocol of Cooperation (POC) on Science & Technology for 1999-2000 was concluded in February 1999 in Dhaka in which various administrative and financial requirements for cooperation in science and technology were underlined. Subject Areas, Agricultural sciences, Biotechnology, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences including Meteorology, Information Technology and Environmental Sciences have been identified for cooperation.

**Agriculture:** India and Bangladesh are highly agricultural countries with over three-fourths of the population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture-related occupations. Both the countries are cooperating in rice seed exchange and cooperation in the agriculture related research.

**Energy:** Power shortages and blackouts continue to plague India's major cities and undermine the confidence of investors and foreign companies operating in India. India, as the world's number six energy consumer, is also in a more desperate situation compared to its peers. For example, oil imports account for two-thirds of India's oil consumption. India is also diversifying beyond oil to access other energy resources such as nuclear power, coal, natural gas and renewable energy resources as well as stepping up exploration activities within its borders.

Nevertheless, for the short to medium term, India will have to rely on an increasing amount of imported oil and gas to meet its energy needs. As a result, India is stepping up energy diplomacy with states in the South Asia region as well as states in region. The bilateral disagreements have

slowed the progress for discussions on a natural gas pipeline from Myanmar to India, which had to pass through Bangladeshi territory to reach India.

**Security:** Both the countries are prone to terrorism, insurgency and subversive movements. India is a democracy, which is disinclined to wage war. Arguments and counter arguments have spoiled the relations. There are many persons who believe that Bangladesh has and perhaps currently does provide bases, safe havens, and transport channels for arms to groups working against Northeast India. We all know of these accusations and denials by the respective governments. However, Bangladesh has agreed to cooperate to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure and will not permit anti-socials to operate from its soil. Bangladesh also agreed to hand over criminals, to cooperate with intelligence agencies.

### Conclusion

Border and border security has been a very unique and complex matter in South Asia. The borders in South Asia are generally artificial and created out of partition of the Indian sub-continent in 1947. India-Bangladesh border disputes have been continuing since it was India-East Pakistan border. The unique nature of this border not only prompts the security problems, but also provides congenial climate for the anti-social elements to carry-out their missions in both the countries.

Terrorism, smuggling trafficking and illegal trade along with the informal movement of people have been major security problems along this border. Furthermore, the 9/11 issue of 2001 has added a different dimension to the security problems in the region. The linkages between internal security landscape and the external environment have made the issue of border management a critical component of national security strategy.

However, the recent initiatives taken by both the new governments of Delhi and Dhaka have started a new era in the bilateral relationships between India and Bangladesh. The Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina have taken the bilateral friendships to the ever new height. Signing the historic Land Boundary Agreement on 6th June 2015, India and Bangladesh have promised to be part of each other's destiny. Border dispute have been the most irritant aspect of the bilateral relations.

There are several problems occurring out of these disputes viz., illegal migration, terrorism, human trafficking, arms and narcotics. The illegal border trade was also ruining the trade benefits of both the countries. Meanwhile, India and Bangladesh have become the most trusted friends, allies and strategic partners in South Asia. Both the countries are also strategically very important for each other for promotion of trade, security and cultural ties. A golden era of bilateral friendship has begun for India and Bangladesh.

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## China: Emerging Hub of Higher Education

Girendra Sharma\*

*[China is endowed with a long tradition of education, which has now developed into one of the most dynamic systems of higher education. This process was started in the beginning of 20th century and since then many universities and educational institutions have been established. Undoubtedly, all educational institutions, either state run or private, were swept away in the late 1950s and 1960s; however, the thirst for higher education among the Chinese people remained, which has proved instrumental in the development of higher education in China in quantity and quality.]*

In the beginning of 21st century, humankind is facing tremendous problems and challenges e. g., terrorism, global warming, environmental degradation, conflicts within states and so on. These problems have challenged the survival and development of many countries. To confront these problems, transformation towards knowledge-based economy has become crucial for the humanity. In these circumstances, higher education is often believed to be important and crucial to create necessary new human capital for the future of individuals and society (Cheng 2005, 2009a).

Becker (2002) has also pointed out that this is "the age of human capital" reflecting the facts that the well-being of the nation and the individuals depends on the skills, knowledge and enterprise not just for a tiny elite, but of the people. Recognizing this fact, China, which has a long tradition of education, has decided to move from elite to mass higher education and it has almost achieved its goal.

In the short span of time from 1990 to 2012, the number of higher students in China has increased

from under three million students on rolls to more than 30 million (Kirby 2012). It shows the significant growth over the past two decades. Increased students enrollment, faculty hiring, newly established institutions of higher education and transnational education are indications of the development of China as higher education hub in the world.

According to data put together by Institute of International Education (IIE) on international student mobility 2011, China has now become the third most favored nation of international students after US and UK. This paper aims to analyze issues related to the development of higher education and how these developments have made china as educational hub in the world.

### Background

China has developed one of the most dynamic systems of higher education based on legalist and Confucian ideals. The teachings of Confucius have shaped the overall Chinese mindset for the past 2500 years. But other outside forces have also played crucial role in nation's educational development. The earliest modern universities were influenced by

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Japanese experience and the subsequent developments reflected European continental models of the universities in the period between 1911 and 1921, American influences between 1922 and early 1930s.

Chinese model of modern universities began to take shape during the Second World War and subsequent civil war (Zha 2011). But after revolution of 1949, all experiences and experimentation were swept away in favor of adopting Soviet model of higher education. Political eruptions challenged the education system, beginning with the Great Leap Forward of 1958, when a huge number of local higher educational institutions were founded and Cultural Revolution of 1966, which caused all universities to be closed for a year or two. They were then taken over by radical elements that abolished the entrance examinations and went on to revolutionize the curricula.

After the death of Mao and the fall of radical elements, Deng Xiaoping came to power in 1977. He gave top priorities to science and education. Many reforms took place for improving higher education system in the nation. As a result, China's higher education system is now the largest in the world with more than 30 million students enrolled.

### **The Expansion of China's International Education**

The development of China's international education started just after the foundation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. It was the time when the Cold War was on the peak, which resulted in reducing the flow of foreign students into China. During the decades of 1950s and 1960s, most students were drawn from neighboring Asian and African Countries. From 1950 to 1966, China received 7,259 foreign students from 68 countries. Among these, 39.5 percent came from Vietnam, North Korea and Albania and 7.3 percent from African and Latin American countries, only 1.9 percent were from Japan, Western Europe and North America, all of whom were enrolled through non-governmental agencies.

Indeed 90.8 percent of international students in China during this period came from socialist countries.

This indicates that political considerations were determining factors at that time. In the last two decades, China has seen unprecedented growth in the number of students in higher education as well as in the number of international students. 2008 became a landmark year as number of international students exceeded 200,000 for the first time. Now, China also plans a big increase in the number of foreign students, from 328,000 to 500,000 by 2020.

The number of Chinese students seeking higher education abroad has also witnessed a notable increase in recent years, with more than 500,000 Chinese students were reported to be studying outside China in 2009 (UNESCO 2011). This expansion in Chinese higher education has promoted cooperation and competition across the realm of "Greater China": Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore are all competing with Beijing and Shanghai to be educational leader of Chinese speaking world (Kirby 2012).

### **China: Higher Education Hub**

The last decade has seen many important changes in all aspects of internationalization. Education Hubs are one of the most recent developments (Knight 2012). Education Hubs are a designated region intended to attract foreign students, retain local students and build a regional reputation by providing access to high quality education for both international and domestic students, it creates a knowledge-based economy, but question arises here that why do the host countries want to develop education hubs?

The reasons that motivate host countries to set up education hub can be diverse. The key motivations are to internationalize and modernize the higher education sector in the host countries, develop a skilled work force and retain students, attract foreign direct investment, increase the country's economic competitiveness and enhance geopolitical status (Knight 2013). China's aspiration to develop itself as education hub is also motivated by these facts.

China has emerged one of the most emerging education hubs with 23 of its universities making it into the top hundred lists of The Times Higher Education, BRICS and Emerging Economic

Ranking 2014. This massive survey of ranking of universities covered institutions of Brazil, India, China, South Africa, Russia and 17 other countries. Beijing University located in Beijing, China, smashed others by securing the top position; it was closely followed by Tsinghua University (Beijing) at second position. Chinese institutions outturn everyone, they scored four of the top 10 and 23 of top 100 positions in the lists. The next best represented countries are Taiwan (21), India (10), Turkey (seven), then South Africa and Thailand (five each) (*One India* 2014).

The reason behind Chinese success is the government of the country, which always encourages its universities to open its gate for the rest of the world; there are very few countries with per capita gross domestic product below \$1000, that did well in global rankings but China is an interesting exception.

China has now become the third most favored nation of international students after the US and UK. Now there are many more foreign students in China (0.328 million) than in Australia or Germany. South Korea continues to send the maximum number of students to China (21.3percent) but a close second is the US (eight percent), (Open Doors 2012). Now top three nations have 35 percent of the international students market which is growing at a good rate. Since 2000, the number of students leaving home in pursuit of higher education increased by 65 percent, totaling about 4.3 million student globally.

#### **Students' mobility: China and the U.S.**

The U.S-China relations occupy a position of considerable strategic importance. The bilateral ties between the two countries are critical to the development of economic markets, energy and

sustainability related issues and global security. Given the paramount importance of the relationship between the U.S. and China in the 21st century, the 100,000 strong initiatives were announced by Barack Obama in 2009, which show the commitment of both countries to encourage ongoing exchange of students between China and the U.S.

There are many more Chinese students in the U.S. than there are American students in China. In the 2011-12 academic year, Chinese students were the largest national group, ahead of India for 3rd consecutive year. One of four international students studying in the U.S. is from China (Open Doors 2012). Of the most 764,500 international students in the U.S., the number is likely to continue to rise.

The number of American students going to China has also increased. The last decade saw a surge in U.S. student mobility to China with 15,647 students going to China in 2012 (Open Doors 2012). The increase in number of American studying in China makes the second largest national group of international students in China, after Koreans and ahead of Japanese, Thais, Vietnamese and Russians. According to China's scholarship council (CSC), there were 23,292 students studying in China in 2011, an 18 percent increase from 2010 and a 13 percent average annual growth since 2007. In 2011, U.S. students represented eight percent of all international students in China.

#### **China's scholarship programs to attract International students**

China has made a significant financial commitment to bringing more international students to its colleges and universities. Both national and local level efforts are underway to promote the internationalization of China's higher education sector.

**Table-1, China's national scholarship to attract international students**

Scheme	Targeted student group	Study program	Duration (years)	Scholarship Value
Chinese government scholarship	All international students	Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree Doctoral Degree Language training Full and partial	4-7 2-5 3-6 Upto 2	Full and partial

University Postgraduate Program	Postgraduate students applying to Chinese Universities Under '985' project	Master's Doctoral	2-3	Full
			2-3	Full
Degree program in provinces & Autonomous Region	Postgraduate students applying to designated universities in specific	Master's Doctoral	2-3 2-3	Full Full

Source: China scholarship council, 2012

The Ministry of Education (MOE) offers a range of scholarship programs to international students who wish to study and undertake research at Chinese higher education institutions. Through these scholarships, the MOE seeks to “strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and people from the rest of the world, and to enhance cooperation and exchanges in the fields of education, science and technology, culture, economics and trade between China and other countries. 27 Scholarships are differentiated by scheme, targeted student population (e.g., by region or academic objective), and level of study – including undergraduate, graduate and language training.

Partial scholarships subsidize at least one area of students’ costs – tuition, medical care, and learning material, lodging, or living allowance – though full scholarships provide complete coverage in each of these areas (China’s University and College Admission System, 2012). Table-1 above highlights four schemes of Chinese government scholarship program.

**Local-Level Efforts**

City governments – including those in Beijing, Shanghai, Yiwu, Hangzhou, and Ningbo – are actively recruiting international students, offering students attractive scholarship packages to pursue higher education in their jurisdictions. These scholarships range in duration from one semester to full-degree length at all academic levels of study. The value of each scholarship depends on the type of education program and often covers tuition and provides a living allowance. Provides some examples of local-level scholarships offered to international students

**Conclusion**

Having a long tradition of education, China has developed one of the most dynamic systems of higher education. This process was started in the beginning of 20th century and many universities and educational institutions have been established since then. All educational institutions either state run or private were swept away in the late 1950s and 1960s. However, the thirst for higher education of the Chinese people continued to increase, which has proved instrumental in promoting recent development in Chinese education both in terms of quantity and quality.

In quantity terms, the Chinese government has achieved its goal but on quality front it has yet to go miles. Quality of higher education is now a serious issue arising in its expansion. A 2005 survey of 1,100 students, faculty and administration in 15 universities across nine provinces found the students complaining about shortage of teachers, and particularly the lack of well-qualified teachers. A related problem is the gloomy employment situation now facing university graduates. In 2003, 35.38 percent of the 2.12 million graduates were unable to secure a job at the point of graduation. This rate stayed at 35.36 percent in 2004 and 35.29 percent in 2005 (Zha 2011).

This reality has disappointed public expectations for higher education expansion and a crucial issue in the process of China becoming educational hub in the world. The Chinese government will have to look into this matter seriously.

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# Impact of Globalisation on Indian Agriculture

Dr. N. Kala\* & S.Velanganni\*\*

*[Undoubtedly, on the one hand, globalization has brought spectacular changes in Indian economy in the form of easy access to foreign trade, availability of technology, free trade etc; nevertheless, on the other hand, it has created negative impact on agricultural sector among laborers, farmers, production and productivity. The big farmers are availing all concessions largely at the expense of small and marginal farmers, many of whom have committed suicides for various reasons. Gunnar Myrdal assertion – if a country’s agriculture is backward, the economy is also likely to remain backward – needs serious thinking.]*

**A**s Gandhi said, the village economy has to be paid more attention in all socio-economic aspects. The livelihood of the village people is agriculture. According to 1951 census the percentage of rural population was 82.7 percent and it declined to 68.8 percent in 2011. From 1951 to 1981 there was nearly 14 percent reduction on rural population whereas

from 1991 to 2011 there was only 8 percent reduction. This period is denoted as post-reform period. As far as cultivator is concerned the percentage shows reverse order, as per Table-1. Post-reform period shows around 14 percent reduction when compared with pre reform period.

**Table-1: Population and Agriculture workers in India (in millions)**

Year	Total population	Rural population	Cultivator	Agriculture labor	Total
1951	361.1	298.6(82.7)	69.9(71.9)	27.3(28.1)	97.2
1961	439.2	360.3(82.0)	99.6(76.0)	31.5(24.0)	131.1
1971	542.2	439.0(80.1)	78.2(62.2)	47.5(37.8)	125.7
1981	683.3	525.6(76.9)	92.5(62.5)	55.5(37.5)	148.0
1991	846.4	630.6(74.5)	110.7(59.7)	74.6(40.3)	185.3
2001	1028.7	742.6(72.2)	127.3(54.4)	106.8(45.6)	234.1
2011	1210.6	833.5(68.8)	118.7(45.1)	144.3(54.9)	263.0

Source: *Pocket Book on Agricultural Statistics 2013*, GoI.

There is an increasing trend in agriculture labor except in 1961. It could be observed from the above table that there is a reduction in

agricultural cultivators and the number of laborers has increased.

## Historical perspective

The history of Indian agriculture was started by a primitive man and it has a strong relation with the civilization. In olden days, people formed groups among themselves and started growing required food grains in nearby places where they lived. This was the way of starting agricultural

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activities almost all over the world. India had also started agricultural activities in the same way. Rapid growth of population and other historical events like partition of country in 1947, food crisis and correcting the disequilibrium in the economy caused by the Second World War and more import of food grains laid foundation for taking measures to increase agricultural production and productivity.

As the outcome of it, modernized agriculture was introduced in India during 1968-1969 in the name of New Agricultural Policy. Thereafter, Indian agriculture has been carried out with the support of science and technology. At the same time, the basic human values are still survived towards agriculture. Hence, this sector, being the way for

life of three-fourth of India's population, has played a crucial role in internal and international trade. The features of Indian agriculture are identified by the size of holding, method of cultivation, cropping pattern, monsoon, employment opportunity, wage structure and the socio-economic status of farmers.

### Size of Operational Holding

Agriculture holding is defined as the land directly cultivated by a single person or agency, managing and conducting agricultural operations either by his own labor or with the assistance of members of his family or hired employees. In simple terms, it means the operation unit of a cultivation not the total area possessed by a cultivator. It is the important feature of Indian agriculture.

**Size distribution of operational holdings- Number of holding in million (Table-1)**

Size Group	1970-71	1976-77	1980-81
Less than one hectare	36.20(51.0)	44.52(54.4)	50.52(56.5)
1-2 hectares	13.43(18.9)	14.73(18.10)	16.10(18.0)
2-4 hectares	10.68(11.67)	11.67(14.3)	12.50(14.0)
4-10 hectares	7.93(11.2)	8.21(10.2)	8.09(9.1)
10and above hectares	2.77(3.2)	2.44(3.0)	2.15(2.4)
Average size (Hectares)	2.3	2	1.8

Figures in brackets show percentage to the total  
Source: *Indian Economy* by Dr.S. Sankaran

**Size distribution of operational holdings- Number of holding (in millions) (Table-2)**

Size Group	2000-2001	2005-2006	2010-2011
Less than one hectare	0.40	0.38	0.38
1-2 hectares	1.42	1.38	1.42
2-4 hectares	2.72	2.68	2.71
4-10 hectares	5.81	5.74	5.76
0and above hectares	17.12	17.08	17.37

Source: Pocket book on Agriculture Statistics 2013: Government of India, New Delhi

It is clearly shown in the table 2 that the marginal farmers have constituted more than 50 percent for all the three periods from 1971-1980-81. The

average size of operational holding was 2.3 million and it declined to 1.8 million. There is no big change in the size of large holders from 2001-2011. They have constituted more in number when compared with other categories of holding.

### **Agriculture during green revolution period**

The introduction of New Agricultural Strategy during third Five-Year Plan had made a significant change in the sector. It was considered as the milestone in the agriculture development process and was also debated in two aspects. It led to near disaster on the one side and many achievements were made on the other side. Though there was difference of opinion towards NAP, farmers had started to change cultivation methods and responded to high-yield variety seeds.

There was a considerable change in the cropping pattern and that most of the farmers had shifted from traditional crops to cash crops. Measures were taken to increase production and productivity by using chemical fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural implements and proper irrigation. Indian agriculture is largely constituted by small and marginal holders.

### **Agriculture during post-Reform Period**

Economic growth has improved significantly during the post-reform period (Mahendra dev 2009). The experience of the economic reforms for the past over two decades has brought significant growth in foreign exchange earnings, IT industry and export sector. But the major problems have not been addressed anywhere. Reform period changes have created unequal income distribution among people and benefited only few groups, both economically and socially.

The marginalized groups like dalits, marginal and small farmers including agricultural laborers etc have been affected severely. Many studies have shown that the liberalized policy had supported agriculture trade rather agriculture production. Agriculture accounts for about 25 percent of India's national income. The primary sector accounted for about 56.45 percent of the GDP in 1950-1951 and declined to 24.1 percent in 2002-2003. (Somasekar 2013)

### **Globalization – Meaning**

Globalization refers to the increase of trade and economic activities aiming at the integration of

domestic economy with world economy. Domestic economy has to undergo various problems while changing its activity towards global economy. It is not an easy task. It has to face lot of obstacles almost in all sectors. As far as India is concerned, many barriers have been identified and noticed by many economists, social scientists and academicians about the process of globalization and the major dual problems behind it.

The most important barriers identified are poverty and malnutrition. India tried to achieve the millennium development goal of reducing half of the poverty by the end of 2015 by initiating necessary reforms and structural adjustments, especially in agriculture. Several studies have been made by many researchers on globalization in different aspects like wage structure, impact of globalization on migration, socio-economic status of agricultural laborers in the globalised era etc. In this paper, an attempt has been made by the researcher to present the impact of globalization on agriculture sector based on secondary sources taken from various sources of government publications and previous researches.

### **Factors behind Globalization**

The first seed of liberalization was sown in India in the early 1980 and was reinforced in 1985, but these efforts were not successful. Balance of payment difficulties, the decline in foreign exchange reserves, and the overall stagnation in the economic situation etc were the factors, which led to the reserved drive for liberalization. Apart from this, the economic crisis, foreign exchange reserve deficits, failure of public sector and political instability of two governments had also created way for liberalization in India. The main objective behind 1991 economic policy was crisis driven. So it was called as “First Generation Reforms”.

Later, it was named as “Second Generation Reforms” that means transforming the crisis-driven to development-driven. The real development should not neglect any people, any

sector, any way and anywhere. But agriculture sector was not given priority in economic reforms. At the same time, the village agriculturists enjoy the agricultural technologies in the form of mechanization. Though, different perceptions have been pointed out by the experts regarding globalization.

### Impact on agriculture production

Agriculture is not a mere technological phenomenon, it is biological industry and there

is a strong correlation between agriculture growth and the population dependent on this sector. 65 percent of population is working in this sector for their livelihood. Introduction of SAP does not concentrate on agriculture and other sectors initially. In 1995, draft farm policy envisaging some structural changes in agriculture was announced and it is also first time that GATT agreement brought agriculture sector and international trade of agriculture goods within the purview of WTO thus integrating economic agriculture fully with global market.

**Table-4: Year-wise Production in Million tons**

Crop	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Rice	93.3	71.8	88.5	83.1	91.8
Wheat	72.8	65.8	72.2	68.6	69.4
Coars cereals	33.4	26.1	37.6	33.5	34.1
Pulses	13.4	11.1	14.9	13.1	13.4
Food grains					
Kharif(i)	112.1	87.2	117.0	130.3	109.9
Rabi(ii)	100.8	87.6	96.2	95.1	98.7
Total(i)+(ii)	212.9	174.8	213.2	225.4	208.6

Source: Government of India, Statistical Abstract of India

The table-4 shows that the year 2002 – 2003 had registered low level of production in all crops. At the same time, the overall production rate also declined from 212.9 million tons to 208.6 million tons. Agriculture plays a very important role in India’s economic development. It is the means of livelihood for nearly 65% of the labor force. The primary sector accounted for about 56.46% of the GDP in 1950-51 and it declined to 24.1% in 2003-04.

### Agriculture Growth during pre and post-Globalization period

Globalization has created impressive results in Indian economy in banking and financial sector, IT sector and Industrial sector. According to the study of Anil Kumar Thakur on “Globalization and its implications for Indian Agriculture”(2010) the overall growth rate of 4

percent in agriculture sector during 1980’s fell down to 3.50 percent in the second half of the 1990’s and further declined to less than 2 percent in the first half of the 2000’s. The following table represents growth rate of agriculture and different allied sectors during post and pre reform period.

**Table-5: Agriculture Growth during pre and post-Globalization period (in percentage)**

	Pre-reform period (1980 -1990)	Post-reform (1996-2006)
Agriculture	3.6	2.6
Forestry	4.2	2.5
Fishing	0.1	0.5
Food grains	2.9	1.5
Cereals	3.1	1.8
Rice	3.7	2.0
Wheat	3.6	3.6

Coarse cereals	0.1	1.4
Non food grain	4.3	2.0

Source: Economic Survey 2005-2006, GoI

The table-5 reveals that the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors has come down during post-reform period. The overall production of various crops including rice has also declined in post-reform period. Agricultural growth is not only dependent on the natural factors like

monsoon, climate and fertility of the soil, it also determined by the investment made by the farmers, government support in the form of agricultural loan and subsidy etc. It has been observed from the Bhattacharya committee that the share of capital formation in agriculture as percentage of total gross capital formation declined from 16.3 percent in 1981 to 5.8 percent in 2000. This is also one of the causes for reduction of agricultural growth.

Table-6: Performance of agriculture during pre and post reform period

S.NO	Details	Pre-Reform period 1981-90	Post-Reform period 1991-2000
1	Food grain P/N index(% p.a)	3.13	2.24
2	Non Food grain P/N index(% p.a)	4.10	2.63
3	Agriculture P/N index(% p.a)	3.49	1.38

It can be observed from table-6 that the production of food grains, non-food grains and overall production index was low during post-reform period.

### Impact on Migration

Migration is taking place throughout the world in order to find better life style, social status and for other reasons. Migration is continuing in India because it has been considered as the development process of one's life. In 2004-05 Indian labor force consisted of about 413 million, growing annually about 2%. In the total migration, about 3/5th worked in agriculture in rural area and produced a little over 1/5th of domestic products. Cultivators were 2/3rd of the rural work force and remaining were agricultural workers. There are many types of migrations such as in – migration, out-migration, employment-oriented migration, seasonal migration, interstate and intra-state migration.

The following table depicts the migration level of India based on certain data

State	Persons(in millions)
Maharashtra	8
Delhi	6
West Bengal	5.5
Net Migration Details	
Maharashtra	2.3
Delhi	1.7
Gujarat	0.68
Haryana	0.67
UP	-2.6
Bihar	-1.7

Source: 2001 Census (GoI)

Women migration was the highest in the period from 1991 -2000 due to agricultural crisis. Among them 73% are from rural areas. Among all the migrations, seasonal migration is the main livelihood source for rural people.

### Impact on small and marginal farmers

Many studies have stated that globalization has promoted agriculture trade rather agricultural activities. The vagaries of natural factors like monsoon, climate change, over and deficit rainfall and environmental degradation have

killed the farmers both economically and physiologically. The situational (globalization) factors such as high input cost, low productivity due to fake seeds and lack of pest management, low price for the agricultural produce in the domestic market due to high import, low quality goods through dumping by developed countries into developing countries, shifting traditional crops to cash crops with the intension of more profit due to export, neglecting marginal and small farmers by the bankers, dominance of large farmers, interference of commission agent and brokers in sales activities, lack of storage facilities in rural areas, poor irrigation and high debt trap have made the farmers to carry out their activities on risk.

### Impact on agricultural exports

Globalization has brought many opportunities to developing countries in terms of greater access

to developed countries for marketing, employment, technology, improved productivity and the standard of living of the people etc. It has increased migrant remittances of the nation and IT field has also flourished. Agricultural export also increased and agricultural commodities stood at £3266 million (18% of the total exports in 1990-91). In 1996-97 it had more than doubled to £6756 million (20.41% of the total exports).

The following data indicates the export quantity of various products. The post liberalization period is marked by an increase in the exports of agricultural commodities in general and horticultural products in particular. Faster growth of industrial & IT sectors, development of service sector and other reasons have made agriculturalists to shift their operations from agriculture to other sectors. Finally primary sector GDP has come down. Even now the major

Year	Export in Rs crore	Import in Rs crore
1950-1951	606	608
1980-1981	6711	12549
2010-2011	1142922	1683467
2011-2012	1465959	2345463
2011-2011	1635261	267311

Source: Source: Pocket book on Agriculture Statistics 2013, Government of India, New Delhi

As for as international trade is concerned, both pre as well as post liberalization periods have shown that import is higher than export. Trade liberalization and removal of quantitative restrictions on import have played its role very correctly in international trade of India.

Cashew nuts, basmati rice, spices, sugar and molasses and tea together represented 25% of the total Indian exports. The traditional Indian dominance in the International tea market is fast eroding; both Sri Lanka and Kenya have overtaken India. Export of marine products, coffee, spices, rice – basmati and non-basmati, and oil seeds has recorded considerable progress in recent years.

### Impact on agriculture employment

Year	Share of workers in total workforce	Share of private sector in GDP	Gross capital formation as percentage of GDP in Agriculture	Gross CI formation as % of total GCF in the economy
1971	69.6	44.5	7.8	14.7
1981	66.5	39.7	10.9	16.3
1991	64.8	32.0	7.5	8.1

1995	64.7	27.9	6.8	7.4
1998	64.6	29.2	6.5	6.7
2000	64.5	25.7	6.2	5.8

Source: GoI, Agriculture statistics at glance 2000

It is observed from the table that the share of agriculture workers in total work force constituted 69.6 percent in 1971, which further declined to 66.5 percent in 1981 and 64.8 percent in 1991. From 1995 onwards there is no significant change in total workforce. It could also be seen from the table that during the period from 1971 to 1991, the share of private sector in GDP had registered declining rate and again declined to 25.7 percent in 2000. Gross capital formation in agriculture and total GFC was increasing for 1981. Thereafter, it started declining. Government and private investment are very essential to carry out agricultural activities efficiently. Many studies have shown that government expenditure on capital formation should be raised.

Agriculture laborers are working in informal sector. As we know, informal workers have no proper working hours, not governed by any labor law and no provisions like formal sector workers. At the same time the share of informal workers in total workers in India is 90.68%, 95.93% for men and women respectively. It has been mentioned in the following table about the growth of agriculture employment in post and pre reform period. Employment growth during post reform period in rural and urban areas has declined (Somasekar 2013).

Period	Area	Growth of employment
Pre-reform period	Rural	1.38
	Urban	1.54
Post-reform period	Rural	0.12
	Urban	-3.74

Source: Economic situation of India 2007

The employment growth was 1.38 percent in rural area and 1.54 percent in urban areas before reform period. But in post-reform period, it was negative in urban area and declined from 1.38 percent to 0.12 percent in rural area. So, reform period did not create adequate employment opportunity to all.

### Conclusion

Globalization has brought spectacular changes in Indian economy in the form of easy access to foreign trade, availability of technology, free trade etc. The other side of globalization has created negative impact on agricultural sector among laborers, farmers, production and productivity. Agricultural production declined by 12.6 in 2003. Agricultural growth slowed from 4.69 in 1991 to 2.6 in 1991-1998 and 1.1 in 2002-2003. Small and marginal farmers became laborers and they were not able to get seed as how they got before the implementation of NEP.

Overall productivity and growth of agricultural sector was affected. Marginal and small farmers committed suicide in most of the states in India. Agricultural cultivatable land areas are also destroyed due to many reasons. Climate changes had created an adverse effect on farmers. Agricultural crisis cannot be solved by single solution and overnight. The size of holding is differs from farmers to farmers, cropping pattern is varied, farmers are heterogeneous in nature, adopting modern technology may not be feasible for all farmers.

Hence single solution cannot be the remedy for all types of farmers throughout the country. Identification of location based problems is very important to frame policy towards agriculture crisis. He mentioned that 3 lakh farmers have committed suicides over the past 18 years. India is losing 2000 farmers every day. (Lakshmi Narayanan 2015) Government of India has implemented lot of programs like 100 percent

tax holiday, crop insurance policy, farmers insurance and sanctioning agricultural implement loan does not help all farmers.

The large farmers are availing all concessions largely. So government should extend their support still towards small and marginal farmers. As Gunnar Mirdal says if a country's agriculture is backward, the economy is also likely to remain backward.

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## Significance of Environmental Sustainable Development

Dr.Prakash S.Kattimani\*

*[Environmental issues are fast becoming major global issues. Humans depend on a sustainable and healthy environment, and yet we have damaged the environment in numerous ways. This article introduces other issues including biodiversity, climate change, animal and nature conservation, population, genetically modified food and sustainable development. The idea of sustainable development grew from numerous environmental movements in earlier decades. Summits such as the Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil, 1992, were major international meetings to bring sustainable development to the mainstream. The concept of sustainability means many different things to different people, and a large part of humanity around the world still lives without access to basic necessities.]*

**E**nvironmental sustainability involves making decisions and taking actions that are in the interests of protecting the natural world, with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life. It is an important topic at the present time, as people are realizing the full impact that businesses and individuals can have on the environment.

Environmental sustainability is about making responsible decisions that will reduce your

business' negative impact on the environment. It is not simply about reducing the amount of waste you produce or using less energy, but is concerned with developing processes that will lead to businesses becoming completely sustainable in the future.

### Environment sustainability

Understanding and use of the word "environmental" quite often tends to be associated with some kind of human impact on natural systems. This context distinguishes it from the word "ecological," which can be characterized as a concept of interdependence

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of elements within a system. Environmental sustainability has become an imperative for our generation. As the impacts of human activity on our planet are increasingly apparent, there is heightened awareness of climate change, ecological footprints, dwindling natural resources, threats to the quality of our air, land and water, and ultimately questions about the ability to sustain our own well-being and quality of life.

These concerns about our environment led to a series of United Nations' sponsored conferences on the human environment starting in 1972. Following the World Commission's meeting on the Environment and Development, in 1987, the Brundtland report, *Our Common Future* (1987) was issued. It provided the following widely accepted definition of sustainability "to ensure development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

### **Need for sustainable development**

Environmental sustainability is important because it involves natural resources that human beings need for economic or manufactured capital. Materials taken from nature are used for solutions that address human needs. Rivers, forests, minerals and such other resources constitute a nation's natural wealth. Every person owes a duty to all succeeding generations to develop and conserve the natural resources of the nation in the best possible way. It is in the interest of mankind. It is in the interest of the nation. Some of the issues that pose major environmental sustainability problems include:

- Destruction of the living environments (habitats) of native species
- Discharge of polluting chemicals and other materials into the environment
- Emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that can cause climate change
- Depletion of low cost oil and other fossil fuels

### **Principles of Environmental Management**

Environmental management provides a framework for a group of people to manage its environment with both opportunities and risks and to document and communicate its environmental plans and programmes. There are five key principles for the management of the local environment. They include:

1. Local Government commitment
2. Planning and Compliance
3. Enabling systems
4. Performance and Accountability
5. Measurement and Improvement.

### **Strategic Goals in Environmental Management**

1. Strengthen the capacity of environmental institution at local, national and regional levels, particularly in regard to monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
2. Improve environmental management by promoting public participation and involving all stakeholders.
3. Increase decentralization of responsibility for environmental management and provide sufficient autonomy to carry out roles.
4. Control and manage environmental problems by taking an integrated and holistic approach to environmental challenges.
5. Increase public awareness of environmental issues and promote change in attitude and behavior towards greater sustainability.

### **Environment Sustainability Issues in India**

India makes up 2.4 percent of the world's land, while supporting 16 percent of the world's population. India is experiencing rapid and widespread environmental degradation at alarming rates. Tremendous pressure is placed upon the country's land and natural resources to

support the massive overpopulation. Mismanagement and overuse of India's once abundant forests has resulted in desertification, contamination, and soil depletion throughout the sub-continent. This has serious repercussions for the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of Indians that inhabit the land.

### **Role of Governments and NGOs**

Valuable contributions that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could and do make in promoting sustainable development through their well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity, especially in the area of analysis, sharing of information and knowledge, promotion of dialogue and support of implementation of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is achieved through optimizing gains from several variables, rather than maximizing those from a single one. This requires government departments, by convention spectrally organized, to work together. For this joint planning, transparency and coordination in implementation are required. Governments and NGOs are an integral part of planning and implementation for sustainable development. Environmental NGOs can play a crucial role in helping to plug gaps by conducting research to facilitate policy development, building institutional capacity, and facilitating independent dialogue with civil society to help people live more sustainable lifestyles.

### **Environmental Protection**

We all know what we need to do to protect the environment, whether that is recycling of the waste or reducing our power consumption by switching electronic devices off rather than using standby or by walking short journeys instead of taking the bus. Businesses are regulated to prevent pollution and to keep their own carbon emissions low. There are incentives to installing renewable power sources in our homes and businesses. Environmental protection is the third pillar and

to many, the primary concern of the future of humanity.

Education for environmental sustainability should be a lifelong learning process, which recognizes that ecological problems exist within a socio-economic, political and cultural context. Environmental education can play an important role in sensitizing and mobilizing communities and decision-makers towards sustained environmental action.

### **Significance of environment sustainability**

The decisive ideas for us are those of sustainable village and sustainable city, which do not mean just a difference in the specific settlement size but also differences in all the areas of consumption and distribution. Thus, these factors influence, for example, the local system of alternative or renewable energy production as well. Sustainable development is 'sustainable consumption', defined by a Hungarian expert as follows: 'Sustainable consumption is the term for the use of services and products in a way that corresponds to the basic needs, results in a better quality of life but, at the same time, it reduces the use of natural resources and toxic materials to the minimum, as well as the emission of waste and pollutants during the specific service or whole lifecycle of the specific product in order not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.'

Increased water stress: Changing the climate patterns will have important implications for water availability.

Risks to human health: Climate change will affect human health through variables such as changes in temperature, exposure to natural disasters, access to food and air quality.

Threats to ecosystems and biodiversity: Changes induced by climate change are likely to result in species range shifts and changes in tree productivity, adding further stress to forest ecosystems.

Global efforts are the key to ensure environmental sustainability. Industrialized countries are historically responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions. However, meaningful reductions in emissions today can only be achieved through an approach that includes emerging markets.

### Conclusion

“Environmental sustainability” is used in this document as it combines the goal of protecting and enhancing the environment as described above within the role of a regional municipal level of government. Sustainable development has been presented as an important aspect of environmental management, in which participation is a major part in contemporary period. Undoubtedly, governments & NGOs are playing vital role in promoting environmental sustainability; nonetheless, there is still great need to create the environmental awareness among various communities.

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# Challenges of Tribal Education in Rajasthan

Dr. Jyoti Gautam\*

*[Undoubtedly, education is the key to tribal development; nonetheless, tribal children have very low levels of participation in the educational process in India. Though the development of the tribes is taking place in India, but the pace of development has been rather slow. Such a scenario calls for undertaking some drastic steps for the dissemination of education amongst the tribal people to enable them to integrate with the national mainstream.]*

India is home to a large variety of indigenous people. The Scheduled Tribe population represents one of the most economically impoverished and marginalized groups in India. With a population of more than 10.2 crore, India has the single largest tribal population in the world. This constitutes 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country (Census of India, 2011).

Education is one of the primary agents of transformation towards development. Education is, in fact, an input not only for economic development of tribes but also for inner strength of the tribal communities which helps them in meeting the new challenges of life. It is an activity or a series of activities or a process, which may either improve the immediate living conditions or increase the potential for future living. It is the single most important means by which individuals and society can improve personal endowments, build capacity levels, overcome barriers, and expand opportunities for a sustained improvement in their well-being.

Prof. Amartya Sen recently emphasized education as an important parameter for any inclusive growth in an economy. So, education is an important avenue for upgrading the economic and social conditions of the Scheduled Tribes. Literacy and educational attainment are powerful indicators of social and economic development among the backward groups in India.

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Currently, the tribes lag behind not only the general population but also the Scheduled Caste population in literacy and education. This disparity is even more marked among Scheduled Tribe women, who have the lowest literacy rates in the country (Maharatna, 2005). The male-female gap in literacy and educational attainment among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) is significant. Education, especially in its elementary form, is considered of utmost importance to the tribals because it's crucial for total development of tribal communities and is particularly helpful to build confidence among the tribes to deal with outsiders on equal terms.

Despite the sincere and concerted efforts by the government for the overall development of the STs, they are still backward as they are not aware of most of the programmes and policies made for their development. This is mainly due to the high incidence of illiteracy and very low level of education among the tribal people. Hence, the educational status of the STs and the role of governance in this direction are highly essential.

It is well known that the educational background of tribes is very discouraging as compared to the rest of the population. So, education is an important avenue for upgrading the economic and social conditions of the Scheduled Tribes. In this context, this paper is an attempt to analyse the status of education of the STs of in Rajasthan.

## Rajasthan

Rajasthan is the largest state in the country having geographical area of 3,42,239 sq. kms or 10.41%

of the total geographical area of the country. The total population of the state is 68,548,437 and the population of scheduled tribe (STs) is 9,238,534, which account for 13.47% of the total population of the state as per the 2011 census and of these nearly 95 percent reside in rural areas.

Though the tribal population is scattered throughout the state, a major portion is concentrated in southern part of the state viz., Banswara, Dungarpur, Udaipur, Pratapgarh and Sirohi districts. Five districts viz., Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh and Sirohi account for more than half (51.14%) of the total STs population in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan, recognized as the 'Land of Royals' for its regal past of palaces and princely states, builds on a proud history and boasts of thriving tourism and industry. It is India's largest state in terms of geographical area and as it prides itself on a rich cultural heritage, the people here are known for values, long-held beliefs, customs and traditions. It is one of the significant states of India where many tribals live. After, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Gujarat, it has the highest population of the tribal communities.

Rajasthan is well-known for its enriching and artistic heritage. There are a lot of historical tales about the courageousness of its people. Many tribes of Rajasthan such as Bhil tribe have been subjugated in many parts of the Rajasthan state in the past from the time of Rajput rule. The tribes of Rajasthan are distributed in the following three geographical zones:

1. South-eastern zone: This zone includes the districts of Alwar, Bhartpur, Dholpur, Jaipur, Sawai-Madhopur, Ajmer, Bhilwara, Tonk, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar and some parts of Chitorgarh, and Sirohi districts. 46.06 percentage of the total tribal population of the state is settled in this zone. Bhil, Meena and Seharua are the main tribes which are settled in this zone.
2. Southern Zone: This southern zone includes the districts of Banswara, Dungarpur and

Udaipur in which 43.80 percentage of the total tribal population of Rajasthan is settled. Bhil, Meena, Garasia and Damor are the tribes that are found in this zone.

3. Western Zone: This zone includes Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Churu, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Nagpur, Jodhpur, Pali, Barmer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan. Thus, 7.14 percentage of the total tribal population of the state reside in the eleven districts falling in the dry and semi-dry zone of Rajasthan. The tribal population of this zone mostly comprises the Bhil and the Meena tribes.

### **Literature Review**

There exists a substantial amount of literature on the conditions of tribal education in India. A brief review is worthwhile in order to highlight what has already been done in the field. In a study on tribes of Andhra Pradesh, K. Sujatha (1994) contends that the perspective adopted for educational development of tribal communities fails to adequately address the specific disadvantages characterizing the tribal population. She found that one of the major constraints of tribal education at the planning level is the adoption of a dual system of administration.

Rani, M (2000) observed in her study that due to the language barrier, the tribal children are unable to establish communication link with the teacher and thus leading to the termination of their education at some point or the other. Vaidyanathan and Nair, (2001) suggested that teacher motivation contributes more to teaching – learning process than teacher competence. Sujatha, K. (2002) revealed that though education was not a critical demand among Scheduled Tribes, government policy focused on education as the main avenue by which to integrate them into 'mainstream' society.

Jha & Jhingran, D. (2002) have strongly advocated the use of the mother tongue or home language as medium of instruction in early stages of education. This assumes greater significance in the context of education of tribal children

because their mother tongue is often quite distinct from the prominent languages in the state or regional languages and it is desirable to have a local teacher from the same tribal community. The Praitchi Committee Report (2002) identifies cost of schooling, lack of motivation of teachers, lack of inspection, and the increasing dependence on private tutoring to be the main hurdles in the path of education for tribal children.

Gautam, V. (2004) in his article found high “dropout” rates among tribal children. He analysed that due to wrong medium of instruction, the appointment of non-tribal teachers in tribal areas and communication gap between the teachers and tribal children are the causes of high dropout rates in tribal schools. For Maharatna, A. (2005), the key challenge does not concern how tribes can be brought within the folds of mainstream society and culture, but how a more voluntary and mutual interaction between tribes and mainstream society can be developed.

Lal, M. (2005) found that among all school dropouts, Adivasis and Dalits form the biggest group. Further, the largest group amongst them is of girls. Education, thus for the weaker sections of the society, needs to become the panacea and an inclusive growth strategy for their economic and social development. Education has special significance for the SCs and STs who are facing a new situation in the development process.

Nair, P. (2007) has given importance on non-formal education in tribal areas particularly to reach out to the hardest-to-reach group of children in remote areas. NFEs, therefore, target children who are drop-outs from the formal system of education. This non-formal method provides room for innovations and injects flexibility to a rigid system in terms of organization, teaching method, content, target group of learners and evaluation procedures.

Sedwal, M. and Kamat, S. (2008) focused on issues related to Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes – groups which are recognised for affirmative action within the Constitution of India. Abdurraheem, A. (2011) explained that education as an important parameter for any inclusive growth in an economy and the policies have to focus on inclusive rather than divisive growth strategies.

### **Tribal Education in India**

India is moving towards inclusive growth but lack of education, skills development and transparent governance are a few hurdles in progressing towards it at a faster pace. The Scheduled Tribe population represents one of the most economically impoverished and marginalized groups in India. There are over 500 tribes (with many overlapping communities in more than one State) as notified under article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country, the largest number of tribal communities being in the State of Odisha.

Although Scheduled Tribes are a minority, they constitute about 8.6 % of the total population in India. About 93% of the tribal people live in rural areas and are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Nine States like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, together account for more than four-fifths of the total population .

**The tribal population constitutes a majority in the northeastern states of Mizoram and Lakshadweep (94.4 per cent), Meghalaya (86.1 per cent), and Nagaland (86.5 per cent). The states with no Scheduled Tribe groups are – Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi and Pondicherry. India has a total tribal population of 10.43 crore (Table-1), which is 8.6 per cent of total population of India as per 2011 census. Table-3 shows that 13.4 % population is tribal in Rajasthan.**

### **Table-1 Scheduled Tribe population in India (2011)**

Rural	Urban	Total
9381916	104618	1042810

**Table -2 Scheduled Tribe population in 2011 in Rajasthan.**

Rural	Urban	Total
8693123	545411	9238534

Table -3 Decadal change 2001-2011 in India

Rural	Urban	Total
21.3	49.7	23.7

**Table-5 Percentage of Scheduled Tribes to total population in India: 2001-2011**

Percentage of Scheduled Tribes 2001			Percentage of Scheduled Tribes 2011		
Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
8.2	10.4	2.4	8.6	11.3	2.8

**Table-6: Percentage of Scheduled Tribes to total population in Rajasthan: 2001-2011**

Percentage of Scheduled Tribes 2001			Percentage of Scheduled Tribes 2011		
Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
12.6	15.5	2.9	13.5	16.9	3.2

### Problems and Critical Issues of Tribal Education

On the basis of field experience in the tribal areas, there are many major issues and problems in the field of tribal education. They are as follows:

**The Physical Location of the Village:** The tribes inhabit in the forests in a scattered manner. So, it becomes impossible to open up separate schools in each village where the required students' strength is not available. On other land, tribal habitations remain segregated from each other by some physical barriers like rivers, nalas and forests. So these physical barriers create a hindrance for the children of a tribal village to attend the school in a neighboring village.

**Economic Condition:** The tribes depend on forests for 8 months and on agriculture for 4 months. The children of 4 to 6 age group are found to be helping their parents in collection of forest products. In this situation, parents do not desire to spare their children or their labour power and allow them to attend schools.

Table -4 Decadal change 2001-2011 in Rajasthan

Rural	Urban	Total
29.4	43.6	30.2

In India, during 2001 and 2011, the decadal change in the total population of STs is 23.7 per cent where as it is 49.7 per cent in urban areas and 21.3 per cent in rural areas. (Table-3). In Rajasthan, during 2001 and 2011 the decadal change in the total population of STs is 30.2 where as it is 43.6 % in urban areas and 29.4 % in rural areas (Table -4).

**Attitude of the Parents:** Tribal parents are basically illiterate. Their illiteracy does not permit them to understand the long term values of education. As education does not yield them any immediate economic return, they prefer to engage their children in remunerative employment which supplements the family income and strengthens the family economy. Further a few parents, who have become aware of the values of education, fail to offer education to their children as they cannot afford finances for it.

**Village Education Committee:** In Odisha, VECs have been constituted to preserve and monitor the functioning of the schools. Till now tribes are not aware of the role of the VECs.

Neither the villagers nor the members of the VECs take any active interest to enhance enrolment and attendance of tribal children in primary school.

**Teacher Related Problems:** In tribal villages, villagers have virtually no relationship with the

teachers. Teachers do not get any accommodation facility in the village, which makes them irregular and that hampers the normal routine of a school. Further, the apathetic attitude of the villagers and the appointment of untrained teachers in tribal areas diminish the values of education.

**Medium of language** – Language is one of the important constraints of tribal children which prevents them access to education.

**Lack of Proper monitoring-** Proper monitoring is hindered by poor coordination between the Tribal Welfare Department and School Education Department.

### **Government Policies and Programmes for Tribal Education**

Starting from the First Five-Year Plan Period (1951 1956), the government is steadily allocating financial resources for the purpose of tribal development. Towards the end of the plan (1954), 43 Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Projects (MTDPs) were created. During the Third Five-Year Plan Period (1961 1966), the Government of India adopted the strategy of converting areas with more than 66 per cent tribal concentration into Tribal Development Blocks (TBDs). By the end of Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969 1974), the number of TBDs in the country rose to 504.

Additionally, in 1972 the Tribal Sub Plan Strategy (TSP) was implemented by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. TSP was based on twin objectives of socio economic development and protection against exploitation. It was generally implemented in the areas where the Scheduled Tribe population was more than 50 per cent of the total population.

The PESA (The Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 in fact, has made it mandatory for the States having scheduled areas to make specific provisions for giving wide-ranging powers to the tribes on the matters relating to decision-making and development of their community. A Centrally-sponsored government scheme of ashram schools exclusively for ST children from elementary to

higher secondary levels was initiated in the 1970s. But the poor quality of education in ashram schools, however, has undermined confidence in education as a vehicle for social mobility.

The Janshala Programme is a collaborative effort of the Government of India (GOI) and five UN Agencies – UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and UNFPA –a community based primary education programme, which aims to make primary education more accessible and effective, especially for girls and children in deprived communities, marginalised groups, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes/minorities, children with specific needs.

### **Suggestions**

From the field study and discussion with tribes, the following suggestions are put forward for improving educational status of tribes.

#### **Relevant study materials in local languages:**

It is strongly suggested for use of the mother tongue or home language as medium of instruction in early stages of education. From the perspective of language, it is desirable to have a local teacher from the same tribal community.

**Appointment of Local teachers:** The acceptance of teachers by the community as one of them is critical for increasing schooling participation in tribal areas. An understanding of and respect for tribal cultures and practices and some amount of familiarity with the local language are important for teachers to gain this acceptance. Hence, it is suggested to appoint more tribal teachers in these areas.

#### **Changes in perceptions and outlooks of teachers:**

Teachers must be sensitized to the cultural and behavioral strengths of tribal children and motivated to do their best for them in schools. Incentives should be initiated to attract effective teachers to work in tribal schools and to retain them there. Only such motivated teachers are likely to generate interest among tribal children towards schools and education.

**Tribe-specific learning arrangements:** Various tribal groups in India have different cultures. Various tribes within one State differ so much

from each other in terms of ethnographic features that it is impossible to develop a learning system for them. Therefore, there is a need to have tribe specific learning arrangements which make full use of tribal culture and tribal traditions.

**Stipends and various scholarships:** Hostel facilities should be provided for tribal children, who are away from their families and such a step is prone to be perceived as an additional stipend. Another important provision in the form of merit-scholarships, stipends and other attendance scholarships should be implemented.

**Residential schools:** Another special educational input for tribal education is residential schools widely known as Ashram schools in India. Since such institutions are very special efforts in the direction of tribal education and they really had positive impact on enrolment, retention and achievement of such children, so more residential schools should be established in tribal areas.

**Literacy Campaign :** Proper awareness campaign should be organized to create the awareness about the importance of education. Extensive literacy campaigns in the tribal dominated districts may be undertaken on a priority basis to literate the tribal children.

**Attitude of the tribal parents :** The attitude of the tribal parents toward education should be improved through proper counseling and guidance.

**Social security:** Social security of students, especially of adolescent girls, is of great concern in residential schools.

**Proper Monitoring:** Higher level officials should check the functioning of schools frequently relating to the teaching methods, working hours, and attendance registers.

### **Conclusion**

Education is an important avenue for upgrading the economic and social conditions of the Scheduled Tribes. This paper shows the generalizations regarding the educational and literacy attainment of tribes in Odisha who fail to capture the differential human capital attainment of and obstacles to schooling. The

cognitive qualities of tribal children have to be viewed and evaluated taking into consideration their ecological and cultural contexts. A related and more important lesson is that tribal children are neither culturally inferior nor cognitively less competent than the children of other groups.

A programme of schooling, which does not pay attention to the ecological, cultural and psychological characteristics of tribal children, is highly unlikely to make any significant impact. The educational system of the dominant non-tribal population is of very limited value in the tribal cultural milieu because it does not match with the lifestyle of individuals and the needs of the tribal community.

Linking school education with life in general and the needs of the tribal communities in particular is a most important step that requires serious attention. Tribal children have very low levels of participation and success in school education programmes. A clear policy for local language use in schools is necessary for inclusive growth. Development of primers in the tribal dialect involving content from the local context will go a long way in ensuring children's active participation in the learning process in schools.

Education is the key to tribal development. Tribal children have very low levels of participation. Though the development of the tribes is taking place in India, but the pace of development has been rather slow. If government does not take some drastic steps for the development of tribal education, the status of education among tribes will be a story of distress, despair and death. Hence time has come to think it seriously about tribal education and inclusive growth. So, there is an urgent need for various government interventions, planners and policy makers to address this problem and allocate more funds in the Central and state budgets for tribal education. Easy access and more opportunities should be provided to the tribal children in order to bring them to the mainstream of economic development.

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## Entropy

Eddie James Girdner\*

Punjab in late June was boring and hot as hell. But that was where Earnest Seeker wanted to be. It seemed that he had been given the litmus test for idiots and it had come up positive. It was a quick trip across from the coast from California to Missouri where he would leave his car. He stayed the first night in Arizona. He was pumped up and ready for adventure.

He headed out early the next morning and drove all day. By late evening, he was making good time rolling evereast toward the corn fields of the Midwest. He wanted to keep moving and moving

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and never stop. Feeling fine, after some coffee, he drove on through the night. He just had to keep moving. When the sun came up, he was almost across Kansas. He was sleepy, but excited about what lay ahead. He saw the big golden ball rise above the horizon as he peered down miles and miles of telephone and electric poles along the seemingly infinite straight Kansas road. He pushed on and crossed over into Missouri. By noon, he had reached the old home place up in the rolling hills of north Missouri.

It was good to be back home again for sure. The grass was green and plush after the summer rains. The fields were rich and green with summer crops. That night, he slept loving the old familiar sound of

the rain pelting down on the shingled roof of the old home place.

He had a couple of days before he would be heading out for the other side of the world. He would take a one month leave in India to be with his Indian wife and child before reporting to his navy ship in Athens as a sonar technician, third class, in the United States Navy.

It was a quick flight to New York in the early afternoon. In the evening, he got the TWA flight to Athens. Arriving in the morning, he stowed his sea bag at the airport and took a Middle Eastern Airlines plane to Beirut in the afternoon. There he had a couple of hours stop over.

He loved the atmosphere of the Middle East. He would have liked to go into the city, but there was not time for that. At the airport, he loved all those cheap news magazines in Arabic which he could not read. Pictures of belly dancers were spread through them showing big lovely breasts and enticing legs. It was a contradiction, perhaps, in such a conservative part of the world. On the other hand, it was less hypocritical than the West. It was a part of Middle Eastern culture. Men liked women and made no bones about it. And anyway, God is merciful. It seemed that God liked them too. He bought a few of the rags just for the hell of it. They were souvenirs of his trip. He liked the local food at the airport too.

He caught the evening Pan Am flight to Delhi. After a short overnight sleep, he woke up and looked down on the sandy expanse of Rajasthan. In the early morning daylight, he spotted the lake and palace and the hills of Udaipur. He had seen the Lake Palace Hotel years ago. He remembered sitting on the terrace of the palace and drinking British tea with a friend.

After half an hour the Pan Am plane glided down in Palam Airport in Delhi. The heat was tremendous even at this early morning hour. It was a blast furnace, the loo withering everything in its path. Earnest was ready for it. After his passport had been stamped, he retrieved his one suitcase, changed some money, and looked for the rickety old bus that ran down to Connaught place.

No luck. It was no longer running, a victim of the taxi mafia. Not only had they slashed the tires. When

that did not work, they had torched the bus and put it out of commission. No one was going to get over on the Delhi taxi mafia. They are worse than Greeks, Earnest thought. Then he remembered that that was where he was heading after his leave. What the hell? No country could be perfect.

He was forced to take a taxi. The rip-offs, he thought. They would not go for less than forty to fifty rupees. He gritted his teeth and bore it, asking the driver to take him to the New Delhi Railway station. He settled back, happy as a pig in shit to be back in the filth and heat and confusion of India. The waves of heat and scent bathed him in their essence. He reveled in the familiar feeling. The smell of spice from the street vendors tickled his nose. That smell. Only in India. This was heaven. This was hell. His face dripped with perspiration even as the hot wind seared through the taxi window with an odd cooling effect. Was this purgatory or had he died and gone to heaven?

The taxi dodged around bullock carts and a tonga now and then. Street sellers were frying their wares in the early morning air sending out the enticing aromas. He began to salivate for puris and hot spicy chick peas.

The station seemed practically unattainable from the mass of confusion, auto rickshaws, taxis, autos, trucks, pedestrians, vendors, a white bull, black buffaloes, and beggars in the streets. It was, in principle, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states that entropy or disorder never decreases but only increases. Entropy measured the "mixed-upness" of a system as the scientists put it. A perfect description of Indian streets, Earnest reflected. Miraculously the taxi driver blasted a path for the aging Hindustan Ambassador through the sheer power of the noise from the horn. The waters of the Jordan parted and they rolled through the waves of vendors, pedestrians, bicycles and rickshaws. They had reached the station.

Earnest paid up. The fare was reasonable in terms of dollars, horrendous in terms of rupees on the local economy. Just being an American implicated one in the global imperialist system. There was no avoiding it. The station was a mass of confusion as ever. He made his way through the maze of travelers, who had camped out in every available

space. Some were cooking their sebzi, making chapattis. He would go the hard way, the mass way, the Indian way, Third class. He was hard up again.

Earnest Seeker waited in the long queue, which was hardly a line. Just a mass of turbaned peasants bunched like sand trying to pour through an hourglass. He eventually made it being forced to resort to elbow power to deter those determined to worm their way in front of him. He was a gentleman, but this was India. He had no choice. He bought a third-class ticket to Jalandhar on the Flying Mail.

“Platform ten! Hurry up! It will leave in fifteen minutes” the ticket seller barked. Earnest rushed out to the platforms. Up the high cement steps red-plastered with beetel nut juice and across to platform ten. The heat was incredible. Exhausting. Wilting. Debilitating. The cars were already packed with peasants from Punjab and Haryana. They had filled every available space with large suitcases, metal boxes, gunny bags of grain, bundles of sugar cane, small cook stoves, rolls of bedding. Small toddlers climbed over their mothers, pissing, and sometimes shitting on the floor. A few stragglers were managing to get on board by forcing their wiry bodies through the open windows of the cars.

There were no seats left by this late time just before movement. A large turbaned sadougie spotted Earnest and rescued him from the chaos, helping him up into a car and clearing a space on the floor for him to stand. Another wild and crazy American or German, they were probably thinking, Earnest figured. But one would not be able to get a first class ticket at once. If one did, one would have to pay double, half of it in bribe to the conductor. So Earnest would just rough it. Once on board, he would arrive, providing the train did.

The Indians wondered why someone as rich as an American would endure such misery as the Indians were born to suffer. Indeed, they had no choice. He could almost sit on his suitcase. The sardar joked with him in English and found out that he knew a little Punjabi. The train finally lunged forward, in a series of jerks, and settled down to a slow exit from the station through years of accumulated human defecation collected along the tracks, between walls loaded down with drying dung cakes. Shit.

Everybody and everything had to shit. And all that shit in this country appeared in plain sight, whether from man, woman, child or beast. It was the bona fide land of shit. Then why the hell did he love it so? Another inexplicable contradiction, the dialectical unity of opposites, Anakant logic – something along that line, a magical mystery tour through the enchanting kingdom of shit. Logic failed, which might explain why the country seemed so mystical.

Leaving a city was a trip up shit alley, if not shit creek. But then, he was probably up shit creek too, come to think of it, he thought. In a few short weeks, he would be tossing on a Navy destroyer in the sea. May be puking his guts out as a boot among the seasoned salts. Well, at least it would be the beautiful blue Mediterranean. He would get a taste of being a real sailor. But now he was going to spend the next month as a land lubber in Punjab. Not quite as bad as being a Multani. They never left their homes in Punjab, it was said.

After a couple of hours, he managed to squeeze into one of the hard wooden seats. It was heavenly getting a load off his feet. He could hardly stay awake. Students rode this way, but he was getting a little old for it. Now, in the tepid heat, he was falling asleep from the overnighter from Beirut. That trip had taken its toll. He had not slept in a bed since leaving Missouri. Now it was hard to keep his eyes open in this Punjabi blast furnace. His head kept dropping to his chest. Then he awaked with a start. Yes, his bag was still there. He had to be on guard, always on guard in a land of scarcity.

At stations along the way, he could hand his couple of rupees through the window and get a cold drink of Limca. Sometimes he had to gulp it down to give the bottle back to the soda wallah before the train picked up speed. This was the only way to keep one's body from dehydration in the fierce heat. He would not risk drinking the water and there was no such thing as bottled water.

The train bore on through the searing afternoon, the heat reaching forty-five degrees centigrade. There was no food service in third class. The breakfast on the PanAm Plane had long ago been digested. He needed nourishment. There was mass confusion everywhere in this country and it was

going on inside the car. The maximization of disorder everywhere. But now, it seemed that half the passengers had keeled over and slept in the heat. The only thing to do was to wait it out. The wheat had been harvested and the monsoon had not yet come. Not much activity in the fields along the tracks as peasants waited for the July monsoon.

The train made Jalandhar Station by late afternoon. Earnest had written to his wife about his arrival. He wondered if anyone would come to meet him. Probably not, he figured. Exiting the car with his one bag, he surveyed the front of the station. An army of rickshaw wallas had amassed in front of the steps ready to pounce on any unsuspecting passenger. The mad rush was on. The auto rickshaw wallas joined in the competition. Tongas and tempus waited a little further on, ready to head to the outskirts and villages. A couple of buses were waiting.

Surveying the confused battle field, Earnest concluded downheartedly, that they were not there. They had not appeared. Young women who resembled his young Indian wife from the back or side continued to catch his eye, only to be some stranger. The resemblance between human individuals, the interchangeability was remarkable in this continuum of protoplasm called the human race. Human or inhuman? Again, the unity of opposites. He could just as well have married one of the dozens of these young females that now thronged their way through the station.

It was all accidental, brownian motion of human molecules who bounced off each other in the volatile nature of human society. Any one of these thousands might just as well have been the one that he yearned to see, that he longed for, that he had rushed half-way around the world to find, to embrace, to love. It was a mirage, dissipating before his eyes. Seeker rushed on in his search for what, he knew not. Surely, she was still at the village for some reason, a good one. She would not bother to come to search for him there.

God does not play dice with the universe, Einstein had said. But this seemed pretty damned close to Earnest. What was the chance that a small-town guy from a small town in Missouri would be looking for his lost wife at a train station in north India? The

hell with it. They were not there. He would have to make it to the village alone.

The old cycle rickshaw was a slow ride to the bus station at the west of the city. It was from here that one caught the bus to Kapurthala. He paid the poor humping guy, more than the normal rate. What the heck was a couple of dollars more or less to him? He got on the bus for the thirty kilometer ride to the town. He was exhausted, but more wide awake now that he was this close to his destination.

Closer to his "home" on the opposite side of the earth. Arriving at the bus stop in Kapurthala, he had to get to the village of Sheikhpur, another five kilometers. He would have to take another rickshaw, always a difficulty, being a Westerner like him. Paying the double rate, would hardly satisfy the puller. Worse, it would irritate his relatives, as the rickshaw wallas would then try to demand more money from them in future.

There was no need to bargain. They would just say "YoJinnaMorga," Whatever you want. Except that they were not going to accept payment until they were offered as much as they wanted. What the hell? It was ten rupees from the gora and two for the locals. It was only two dollars anyway. He had to get to the village.

The rickshaw wallah let him off at the old Kali Temple. The area had been swept clean in front of the temple and under the large old peepal tree but the street oozed a black stinking muck from the clogged drains in the middle of the brick lane. He turned a corner into a main street of the village. It was the second house on the right, he remembered. He knocked with the metal knocker on the door.

He heard the chain rattle inside. His wife's older sister opened the door and greeted him with a Namaste and hands folded together. She smiled slightly. There were gray streaks in her hair. More wrinkles in her brown face than he remembered. She had aged."Where is Laksmi?" he asked in Punjabi.

"Gone to Jalandhar," was the reply. But they had gone for shopping rather than to meet him at the station. They had some other business to attend to. After an hour his wife arrived back in the village with her younger sister and the baby, Lilac. It was a nice reunion, but she did not show much emotion

or even joy that he had come. In Punjab, of necessity, there was an absence of demonstration of affection. Exactly what it meant, Earnest was not sure. Maybe she was glad to see him, but wished that he had just sent the money rather than spent it on the ticket. Broken down into rupees that bought a lot of living in India.

It was simply too hot to make love, even if there had been sufficient privacy. Nevertheless, when everyone had gone to bed and the night had cooled near midnight, he would come to her. After coming so far, he was anxious. But he would have to wait. He needed sleep, but there was little chance in the confusion of an Indian household. His wife suggested that he rest in the upper room. The women set about preparing food.

It was almost time for the monsoon rains, but the weather had not yet broken. Every day, the temperature was reaching forty-five degrees Celsius or more. It had even gone to forty-eight for a couple of days. This cooling respite was still a couple of weeks away. Nevertheless, his soul was refreshed. He was home, after a fashion. On the other hand, it was pretty clear that his mother-in-law did not really approve of him. He was not only a foreigner. He was an outcaste, in any event. She would not even drink water from his hand and here he was living in her house. It is better to travel than to arrive, he remembered.

But now he had arrived. Now he would have to endure the boredom of the village life. It was not a bed of roses. After all, this was the first time that he had actually lived with a woman in India in her home. This was going to be much less romantic than meeting secretly in the middle of the night for some hanky-panky with a young village piece. This was the grindstone that was life in an Indian village. He was in it but not of it. His situation put him in a strange state of limbo in which he could never know exactly where he stood and what was going on.

In a few days, the northern monsoon arrived following a terrific dust storm. Telephone lines were blown down in the roads, trees uprooted, and brick walls blown over. Dead birds were scattered under the trees blown out by the fierce storm. The cloudburst on the first night of the monsoon left large puddles of muddy water along the roads and

flooded fields and houses. Trees were virtually stripped of their leaves.

Earnest had managed, with difficulty, to move to where his wife was sleeping. It was near midnight. Others had gone to bed. He hoped they were sleeping. In Punjab, the season of love was in the winter, not the summer heat and monsoon seasons. The Indian village house was not exactly designed for creature comforts. There was no latrine. Earnest found it difficult to go the fields. He had never adapted himself to that inconvenience. The only other alternative was to relieve one's self on the roof of the building between two bricks and cover it over with ashes. Once a day, the sweeper would come and collect the human waste.

There was no difficulty defecating. The difficulty was not spilling it when diarrhea hit one. This was always, unless one's body was acclimatized to the brutal heat and food. One needed paregoric or better yet, a cork. Shitting on the roof in the morning sun, Earnest studied the white, blue, brown and clear pieces of broken glass embedded in the cement walls to deter thieves. It would certainly be effective in ripping one's tender flesh, he thought. What would it do to his tender genitals that now dangled over the bricks baking in the hot sun?

A swarm of black flies were now drawn magnetically to the pile of fresh soft pile that appeared between the bricks. Earnest had not been in the country long enough for it to liquefy. Give it a week and it would be no thicker than water. He just hoped the inevitable Delhi belly would not be overly harsh on him. Water seeks its own level.

He tried to find a place in the dwelling to sit quietly and read or write, but it was practically impossible. Perspiration trickled off his hands and arms almost in a stream. This made the paper wet. This sort of family life, he could not put up with for very long. There were practically no privacy and no creature comforts. Village women shouted from house to house in shrill tones. Sometimes a fight would ensue and sharp tongues would keep lashing each other for hours. There was no use to sit in front of an electric fan, when the load shedding schedule meant that the power would be cut during the day. There was no respite from the misery of a Punjabi village. Best to head for town and find a relatively clean tea

stall where a fan was still running to blast the winged hoard away.

During the days, the flies would descend in groves. When darkness fell, one had to fight the mosquitoes. Earnest had brought quinine to take but this did nothing to keep the mosquitoes from eating his tender juicy flesh alive. There were small creatures called killys which clung to the walls and ceilings and sometimes fell down on one's bed in the night.

There was the constant kitchen work, the cooking of food and the making of tea that was made with a large amount of sugar and milk. This was done in the most primitive way. Cooking was done mostly on a small mud stove located in the cement courtyard under the stairs. Wood was too expensive to use to any great extent, so most of the cooking was done with cow dung patties. They burned slow but made thick smoke and a pungent odor. When the meal was over, the pots and pans had to be cleaned with ashes under the hand pump in the corner. A peasant woman came to do this daily.

To take a bath, one had to leave on their shorts and sit under the hand pump. It was harder for the women, for lack of privacy. Having a foreigner in the house just made things that much more difficult. Earnest felt sorry about his rude intrusion. What could he do? It would not be polite to stay in a hotel. To escape the boredom of the village, he planned an excursion to the hill station of Simla with Lakshmi and Lilac. It was the most popular of the north India hill stations for Indian tourists.

For Earnest and Lakshmi getting out of the village was no very easy task. Carrying Lilac, they had to walk out to the road to catch a tonga, a rickshaw, or bus. Usually the only option was a tonga but one was not always available. Sometimes a rickshaw would be waiting at the village. There were large piles of rotting refuse along the small village roads. One batch was being loaded into a wagon emitting a powerfully pungent smell as Earnest and Lakshmi walked out of the village.

Out near the road was a leather factory. The smell of the bone pile at the side of the factory permeated the countryside with its strong odor. An Akali dressed in bright yellow and blue outfit, with brown bare legs, marched up the road, carrying a long sharp spear. Fighting imaginary battles against the Moghul

rulers or the British or both. It was like a strange film. Someone out of space and time.

They found a rickshaw and bargained with the driver to take them to the bus stand in Kapurthala. The recent rains had made the sides of the metaled road slick with mud and slime. The sides were rough and jagged and sometimes dropped off abruptly. The poor helpless driver struggled with the load of two adults, baggage and a child, but found it impossible to stay on the narrow strip of asphalt. When a massive truck roared down the road, driven by a crazed sadougie, the small fragile rickshaw was blown off the road to the side.

Sliding off the hard surface, the flimsy wheel of the machine collapsed, buckled under the weight of the load. Earnest and his wife were dumped onto the side of the road. Earnest felt disgusted and at the same time sorry about it. He had destroyed the poor guy's only livelihood till it could be fixed.

Earnest paid the driver, wondering if he would be in trouble with the machine's owner. Luckily a tonga came along and they were able to get a ride, crammed into the small back seat of the two wheeled carriage. It seemed to Earnest that the small weak horse was about to collapse at any time. The driver beat her mercilessly with his whip and cursed her, threatening to violate her mother and sister. Not once but continuously. He piled on other crude Punjabi curses as the poor creature struggled.

They approached the town. The smell of roasting ears of fresh corn filled the air. Small boys sold it on the side to the road for twenty paise. He remembered eating these tasty burned chullys. He wouldn't mind having one now. The horse carriage entered the narrow streets of the town. There were vegetable and fruit sellers with piles of yellow and green mangoes, guava, apples, bananas, and leechis. Fly-blown dhabas along the street cooked spicy goat, potato, lentils, rice, and made chapattis. Small boys in filthy clothes distributed tea and snacks. A news stand sold the day's news in Punjabi, English, Urdu and Hindi. Small boys played marbles on the cobblestone streets. The streets were crowded with bicycles, rickshaws, scooters, motorcycles, Hindustan Ambassador cars, buses, trucks, and human draft animals moving carts from factory to factory with enormous loads.

Pedestrians spat beetle juice and smoked beedis and cheap cigarettes past white and yellow temples and gurdwaras. The streets lined with filthy clogged drains. Sweet shops appeared, the wares blackened with flies. The strong smell of incense and temple bells filled the air. Past a cinema, with gaudy colorful posters of the latest Hindi films the large wheels jogged. Films were getting more racy by the month, with films like “Bobby.”

Tonga horses stood on the sides of the street at the stand with piles of green clover. A herd of water buffaloes was being driven down the street, the animals sporting grotesquely curved horns and big bulging eyes looked threatening but were generally harmless.

They reached the bus station and scrambled for a ticket for Jalandhar in the jumble of peasants bunched in front of a dirty, small window with iron bars. Earnest shoved in his twenty rupee note and got the two small paper tickets from the conductor. He dug into his small fake leather pouch and fished out some change. Earnest did not bother to count it.

By this time the heat was suffocating and Earnest’s clothes were becoming wet, even though clouds could be seen on the horizon. In the monsoon, the clouds could open up and drench one at any time in the middle of the day. Small boys peddled their wares, shouting loudly, sometimes in one’s ear. They carried platters of fresh coconut and slices of small thin cucumbers spiced with red pepper. Others hawked salty baked lentils in pages torn from school exercise books. They squeezed juice from lemons on them for flavor.

There were platters of locally grown bananas, and types of soft drinks. Earnest remembered the sweet taste of cold milk badam, sweet milk with almonds. It was delicious. There were types of locally made sodas in tiny shops in the dirty congested back streets, sometimes rose flavored. There were factory brands too such as Limca.

They were unlucky as the old rickety bus broke down two kilometers from the station. It was not unusual. Earnest remembered one time when the gear shift lever of a Punjab Roadways bus had come completely off in the driver’s hand on a trip from Chandigarh. Earnest and Lakshmi got down their luggage down from the top of the dead bus and

tried to flag down the next available one from the mud-splattered side of the road. The other passengers were doing the same. In spite of being full, the next bus crammed them all in, packed tighter than sardines.

Passengers were curious about seeing a gora, a westerner with a Punjabi woman, and having a child with them. It was clearly mind boggling to their narrow socially conservative minds. Passengers asked questions to Lakshmi. Who is this gora? They wanted to know. “What is your caste?” Indeed, that was the essential question.

“I don’t have any caste,” she told them. They look puzzled. Why was she hiding it? Everybody had caste in India, even if they were outcastes, which was, after all, just another caste below all the other castes. Even Moslems and Christians had caste. A westerner like Earnest even had caste. He was a casteless outcaste.

Then they tried another approach. “What is your name?” This was just another way of asking “what is your caste?” One’s name would generally give it away. Earnest learned things he did not know about India by traveling with an Indian woman. Lakshmi learned things about her own society by being with a Western man. In both cases, the reality was depressing, disturbing in an incredibly conservative society. Rather demoralizing. How could one live with everyone looking down on one as a freak, a social outlaw, thumbing one’s nose at the sacred laws of Manu. What kind of Indian was she? She was disgracing her family and the country.

Where was the admiration for someone doing something courageous? In India, marriage was something that was arranged according to the traditional prejudices and myriad rules of the society. Caste, class, family, village, occupation, education, income, clan, religion, horoscope, and so on and on all had to line up. It was a miracle that anyone ever got married given all the restraints. Love was not to be a serious consideration. Most marriages were not “love marriages” and most love relationships were not marriageable. Love and marriage were two totally different things.

At Jalandhar, they get the bus to Chandigarh. The bus cruised down the Grand Trunk Road blowing off everything in its path right and left. Bicycle riders

fled for their lives to the side of the road. Only staunch bullock carts could not be moved. They moved on stolidly like tanks, undeterred by anything in their path.

They arrived in the early afternoon. They found a comfortable downscale hotel for the night. Glad to be out of the village, they got a rickshaw to Kwaliti Restaurant for dinner. Earnest liked the atmosphere and was ready for spicy Punjabi Chicken. He couldn't pass up a big bottle of cold Golden Eagle beer. It hit the spot after the searing heat of Punjab. He felt normal, except for being a complete oddball socially in Indian society. He clearly did not fit in, either in the West nor the East. He was just an ungrez, a gora.

It was not easy finding clean and healthy milk for the baby, who by now had diarrhea. This started to be a problem in the buses. Earnest wondered just when the runny Delhi Belly disease would hit him. The incubation period for Indian microbes was around a week and he was now getting to that stage. Water seeks its own level. Shit flows downhill.

Rested up, the next day, they got a rickshaw to the bus stand. An elaborately decorated bus was loading up for Simla. Lakshmi got the tickets. It was sometimes easier for a woman to buck the crowd. Loaded to the gills, the driver pulled out for the Shivalik Hills. The road ran past the old Royal Gardens, the Panjore Gardens. The old bus began to wind and grind its way up to the hills. The passengers were swaying first to the left and then to the right, clinging to the seat in front of them. The road ascended gradually to the seven-thousand foot level above steep cliffs. The scenery became magnificent as the bus wound its way higher. Lush green and hazy blue hills appeared in the distance. It was refreshing after the scorching June heat and sun in the plains of flat Punjab.

Small mountain villages appeared along the road. Small boys sold peaches, apricots, and grapes when the bus stopped. Biharis, mountain men, were repairing the sides of the road from the recent rains. The loose glass windows of the bus rattled in their frames. There was scarcely room for the bus to turn on the sharp hairpin turns. Passing trucks almost pushed the bus off the road to the edge of the cliff. Sometimes the trip became frightening with

the steep hillsides. Buses did plunge down from time to time. Earnest had read of so many such accidents in the Tribune.

Peasant women succumbed to motion sickness. Windows come down and heads were thrust out to empty their stomachs. Finally they arrived at the bus station in Simla around one o'clock in the afternoon. Licensed porters descended on the crowd with their official token hanging on a chain. One had to walk up a steep path to get to the tourist area of upper Simla where the hotels were located. Porters were waiting to carry up the baggage of tourists.

Hungry from the trip, Earnest and Lakshmi headed for a small dhaba near the bus station. Earnest ordered chicken curry and rice. Lakshmi had lentils and rice. A small boy brought a stack of warm chapattis wrapped in a cloth. It was good spicy appetizing food in the mountain air. They asked for milk for the baby but could not be sure if it was good. Their stomachs full and refreshed, they felt like making the push up the steep hill. They were sure to find a comfortable hotel.

Outside the dhaba, they hired a ragged porter who had been bugging them for work and now jumped at the opportunity. He refused to give a price, just saying "You can give me what you want." They soon discovered that it was a very long way to walk up to where the hotels were located. Earnest carried Lilac up part of the way, while the porter took the baggage. When Earnest started to tire along the way, the porter took the baby too on his shoulder. Lakshmi and Earnest were quickly out of breath in the high, thin air but had to keep trudging up the steep lane. The porter, used to the thin air, took it in stride.

Along the way, hawkers began to pitch hotels to them. It was difficult to resist them and impossible to dissuade their persistence. At the first hotel, which looked fine, there was no vacancy. They climbed higher to another hotel, now almost exhausted. This was the Dilkhush Hotel on the Mall. They approached the clerk at the desk, a small impertinent wiry man who acted as if he did not really want to rent a room to the mixed couple that he saw in front of him. When they asked the price, he said fifty rupees.

Then he began to ask Lakshmi questions about Earnest.

“Does your friend have a valid visa?”

“Of course,” she said. “Why wouldn’t he?”

Then he asked Earnest,

“Do you have your passport?”

“Of course,” Earnest said. “I couldn’t travel in India without it.”

“Do you have the forms showing that you changed foreign currency?”

“No, why should I?” Earnest said. “I did not even get a receipt because I do not intend to change any rupees back to dollars when I leave. I will spend it all in India or leave it with my wife. I have never been asked to show such a receipt at a hotel in India. Why am I supposed to have that to stay in a hotel?”

“What about your wife’s passport?” he asked Earnest. “She is an Indian citizen,” Earnest said. “Why does she need a passport to stay in a hotel in her own country? Her passport is an Indian passport.” “Haven’t you been living abroad?” he asked Lakshmi?

“Sure,” she said. “But what has it got to do with my staying in a hotel in my own country?” “Because a citizen of India who has gotten a passport and gone abroad is no longer a citizen of India and must have a passport when traveling in India,” he declared. “That’s hogwash,” Earnest declared. “One does not lose their citizenship by living in a foreign country. She is an Indian citizen, just like I assume you are.” At this point Lakshmi became angry at the stupid little fool and cursed him out in Punjabi. It was the perfect language for it.” “You are a just jealous you son of an owl,” she said. “You pahanchod, maachod. You son of a pig. I will report you to the police. We never wanted to stay in this Dilkhush Hotel anyway.” The clerk pretended to be hurt, as if he had done his best to help but his efforts were in vain.

Earnest was wondering if he was thinking “I’ll be damned if I let a gora, a westerner from America stay in this hotel with an Indian woman.” His absurd inquiries had perhaps been one way to get rid of the couple and their child. Lakshmi and Earnest

quickly left the hotel with Lilac and the porter. “What kind of investigation was that?” Earnest asked Lakshmi. “It was like an inquisition and we were going to be burned at the stake for traveling together and staying in the same hotel room.”

“They cannot stomach seeing an Indian woman with a foreigner,” Lakshmi said. “That’s what is wrong with people like that. I hate this country sometimes.” Further up, they found a small hotel, the Ridgeview that was not too expensive at twenty rupees. The clerk charged them something extra, perhaps because they were a mixed couple but it didn’t matter. They registered with none of the stupid hassle at the Dilkhush Hotel and settled in the room.

Simla, the hill station glorified in Indian films, was where Indians put on their best clothes and paraded up and down the mall. They flooded out of all the small hotels in the evenings for the parade. The street was somewhat quaint and picturesque. There was still some of the old British flavor along the main street and historical buildings above the town.

The smaller hill stations like Palampur and Dharmsala are better in my view, Earnest thought. He had enjoyed the relative uncrowded atmosphere there. But he was happy to see what Simla was like for once.

For three days, Lakshmi and Earnest walked around the town and parks and made pictures. The main difficulty was finding the right milk and food for Lilac and keeping the baby healthy. There were some rather miserable aspects to the trip, in terms of finding healthy milk and keeping her from getting sick.

On the second day, Earnest had to buy some medicine for his diarrhea. The malady had arrived. There was no hot water in the hotel for showers, so one had to wash with cold water. After three days, it was enough. They were concerned about the baby. They headed back for Chandigarh and stayed in the same hotel again. After the cold air of the hill station, the heat of the plains actually felt good. The only cooling balm came when the skies opened up and divulged a heavy monsoon downpour that drenched everything. Punjab was heaven. Punjab was hell.

