United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres participated in a simple ceremony at Taj Palace Hotel, Mumbai – one of the main targets in the 26/11 attacks and met a survivor of the carnage.
SURESH SRIVASTAVA
ELECTED AS WFUNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

THE MEMBERS of Indian Federation of United Nations Association (IFUNA) thanked the members of World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) for voting and electing Mr. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, IFUNA as a member of the Executive Committee of WFUNA, New York in its Preliminary Assembly 43, concluded on 11 November 2022. The members also congratulated Mr. Suresh Srivastava appreciating his leadership quality and acumen in its Executive meeting on 12th November 2022.

ELECTIONS OF WFUNA OFFICERS AND HONORARY PRESIDENT
After reviewing the results of the votes for the position of: President of WFUNA, Secretary-General, Vice-President of WFUNA, Treasurer of WFUNA, Member of the Executive Committee and Honorary President: that took place from 10 November 2022 2 p.m. to 11 November 2022 2.p.m. (CET), the Elections Committee confirms the results which are as follows:

President: SHAWN CHEN (32 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
Secretary-General: BONIAN GOLMOHAMMADI (36 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
Vice-President: HELENA LAUKKO (32 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
JAY JETHWA, (27 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
Treasurer: RAMAZ APTSIAURI (34 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)

Executive Committee Members
RUBNA BEGUM DAUREEAWO DAOOD (35 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
RICHARD BAGUMA (34 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
ANNELIE BÖRJESSON (33 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
SURESH SRIVASTAVA (33 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
KRISTI CINA (32 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
NORMA GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (32 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
ROBERT P. HILTY (32 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
TEONA LEBANIDZE (31 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)

Honorary President: CHRISTOS A. THEODOULOU (32 UNAs voted in favor out of 39)
PEOPLE AND UN

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PAGE 5
IFUNA ORGANISES UN DAY IN ODISHA

PAGE 6-9
"REFORM ‘ANACHRONISTIC’ SECURITY COUNCIL"
S. JAISHANKAR IN UNGA

PAGE 10-13
'FIGHTING TERRORISM MUST BE GLOBAL PRIORITY'
UN SECRETARY GENERAL, ANTONIO GUTERRES

PAGE 14-17
'TODAY’S ERA ISN’T OF WAR'
MODI TELLS PUTIN

PAGE 22-25
ART & CULTURE
CHANDER MAHAJAN

PAGE 26-29
LIKE RACISM AND SEXISM, 'POVERTYISM' SHOULD BE ILLEGAL
-UN REPORT

PAGE 18-21
'MODI GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FEEL PRESSURE'
MINISTER HARDEEP S. PURI

PAGE 30
SOUTH KOREA UNA MEMBERS VISIT IFUNA
In 2015 at a Diaspora event at Wembley Stadium, London, for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former British Prime Minister David Cameron, had said, "it won't be long before there is a British- Indian Prime Minister in 10. Downing Street". How true was his prediction?

PIO Rishi Sunak is now in 10 Downing Street as Prime Minister of England. 42 years old Sunak becomes the U K youngest Prime Minister after Robert Jenkinson (1842), the 2nd Earl of Liverpool. It speaks in volumes about Sunak’s leadership quality and political acumen.

However he has taken over as Prime Minister of Britain in the midst of fierce fighting between Russia and Ukraine. The economy which was at the threshold of recovery after covid pandemic has gone back to alarming situation round the world. The price of loaf has doubled. Britain, France and Germany are most affected nations. Many Industries and business establishments in Europe are at their wits end.

Sunak has to soothe Britan’s cost of living crisis as much as possible ahead of a harsh winter. Those from lower economic backgrounds in the country may be faced with a difficult choice of either putting food on the table or heating up their homes. UK is facing the highest inflation in 40 years and a stagnating economy.

He has already acknowledged the "profound economic challenge" that UK is faced with. He has also to restore confidence in Britain at a time when the Tories too are a fractured lot. He inherits Tory leadership at one of its most chaotic phases. The party is internally divided particularly after the summer’s most bitter leadership race. He knows he needs to bring all factions under the fold again.

At this time, the Labour is ahead in approval ratings. If the Tory turbulence persists then even the people may demand a general election soon and the Tories could be wiped out of power. No doubt it is a testing time for Sunak.

Prime Minister Modi wishing warmest congratulations to Rishi Sunak has said "As you become UK PM, I look forward to working closely together on global issues, and implementing Roadmap 2030. Special Diwali wishes to the ‘living bridge’ of UK Indians, as we transform our historic ties into a modern partnership."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new British counterpart Rishi Sunak are schedule to meet on the sidelines of the G-20 leadership summit to be held mid-November in Indonesia’s Bali. According to a statement issued by 10 Downing Street, "The leaders also agreed to work together as two great democracies to strengthen the developing economies of the world, and looked forward to meeting in person at the G20 in Indonesia.” We welcome it and wish them all success as it will go a long way in further strengthening the trade, commerce and socio-economic relations between India and Britain.

— Pran Mohan Parvatiyar
pmparvatiyar@gmail.com
Indian Federation of United Nations Associations Organises UN Day at Bhubneshwar with Odisha UNA

He told that in year 1945 United Nations Organization was formed to avoid war in the world and for peace among the nations. India joined United Nations on 30th Oct in the same year. Senior advocate Shyam Sunder Panda inaugurating the function told that in spite of hindrances created by some, United Nations is taking the good and commendable social development measures in the world through UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO.

Environmentalist Upendra Rout expressed his concerned about the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and condemned the involved and supporting countries for breaking world peace. He also spoke how the other countries and media throughout the world are appreciating the stand taken by Prime Minister Modi on this issue and his plea to solve it diplomatically instead of fighting each other and bringing the world on the brink of Nuclear war. Naturopathy Specialist, Pitabas Sahu, Engineer D.D.Panda, Engineer A.K. Satapathy, Prof Dilip Nanda also spoke and expressed their views.

Mr. Manoranjan Patnaik, Advocate, Secretary, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations and President UFUNA, Presided over the function. Bahadur Patsani. Secretary, UFUNA, welcomed the guests and Saroj Satapathy proposed a vote of thanks to the guests and audience.
Reform ‘Anachronistic’ Security Council

External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar made a strong pitch for UN Security Council (UNSC) reform at UNGA 2022

"WE MUST BELIEVE IN POWER OF DIPLOMACY"
INDIA ON THE SIDE THAT RESPECTS U.N. CHARTER

The call for reformed multilateralism - with reforms of the Security Council at its core - enjoys considerable support among UN members, said Mr. S. Jaishankar addressing the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 24 September 2022. We meet at a challenging time for the world order. This session’s theme - "A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges" - seeks to capture its seriousness. Mr. Jaishankar Said, The year 2022 is an important milestone in India’s journey towards growth, development and prosperity. India is celebrating 75 years of its independence, what we call "Azadi Ka Amrit
Mahotsav”. The story of that period has been one of toil, of determination, innovation and enterprise of millions of ordinary Indians. They are rejuvenating a society pillaged by centuries of foreign attacks and colonialism.

And they are doing so in a democratic framework, whose steady progress is reflected in more authentic voices and grounded leadership.

This ‘New India’, under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a confident and resurgent society. Its agenda for our centenary will be achieved through the five pledges that we committed to on our Independence Day.

One: we are resolved to make India a developed country in the next 25 years. For the world, that creates more capacities for global good.

Two: we will liberate ourselves from a colonial mindset. Externally, this means reformed multilateralism and more contemporary global governance.

Three: our rich civilizational heritage will be a source of pride and of strength. This includes care and concern for the environment, so ingrained in our traditional ethos.

Four: we will promote greater unity and solidarity. This expresses a coming together on global issues, such as terrorism, pandemics or the environment.

And five: we will instill consciousness of duties and responsibilities. This applies to nations, as much as it does to citizens.

These five pledges affirm our age-old outlook that sees the world as one family. We believe that national good and global good can be entirely in harmony.

It is this conviction that led us to supply vaccines to over a 100 nations. Similarly, our evacuation operations in HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) situations always had room for other nationals in distress.

Even as we meet our own development targets, India offers partnerships to our brothers and sisters in Asia, in Africa and Latin America. And we do so based on their needs and their priorities.

Today, that focus is on green growth, better connectivity, digital delivery and accessible health. Our solidarity is not just in words; you can see them in 700 projects across the world.

Even while India contributes to global betterment, we recognize the sharp deterioration in the international landscape. The world is already struggling with challenges of post pandemic economic recovery. The debt situation of the developing is precarious.

To this, is now added the rising costs and the shrinking availability of fuel, of food and of fertilizers. These, along with trade disruptions and diversions, are among the many consequences of the Ukraine conflict.

The Indo-Pacific too witnesses fresh concerns about its stability and its security. And climate events have added an overlay on these mounting anxieties.

As we saw in the case of the Covid pandemic, the South will be the most impacted, even if the immediate causes are well beyond. It is imperative that global conversations recognize this deep unfairness. The inequity of vaccine distribution should not be replicated in other domains.

As the Ukraine conflict continues to rage, we are often asked whose side are we on. And our answer, each time, is straight and honest.

India is on the side of peace and will remain firmly there.

We are on the side that respects the UN Charter and its founding principles.

We are on the side that calls for dialogue and diplomacy as the only way out.

We are on the side of those struggling to make ends meet, even as they stare at the escalating costs of food, of fuel and fertilizers.

Jaishankar with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov

INDIA WOULD BE COMPLETING ITS TENURE AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THIS YEAR. IN OUR TERM, WE HAVE ACTED AS A BRIDGE ON SOME SERIOUS BUT DIVISIVE ISSUES CONFRONTING THE COUNCIL. WE HAVE ALSO FOCD ON CONCERNS SUCH AS MARITIME SECURITY, PEACEKEEPING AND COUNTER TERRORISM. OUR CONTRIBUTIONS RANGE FROM PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY WITH A HUMAN TOUCH TO ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS.
It is therefore in our collective interest to work constructively, both within the United Nations and outside, in finding an early resolution to this conflict.

While the global attention has been on Ukraine, India has also had to contend with other challenges, especially in its own neighborhood.

Some of them may be aggravated by the Covid pandemic and ongoing conflicts; but they speak too of a deeper malaise. The accumulation of debt in fragile economies is of particular concern.

We believe that in such times, the international community must rise above narrow national agendas. India, for its part, is taking exceptional measures in exceptional times.

We do so, when we sent 50,000 metric tons of wheat and multiple tranches of medicines and vaccines to Afghanistan.

When we extend credits of 3.8 billion dollars to Sri Lanka for fuel, essential commodities and trade settlement.

When we supplied 10,000 metric tons of food aid and vaccine shipments to Myanmar.

When we fill the gap in humanitarian needs left unaddressed by political complexity.

Whether it is disaster response or humanitarian assistance, India has stood strong, contributing particularly to those nearest to us.

The world, as we knew it, is poised for transformational changes.

It has been impacted in recent times by a succession of shocks, each of them significant by itself.

The Covid pandemic called into question the over-centralized nature of globalization and has led all of us to seek greater resilience and reliability of supply chains.

The repercussions of the ongoing Ukraine conflict have further heightened economic stresses, especially on food and energy.

Climate events have added to the disruption that the world is already facing.

As for the promise of technology, it has certainly multiplied our capabilities but also added to our vulnerabilities.

Trust and transparency are legitimate expectations of a more digitized world.

The quest to create a better global order would necessarily have to address all these issues. Among them, some are clearly more existential in nature and necessitate intense coordination by the international community.

Climate action and climate justice are particularly noteworthy in this respect. In their pursuit, India has worked with partners on the International Solar Alliance, the One Sun-One World-One Grid initiative and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

We stand ready to support any collective and equitable endeavor to protect our environment and to further global wellness.

"Lifestyle for Environment" or Life, as declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Glasgow on the sidelines of COP26 is our homage to Mother Nature.

India remains deeply committed to fighting climate change under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the Paris Agreement. We do so on the principle of common but differentiated
responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. We have announced our updated Nationally Determined Contributions after COP26.

India’s steadfast commitment to South-South Cooperation is by now well established and well recognized. Our approach is based on principles of mutual respect and national ownership with a commitment to sustainable development for all.

As we begin the G-20 presidency this December, we are sensitive to the challenges faced by developing countries. India will work with other G-20 members to address serious issues of debt, of economic growth, food and energy security and particularly, of environment. The reform of governance of multilateral financial institutions will continue to be one of our core priorities.

India would be completing its tenure as a member of the Security Council this year. In our term, we have acted as a bridge on some serious but divisive issues confronting the Council. We have also focused on concerns such as maritime security, peacekeeping and counter terrorism. Our contributions range from providing technology with a human touch to ensuring safety and security of UN Peacekeepers.

As the Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee this year, India would be hosting its special meeting in Mumbai and New Delhi. I invite all member states to participate in it. We need to create a global architecture that responds to the new tech tools deployed against open, diverse and pluralistic societies.

Having borne the brunt of cross border terrorism for decades, India firmly advocates a ‘zero-tolerance’ approach. In our view, there is no justification for any act of terrorism, regardless of motivation. And no rhetoric, however sanctimonious can ever cover-up blood-stains.

The United Nations responds to terrorism by sanctioning its perpetrators. Those who politicize the UNSC 1267 Sanctions regime, sometimes even to the extent of defending proclaimed terrorists, they do so at their own peril. Believe me, they advance neither their own interests nor indeed their reputation.

India has always espoused a cooperative, inclusive, and consultative approach to international relations.

We believe that multipolarity, rebalancing, fair globalization and reformed multilateralism cannot be kept in abeyance.

The call for reformed multilateralism - with reforms of the Security Council at its core - enjoys considerable support among UN members.

It does so because of the widespread recognition that the current architecture is anachronistic and ineffective. It is also perceived as deeply unfair, denying entire continents and regions a voice in a forum that deliberates their future.

India is prepared to take up greater responsibilities. But it seeks at the same time to ensure that the injustice faced by the Global South is decisively addressed. India is willing and able on both counts.

Our call is to allow serious negotiations on such a critical matter to proceed sincerely. They must not be blocked by procedural tactics. Naysayers cannot hold the IGN process hostage in perpetuity.

In these turbulent times, it is essential that the world listens to more voices of reason. And experiences more acts of goodwill. India is willing and able on both counts.

We believe and advocate that this is not an era of war or of conflict. On the contrary, it is a time for development and for cooperation.

In the past, this august assembly has served as a meeting point of views and as a catalyst for action. It is vital that we continue to believe in the promise of diplomacy and the need for international cooperation.

Therefore, Madam President, let us strive to return to the course of seeking peace, progress and prosperity said Jaishankar.
UNITED NATIONS Secretary General, Antonio Guterres on 19th October said fighting terrorism must be a global priority. Speaking after paying floral tributes to martyrs of the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai at Taj hotel, Guterres further said that no cause can justify terrorism of any kind. People need to recognise the diversity and richness of cultures to stay together. “Terrorism is absolute evil and has no place in today’s world. No cause and no incident can justify terrorism,” said Guterres.

“One of my first acts after becoming Secretary General was to establish an office for counter-terrorism to cooperate, guide and prepare countries in the fight against terrorism. This office is fighting against the roots of violent extremism. Be it religion or ethnicity or beliefs, no reason can justify violent extremism,” he said. Describing the 26/11 terror attacks as one of the most barbaric acts of terrorism in history, Guterres said the 166 victims of the attacks are “heroes of our world”.

“I want to express my deepest condolences to the family and friends and to the people of India and also those from other parts of the world who lost their lives,” he said.

Guterres landed in Mumbai on 19th October Wednesday shortly after midnight. The Taj Mahal Palace hotel was one of the targets of the horrific terror attacks in 2008. It is the UN chief’s first visit to India since his second term in office commenced in January. He had earlier visited the country in October 2018 during his first term.

Delivering a lecture at the Indian Institute of Technology in India’s business capital, Mumbai, he hailed the partnership between the country and the UN, in celebration of India’s 75th anniversary. The UN Chief, in his address, urged the students to work on solutions to climate change and desist from working for those who are wrecking the climate.

He said India’s upcoming presidency of
In Gujarat, UN chief slams China over blocking proposals to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists

AT THE inauguration of India’s Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) along with prime minister Narendra Modi at Kevadiya in Narmada district of the western state of Gujarat, he said, “Geopolitical divides make it difficult for us to work together effectively against terrorism.”

Following its decision to block the proposal to designate Lašjar-e-Taiba’s (LeT) Mahmood as a global terrorist, Beijing put a technical hold on a proposal by India and the US at the UN to blacklist Hafiz Talah Saeed, the son of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed, mastermind of the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai that killed more than 100 people, including foreign nationals.

It is the second time in less than two days that China placed a hold on the bid submitted by India and the US to designate Pakistan-based terrorists as global ones.

During the day, Modi met Guterres over bilateral talks. India’s external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar also met the international diplomat and the duo discussed several issues.
the G20 - the group of major industrialized nations - will be an important opportunity to bring the values and vision of the developing world to the top table of the global economy, and highlight the Global South overall.

The Secretary-General noted that India is the biggest provider of military and police personnel to UN missions, including the first all-women UN police contingent to be posted to a UN peacekeeping mission.

He said that more than 200,000 Indian men and women had served in 49 peacekeeping missions, since they began in 1948.

The Secretary-General also pointed out that as the home of one-sixth of humanity and the world's largest generation of young people, India can "make or break", the 2030 Agenda.

"India's recent development journey is characterized by high impact programmers delivered at scale. This includes the world's largest food-based social protection scheme and the massive expansion of access to clean water and sanitation services."

He encouraged India’s engagement in deep reform of the global financial architecture, which currently favours the richest countries at the expense of the rest.

He also urged India to become a global superpower in renewables technology, and a manufacturing hub to fuel this revolution around the world.

He added that India’s voice on the global stage can only gain in authority and credibility from a strong commitment to inclusivity and respect for human rights at home.
PM NARENDRA MODI welcomed United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar in Kevadia, Gujarat and launched Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) in his presence.

Mission LiFE aims at following a three-pronged strategy for changing people's collective approach towards sustainability. This includes nudging individuals to practice simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in their daily lives (demand), enabling industries and markets to respond swiftly to the changing demand (supply), and to influence government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption and production.
RAISING concerns over the ongoing war in Ukraine with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked Moscow to find a way to end the conflict.

"Today’s era isn’t of war and I have spoken to you about it on the call. Today we’ll get the opportunity to talk about how we can progress on the path of peace," PM Modi said during talks with the Russian President on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
Meanwhile, Putin assured Modi that he wants an end to the war in Ukraine “as soon as possible”.

“I know about your position on the conflict in Ukraine & also about your concerns. We want all of this to end as soon as possible. We will keep you abreast of what is happening there,” the Russian President said.

During the meet, Modi also thanked Putin for the safe passage provided to Indian Students from war zone..

It was the first meeting between the two leaders after the Ukraine conflict broke out in February this year. It is learnt that the two leaders discussed bilateral, regional and global issues.

New Delhi has been pushing for resolution of the crisis through dialogue.

The meeting between the two leaders came at a time when

Trade turnover between India and Russia has seen an “unprecedented growth” in the first half of 2022 and reached over $11 billion, paving way to achieve the of bringing the level
India has been boosting purchases of Russian crude over the past six months, while the US has repeatedly urged New Delhi to support a price cap on Russian oil. However, India has been reluctant to join the Western sanctions on Moscow, placing domestic energy security above geopolitical conflicts.

During SCO annual summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin vouched for a visa-free travel deal with India while speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Noting that Russian people have great interest in India’s rich history and ancient culture, Putin said, as quoted by Russia’s official news agency TASS, "we propose accelerating the process of negotiations towards an agreement on visa-free tourist travel."

Modi and Putin spoke on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Silk Road city in Uzbekistan.

During the talks, Modi noted that Moscow and New Delhi have been together for several decades and thanked Putin for assistance in evacuation of thousands of Indian students from Ukraine after Russian troops launched a “special military operation” against the neighboring country in February.

The Russian President also wishes PM Modi ahead of his birthday.

"I would like to wish India all the best. I also know that tomorrow, my dear friend, you are about to celebrate your birthday. As per the Russian tradition, we never offer Congratulations in advance. So, I cannot do that right now," Putin said."But
I would like you to know that we know about that. And we wish you all the best. We wish all the best to the friendly Indian nation and we wish prosperity to India under your leadership," the 69-year-old Russian president said.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif listening, PM Modi on Friday addressed the annual summit of the eight-member bloc.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organizations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

The SCO Heads of State Council adopted statements for cooperation in areas of climate change, reliable, sustainable and diversified supply chains, and on ensuring global food security and international energy security.
Hardeep Puri reiterated the fact India is under no pressure as it is the fifth largest economy in the world and would buy oil from whoever sells it to her. And that India’s decision with regard to buying oil from Russia or for that matter from anybody else would be based on her national interest.

“We have many backup plans and we are not looking at the situation with the same lens as you. We are having healthy discussions with the West and the European Union. I think this is something (conflict) that you are creating in a TV studio,” India’s Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, slammed CNN in an interview for trying to trick the country into guilt for purchasing oil from Russia.

“The purchases of Russian oil were 0.2% in the last Financial Year. Europe buys in one afternoon what we buy from Russia in one quarter. Let’s be clear about the perspective,” said Hardeep Singh Puri.

The Union Minister clarified that the largest supplier of oil to India was Iraq in the month of September this year. “We owe our moral duty to our consumers. We have a 1.34...
CNN anchor Becky Anderson got schooled by Union Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on how Europe continues to be the largest importer of Russian oil at a recent interview in the CNN studio. Anderson miserably failed at guilt tripping India for buying Russian oil as Puri responded to her loaded questions with facts. She began with an extremely motivated allusion that India is benefiting from discounted rates of Russian oil during the ongoing Ukraine-Russian war. She also pressed Puri to cough up an answer on how India would react to the proposed price cap on Russian oil. The questions assume significance as G7 nations are working to set up a price cap on Russian oil to limit its oil revenues.

A G7 country consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
India looking to process and resell Russian wheat to boost its own exports

India previously bought wheat from Ukraine, Russia, and Australia but have currently stopped importing grain, according to the source. The decision to halt the purchases was said to have nothing to do with the ongoing military conflict.

India is considering resuming purchases of Russian wheat with the aim of processing and re-exporting it, the TASS news agency reported.

This is reportedly seen as a way for India to increase its own exports. “Starting from 2018, India launched a state programme on boosting national exports and sharply limited agricultural imports in order to support domestic producers,” the source told Tass, adding that since then his country had completely stopped the imports of wheat and yellow peas.

Instead, India is reportedly looking to establish joint ventures in the country to process Russian wheat into flour and other goods, such as pasta, and resell them to the neighboring countries. It may also import goods manufactured in Russia that are ordered by Indian retailers, according to the outlet.

The source told the agency that in the financial year of 2017-2018, overall volumes of wheat imported by India were worth $364.5 million. Russia’s share of that came in at $86.87 million, while Ukraine and Australia accounted for a respective $148.93 million and $125.63 million.

Many countries in Africa, West Asia and Southeast Asia rely heavily on Russian and Ukrainian wheat. Egypt, the biggest importer of wheat, sources 93% of its needs from the East European neighbours. Indonesia, the second-largest importer, has a 30% dependency on these two nations. African nations such as Sudan (80% reliance), Tanzania (64%), Libya (53%), Tunisia (52%), and West Asian countries including Lebanon (77% dependency), Yemen (50%) and U.A.E. (42%) are also highly dependent on supplies from the two neighbours now at war.

India is now focusing on exporting wheat to many of these nations, said Apeda (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) chairman Dr. Madhaiyaan Angamuthu. “Our focus markets are Egypt, Turkey, Nigeria, Algeria, Middle East, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, Morocco and Tanzania,” he added.

India looking to process and resell Russian wheat to boost its own exports

This is reportedly seen as a way for India to increase its own exports

"WE DO NOT BUY FROM X OR Y. WE BUY WHATEVER IS AVAILABLE. I DON'T DO THE BUYING. IT'S THE OIL COMPANIES THAT DO...THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DO THE BUYING. OIL TRADE IS CONDUCTED BY ECONOMIC ENTITIES,"

billion population and we have to ensure that they are supplied with energy (whether it is petrol or diesel),” he pointed out. Puri further added, “The Government reduced its revenue to ensure that the prices of the petrol pump did not go up... We have 60 million people going to the petrol pumps.”

He dismissed reports of ‘moral conflict’ about India’s decision to buy Russian oil. “We do not buy from X or Y. We buy whatever is available. I don’t do the buying. It’s the oil companies that do...The government does not do the buying. Oil trade is conducted by economic entities,” he emphasized.

The Union Petroleum Minister pointed out that India has purchased oil from Guyana, Canada and even the United States. “We will buy oil and gas for wherever we can get it,” he stated.

“We have many backup plans and we are not looking at the situation with the same lens as you. We are having healthy discussions with the West and the European Union. I think this is something (conflict) that you are creating in a TV studio,” he added.

“I have just come back from the United States...I have said that on record - We do not feel any pressure. Modi’s government doesn’t feel pressure. We are the 5th largest economy in the world.”

“When you have an increase in oil prices, they
“To give impetus to the export promotion of wheat as well as to bring focus on the challenges and bottlenecks faced in production and export, APEDA has created a task group,” Dr. Angamuthu said.

With India’s wheat harvesting season (March to May) coinciding with the supply crunch, a bumper crop expected again this year, and a significant amount of buffer stocks, food security campaigners agree that India is well-poised to step in and fill the void. However, they cautioned that India should not lose focus on domestic needs while exporting surplus wheat.

Domestic needs

Ensuring the stability of prices in India and availability of grain for internal consumption should be of utmost priority to the Indian government while ensuring that farmers are adequately compensated, said Dipa Sinha, Assistant Professor at the School of Liberal Studies at Delhi’s Ambedkar University.

“Meeting food security requirements for all Indians should be the first priority of the government,” said Dr. Sinha, who was involved with the Right to Food campaign. “This would require continuing with the PDS [public distribution system], Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and also expanding the net to bring in more people who are currently excluded. This is also essential considering that the market prices are expected to increase further. On the other hand, with higher prices being available, the government should consider buying wheat required for these food security requirements from the Indian farmers at a better price than the current MSP,” she added.

“The government should plan this move in such a way that it does not impact local consumption. A bumper crop of wheat is expected, so the government can procure enough for its distribution and buffer needs. Further, as of now, there are no export restrictions, so farmers can also get the advantage of higher prices by selling the surplus to private traders for exports,” Dr. Sinha opined.

The contentious issue of exporting wheat from the FCI stocks adds another dimension to this issue. A trade expert, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that if India decides to export wheat from its stocks, some developed nations may raise objections at the World Trade Organisation. Already, in March, India was accused of exporting rice from its stocks. India had replied that its rice exports were not from stocks set aside under the public stock holding programmes.

Boosting farm revenue

Biraj Patnaik, former Principal Adviser to the Commissioners of the Indian Supreme Court in the Right to Food case, observed that the peace clause adopted in W.T.O.’s Bali Ministerial in 2014 does not prevent India from exporting food grains.

“With the buffer stocks at hand, India should increase its wheat exports in order to stabilise global prices to the extent that it can,” Mr. Patnaik said. “It is also important because the countries that were dependent on Russia and Ukraine for their wheat are looking for an alternate source. The government should use this opportunity by procuring all the wheat grown at M.S.P. which would serve the interests of Indian farmers,” he added.

have consequences. One of them includes inflation and recession. This also implies that we will transition to green energy alternatives faster,” he said.

“I think some people are not aware of the fact... We are the one country in the world that has demonstrated that we can bring the cost of solar energy down from 25 cents to 3 cents.”

“If you want to make green hydrogen, then, what do you need? You need cheap power and electrolysers. We are getting both. We have one of the most comprehensive and ambitious green hydrogen plants in the world,” he told.

Puri further informed that bio-fuel blending has risen from 2% in 2014 to 10% in 2022. “If you want to make the transition from the current position to green energy, then, we have to survive the present. And that is where high oil prices have unintended consequences (such as inflation and recession).”

“The good news is that we are transitioning to green energy faster,” Hardeep Singh Puri told the CNN journalist.
Dharma Chakra

By Chander P Mahajan

Dharma Chakra’ in the Indian flag, as in the Sarnath Lion, depicts the “wheel of the law” indicating - life in movement and death in stagnation.

Every free nation in the world has its flag. It is a symbol of a free country; its sovereignty and independence.

Indians hold the Tricolour in high esteem. It played an important role not only in the freedom struggle but even in the post-independence wars, including the Indo-China war and the Kargil war. The flag represents the inspirations and aspirations of the people of India. It upholds our national pride.

Out on a morning walk, Naresh talks of the Guinness world record of ‘the largest human image of a waiving national flag’ established by Chandigarh university. I am delighted; Priya, his daughter is among the organizing participants who add to the vim and vigor around the celebration.

Strengthening the ongoing ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign and taking it to the international level to mark the 75th Independence Day of India; is a landmark accomplishment of the NID Foundation and Chandigarh University. It is a Revelation of the Indian Flag as Art and as Social History.

To fly the national flag is a sign of pride and patriotism. It is an affirmation of loyalty and commitment. It marks out a country that
has confidence in itself and is comfortable with its position in the world.

The country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The celebration of Independence Day honours the sacrifices and tireless efforts of freedom fighters. The government has launched a host of events to add to the zest of the celebration; the country is wrapped in the colors of the Indian national flag. It is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

This Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to keep the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', alive.

The official journey of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced on 12th March 2021 which started a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of independence and will end post a year on 15th August 2023.

The theme tells stories of unsung heroes whose sacrifices have made freedom a reality for us and also revisits the milestones of the freedom movement in the historical journey to 15 August, 1947.
The flag code of 26th January 2002, accepts the right of all the citizens to fly the flag on their premises. Indians can proudly display the national flag anywhere and anytime, as long as the provisions of the code are strictly followed to avoid any disrespect to the tricolour.

For Abrol - it is the lineage, after all, of the patriotic mindset. His laureate wife Dr. Reeta Abrol, an associate of a renowned writer late Dr. Mulkh Raj Anand; is a true patriot.

Radhika Kapil, their elder daughter, pours her nationalistic expressions into her paintings; besides deep emotions with a shade of spiritualism. She has created several patriotic paintings. Lynx, the winged cat is a theme in artwork. After the United Kingdom, a few are now exhibited at Mandi House, Delhi.

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to one’s country, depicting a combination of many different feelings, relating to one’s own homeland, including ethnic and cultural.

Patriotism (love of country) and nationalism (loyalty to one’s nation) are often taken to be synonymous.

Her husband Group Captain Rohit Kapil flying (Pilot), is a Vayu Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty) awardee. He nurtured a feeling of pride and utmost professionalism in all personnel of the Sqn. The decorated soldier played a leading role in ‘India’s Might’ an air show of Trishul Formation-Jan 26th, 2015. Flying has been associated with freedom, symbolism of levels and can suggest physical, moral or spiritual height or
superiority.

The Indian flag is said to have been designed for the first time by Sister Nivedita, a disciple of Swami Vivekananda, in 1904. The flag was made up of two colours, red and yellow. Tricolour has evolved over several decades.

In Tricolor (Tiranga), the top band is of Saffron (Kesari) colour, indicating the strength and courage of the country. The white middle band indicates peace and truth; with 'Dharma Chakra' as in the Sarnath Lion Capital made by the 3rd-century BC Mauryan Emperor Ashoka. The Chakra's diameter approximates the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes. The last band green in colour shows the fertility, growth, and auspiciousness of the land. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is two to three.

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage.

'I'm Christian, I can't hoist or salute the national flag': says Tamil Nadu government school, headmistress. "We only salute God and no one else. We respect the flag but we will only salute God..." *

The flag, however, cannot be used for communal gains, drapery, or clothes. As far as possible, it should be flown from sunrise to sunset, irrespective of the weather. I wonder if it can be used as a decoration or bunting.

We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms:
- Freedom of speech and expression
- Freedom of every person to worship God in his own way
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear

—U S President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Message to Congress, January 6, 1941

With inputs from Er. Naresh K Abrol, former Superintending Engineer-Medalist (Research & Engineering Science & Technology, 1981)
-C B I& P, Govt. of India.

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ALTHOUGH THE global cost-of-living crisis will be an obstacle to eradicating poverty by 2030, countries can still make significant progress towards this Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), UN-appointed human rights expert Olivier de Schutter has said.

Schutter believes the world also can move forward in stamping out negative attitudes towards the millions of people worldwide who are struggling just to get by. “People are stereotyped and discriminated against purely because they are poor. This is frankly sickening and a stain on our society,” he told the General Assembly recently.

Humiliation and stigmatization

When poor people talk about their lives, they mention things like their low incomes, or being unable to find decent work, said De Schutter. However, other issues also surface in these conversations, he said, such as humiliation and exclusion, or being treated badly solely because of their socio-economic status, including when interacting with public and private institutions. For example, people applying for social benefits have

LIKE RACISM AND SEXISM, ‘POVERTYISM’ SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

We can significantly reduce poverty, if not eradicate it by 2030

Olivier De Schutter UN Rights Expert
reported being treated with suspicion and disdain. As a result, mountains of money are going unclaimed.

**More than income**

“Being poor is not simply having insufficient income to buy the goods and services that allow you to lead a decent life. It is also being stigmatized. It is being looked down upon. It is being discriminated against in access to employment, housing, healthcare and education,” he said.

His report calls for banning ‘povertyism’ – the word used to describe harmful attitudes and behaviours towards poor people. “For many years we have recognized that Racism, Sexism, Trans Or Homophobia, should be outlawed, should be prohibited in legislation, because they have no place in our world,” he said.

“Well, the same should be said about ‘Povertyism’, in terms of the negative treatment of people in poverty who are discriminated against simply because they live on low incomes, because they don’t have the cultural codes, because they don’t dress well, because they have the wrong accent.”

**Human rights focus**

The report argues that poverty will not be eradicated so long as povertyism persists, and De Schutter urged governments to review their anti-discrimination laws to better protect people.

The Special Rapporteur also has recommended that authorities should abandon a “charity” approach to eradicating poverty and instead focus on one that upholds human rights and supports empowerment. “As long as we remain in an approach to tackling poverty that is based on charity from the State, and as long as we don’t recognize that States have duties towards people in poverty who themselves are rights holders, then we will fail to effectively address poverty,” he said.

“Poverty should be seen as a violation of human rights, and people in poverty should have access to recourse mechanisms if they are excluded from housing, from education, from access to jobs on a nondiscriminatory basis, or indeed from social protection. And in many countries, this is difficult or even impossible to achieve.”

**Support social protection floors**

The international community can also do more to eliminate poverty and promote social justice by supporting low-income countries, home to some 711 million people. It will cost around $79 billion annually for these nations to establish social protection programmes, according to estimates by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**. To finance these schemes, Mr. De Schutter and
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When poor people talk about their lives, they mention things like their low incomes, or being unable to find decent work, said Mr. De Schutter, who spoke to UN News just prior to addressing Member States.

However, other issues also surface in these conversations, he said, such as humiliation and exclusion, or being treated badly solely because of their socio-economic status, including when interacting with public and private institutions. For example, people applying for social benefits have reported being treated with suspicion and disdain. As a result, mountains of money are going unclaimed.

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"We do not buy from X or Y, we buy whatever is available. I don’t do the buying. It’s the oil companies that do...the government does not do the buying. Oil trade is conducted by economic entities,“ the ILO propose the creation of a Global Fund for Social Protection.

Mobilize domestic resources

Countries that pledge to cover their citizens - “from birth to death, from child allowances and maternity benefits to old age pension, and including unemployment benefits, sickness benefits and so on” – should be able to access this support, he said.

Governments would also have to commit to mobilize domestic resources as well. “And combined, international support and the mobilization of domestic resources should allow these countries to implement Sustainable Development Goal one: the eradication of poverty, one of the targets of which is...about the universalization of social protection floors.”

‘A unique opportunity’

Asked if the SDG will be achieved by the 2030 deadline, Mr. De Schutter admitted that “there is little room for being optimistic” in the face of the global food and energy crisis sparked by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Furthermore, estimates indicate that the number of people living in extreme...
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Furthermore, estimates indicate that the number of people living in extreme poverty will rise by 95 million as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But these crises also represent “a unique opportunity for countries to realize that there are many gaps in their social protection systems”, according to the human rights expert.

**Progress is possible**

He was impressed that many countries have adopted social protection measures, expanded existing ones, or implemented new schemes since the pandemic. “I believe this is an opportunity that can be seized if we provide the right funding, if we adopt a rights-based approach to social protection, providing people with entitlements they may claim, and ensuring that governments feel that they have duties towards people in poverty.

“Yes, we can significantly reduce poverty, if not eradicate it by 2030, at least make significant progress towards this objective”.

"IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM THE CURRENT POSITION TO GREEN ENERGY, THEN, WE HAVE TO SURVIVE THE PRESENT. AND THAT IS WHERE HIGH OIL PRICES HAVE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES (SUCH AS INFLATION AND RECESSION),"
A DELEGATION OF SOUTH KOREA UNA VISITED IFUNA
बोध-कथा

 कश्ती में छेद

बैलाश खोस्ला

‘कश्ती में छेद’

‘एक आपसी ने एक पेंट को बुलाया अपने घर, और अपनी नाव दिखाकर कहा कि इसको पेंट कर दो !’
‘उस पेंटर ने पेंट लेकर उस नाव को ताल रंग से पेंट कर दिया जैसा कि नाव का मालिक चाहता था।’
‘फिर पेंटर ने अपने पैसे लिए और चला गया!’
‘अगले दिन, पेंटर के घर पर वह नाव का मालिक पहुंच गया, और उसने एक बहुत बड़ी घनराशी का चेक दिया उस पेंटर को !’
‘पेंटर भौचका हो गया, और पूछा – ये किस बाल के इतने पैसे हैं? मेरे पैसे तो आपने कल ही दे दिया था !’
‘मालिक ने कहा – ये पेंट का पैसा नहीं है, बल्कि ये उस नाव में जो छेद था, उसको रिपेयर करने का पैसा है !’
‘पेंटर ने कहा – अरे साहब, वो तो एक छोटा सा छेद था, सो मैने बंद कर दिया था। उस छोटे से छेद के लिए इतना पैसा मुझे, ठीक नहीं लग रहा है !’
‘मालिक ने कहा – दोस्त, तुम्हें पूरी बात पता नहीं !अच्छा में विस्तार से समझाता हूँ। जब मैं तुम्हें पेंट के लिए कहा तो जल्दबाजी में तुम्हें ये बताना भूल गया कि नाव में एक छेद है उसको रिपेयर कर देना !’
‘और जब पेंट सूख गया, तो मेरे दोनों बचे उस नाव को समुद्र में लेकर नौकायन के लिए, निकल गए !’

‘मैं उस वक्त घर पर नहीं था, लेकिन जब लौट कर आया और अपनी पत्नी से वो बुझा कि बचे नाव को लेकर नौकायन पर निकल गए हैं !’
‘तो मैं बदहवास हो गया। क्योंकि मुझे याद आया कि नाव में तो छेद है !’
‘मैं गिरता पड़ता भागा उस तरफ जिजिर मेरे पारे बचे गए थे। लेकिन योही दूर पर मुझे मेरे बचे दिख गए, जो सकशाल वापस आ रहे थे !’
‘अब मेरे पुत्रशील और प्रसन्नता का आलम तुम सबक सकते हो !’
‘फिर मैंने छेद चेक किया, तो पता चला कि, मुझे बिना बताये तुम उसको रिपेयर कर चुके हो !’
‘तो मेरे दोस्त उस महान कार्य के लिए तो ये पैसे भी बहुत थोड़े हैं !’
‘मेरी औपकात नहीं कि उस कार्य के बदले तुम्हें ठीक जब ये पैसे दे पाऊँ !’
‘जीवन में व्यङ्लाई का कार्य जब मौका लगे हमेशा कर देना चाहिए, भले ही वो बहुत छोटा सा कार्य हो क्यों न हो !’
‘क्योंकि कभी कभी वो छोटा सा कार्य भी किसी के लिए बहुत अमूर्त हो सकता है।’
‘सभी मित्रों को जिन्होंने शहारी जिन्दगी की नावें कभी भी रिपेयर की है उन्हें हार्दिक धन्यवाद ......’
‘और सदैव प्रयश्चित सांगे कि हम भी किसी की नाव रिपेयरिंग करने के लिए हमेशा तपर रहें।’
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