## PREFACE

The 'FOCUS' is published by the Kerala Legislature Secretariat for the use of the members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. It is a digest containing articles and excerpts from books on subjects of current intellectual, political, social and cultural interest, news, reports of the commissions and committees and reviews of books. The views expressed therein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Kerala Legislature Secretariat.

Materials reproduced from other sources may not be republished in any form. Inquiries regarding permission for publication may be addressed directly to the sources cited.

## CONTENTS

| VOL．XLVIII | May 2018 | No． 05 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ARTICLES | page |
| กังめிめ வவி |  <br>  ［œே๐ஜா，உேఱั，2018］ | 1－8 |
| ๑ெ．றைภகேவกช |  <br>  20－25 Фேळ゙，2018］ | 9－25 |
| Vandana | Hope Needs Help <br> ［The Week， 6 May，2018］ | 26－30 |
| Manju S．V． | Demographic Devidend or Demographic Onus A Study on Employability of Youth With references to Kerala ［Southern Economist， 15 May，2018］ | 31－42 |
|  | BOOK REVIEW |  |
| Neera Chandhoke | Liberalism on the brink <br> ＇The People vs．Democracy ：Why Our Freedom Is In Danger and How to Save It＇ written by P．Mary Vidya Porselvi ［The Hindu，May 27， 2018 ］ | 43－45 |
|  | LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS |  |
|  | Resume of Business－ $14^{\text {th }}$ Session of the $16^{\text {th }}$ Lok Sabha | 46－60 |



##  ๙コロிめ ロவி






































## 



|  | வßురி¢கல் |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  <br>  （6）ロo のృ○， <br>  <br>  கறஸరாறlefoc̆ msாmைை！ |
|  |  ஸைセே๐ル゙ セேणஜா （ ๑ 毋）ஜ 1 ．ஆ○． ஆற゙．ดைை） |  <br>  |



| （1） | （2） | （3） |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  ๔ே๐ஜா（๑ஜ．ஃிற゙．வைவ） |  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  |
| கூకી毋（8 <br> （0－3 வఱறั） |  |  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  |
|  |  <br>  |  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  <br>  |
|  | ๑๐ஜาญ゙ ง๐พைา <br>  ヘัゃใ\％ |  <br>  <br>  |



## 



 வంセேளைமைஸ゙.













 களெைாைைைிதృளక̆.

## 







































































 வைிளளை றணிகளை๐．

## 

 வனెふు｜నૂనிఠృக：






## உவாロックロー
















## \＆の8の8の8



๑ெ. พைகேேளீ

























## F®Cus










































## 















## F®Cus






















































































## F®Cus


 ๓าฉิறேயிைைைఱา.

## 

























## F®Cus


























































## F®Cus















































 மையய๐ஸ゙.

## 














































## 













 Statistics, KB Saxena, former Additional Secretary of Bihar) møூه




















 ஸூடே














































 セேSியே வாியナகる．

#  <br> 20－26 Фே๒ૅ， 2018. 

## \＆の\＆の8の8の



## Hope Needs Help

## Vandana

Manjeet Singh, 32, has been visiting the Ghaziabad employment exchange for several years now. He has not been able to find a job, despite having a master's degree in commerce and a postgraduate diploma in management. After his diploma, he had landed a job that paid him ₹ 10,000 a month, but he quit after a few months and has since been seeking a government job. Disappointment and frustration are writ large on his face now.

Satyaprakash Tripathi, 33, has half a dozen degrees and was a university gold medallist. But, his academic achievements have not helped him find a job yet. A resident of Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh, he had registered with the district employment exchange in 2006. Frustrated and dejected, Tripathi now wants to start something of his own.

Unemployment among highly educated job aspirants is getting worse. "The open unemployment rate has increased from 2.2 per cent to 3.4 per cent [2011-12 to 2015-16]," says Santosh Mehrotra, professor at the Centre for Informal and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. That, he says, shows that unemployment is going up in tandem with education levels. According to an Economic and political Weekly article by Indrajit Bairagya, assistant professor at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, unemployment rate among educated youth in India is higher than their uneducated counterparts, and the situation only gets worse with increase in the education level.

The obsession with government jobs is partly to blame. Government jobs are considered safer and less taxing compared with jobs in private companies. This penchant for government jobs is why a lot of youths still register with employment exchanges. The Lok Sabha was informed in March 2017 that there has been an 89 per cent decline in recruitment in Central government ministries between 2013 and 2015. The number is expected to be quite high in states as well, and employment exchanges are mostly defunct.

Faridabad's district employment exchange is about 30km from Delhi. The stench of urine assaults your senses as you enter the lifeless office-two small rooms on the fifth floor of


Faridabad's mini secretariat. The exchange has 15,000 to 16,000 registered candidates, but not even one has found a job in the last two years. "Most of the registered candidates are seekers of government jobs, and the government is not giving us vacancies," says S.S. Rawat, assistant employment officer at the exchange.

There are just five employees at the Faridabad exchange, against a sanctioned strength of 15. Rawat also handles three other employment exchanges Palwal, Hodal and Hathin-in Haryana. These run on a skeletal staff, and affairs are managed by using personnel from Faridabad. The situation is similar in other states, too.

A Supreme Court order of 1996 sounded the death knell for employment exchanges. Earlier, application for any government job had to be routed through employment exchanges, and the government would notify vacancies to the exchanges. The 1996 Supreme Court judgment gave freedom to employers to advertise their vacancies in the open market. It allowed private players such as Naukri.com, Monster.com and TeamLease to come in, and the recruitment market changed completely. Today, the private players have a significant share of the market. States and Central government bodies have set up their own recruitment agencies such as Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection and Public Service Commissions.

One of the other functions of employment exchanges was to record employment market data under the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959. The Act made it mandatory for employers to report vacancies to the nearby employment exchange. States would send this data to the Centre, which would then come up with an yearly employment market information (EMI) report. Even though the Act is still in effect, the penal provisions are very low. Companies rarely inform the exchanges about vacancies and get away by paying fines of ‘ 500 . The last EMI report was published in 2012.

Employment exchange statistics make for a depressing read. As of September 2015, about 4.49 crore job seekers were registered with the 997 employment exchanges in the country, but only 2.53 lakh got jobs in the year. The largest state in India, Uttar Pradesh, had 38.75 lakh registered candidates, but could provide jobs to only 400. In four of the seven north eastern

states where employment exchanges are functioning (Sikkim has none) and three Union territories, there were zero placements. West Bengal had 78.49 lakh registered job-seekers, with just 400 placements. But, former director general of employment Prabhat Chandra Chaturvedi says the data on registrations and placements cannot be trusted. "Many of those who register at employment exchanges do not delist after getting a job," says Chaturvedi. "And, there is no mechanism to check it."

However, the employment exchange numbers would be much lower than actual 'unemployment, given that fewer people register at the exchanges these days.

Akshay Hunka, a former IT professional has formed the Berozgar Sena in Madhya Pradesh.Hunka and his followers are demanding a law to guarantee jobs to educated youth. "The governIment has no plan to address unemployment," says Hunka. "Latest National Crime Records Bureau data shows that two youths commit suicide in the state daily because of unemployment. In Madhya Pradesh, the suicide rate because of unemployment has increased 2,000 per cent [between 2005 and 2015], the highest in the country. The chief minister's expensive investor summits have done nothing to solve the problem."

According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the rate of creation of jobs deteriorated substantially during the period 2013-14 through 2015-16. Jobs grew at a meagre 0.2 per cent per annum during this period although real GDP grew at 7.8 per cent per annum. Therefore, this period is called the period of nearly jobless growth.

In 2015, the NDA government came up with an ambitious programme to infuse life into employment exchanges-the National Career Service (NCS), an online job matching portal. As of February 2018,4.03 crore job seekers and 14.871akh employers were registered on the NCS portal, and 8.40 lakh jobs have been mobilised.

Besides job matching, the NCS envisaged 100 model career centres, out of which 67 have been opened so far. These centres were planned as models for states to emulate in their employment exchanges. They offer online registration, career counselling and information on skill development centres, apart from job matching. On a visit to the Ghaziabad model career

centre, THE WEEK found both the career counsellors were absent. Although the centre had adequate infrastructure and looked freshly revamped, it, too, had staff shortage.
"The idea was very good," says Neeti Sharma, vice president, TeamLease. "But, any employment exchange or portal has to be a one-stop shop. Right from skilling to resume-building to career counselling to job matching. Currently, it is not end-to-end. And, of course, the quality of their data [is not good]. We have been able to hire very few people from the NCS portal."The transfer of skill development and training to a new ministry has made the problem worse.

The larger plan was to integrate state employment exchanges with the NCS, to form one common portal for job seekers. In fact, that was the most important reason for having the NCS. As of now, the NCS has to request the states to migrate their data every quarter. While the labour ministry is working to get the data interlinked, the states are not very forthcoming. Some states feel that it will lead to loss of control on employment data. In the case of Maharashtra, their own employment exchange portal is much better than the NCS. Since the data on the NCS portal is now migrated from states and not updated by the employee or the employer, there is high possibility of data dormancy. In fact, sources say that only 25 per cent of the registered candidates would be live-updated and actively seeking jobs. The NCS portal, therefore, does not disclose how many candidates were actually placed. It only mentions vacancies mobilised. Whether candidates were actually placed through these vacancies is not known. "The recruitment business is all about having an updated repository and being fast," says Suchita Dutta, executive director at Indian Staffing Federation. "The government is lacking in both these aspects."

There is hardly any outreach to target the young population to register with the NCS. In 2014-15, the project was approved with a budget of ₹500 crore in 2020-21. Its marketing budget is around ₹6 crore or a start-up like the NCS, which needs funds not at for marketing, but also to develop infrastructure, experts feel ‘500 crore is too little. "The government will have to spend on projects like these," says Sharada Prasad, former director general of employment and training. "There is no other alternative. The same project was discussed during

my tennure with a budget of $₹ 1,400$ crore．I do not see a lot of scope with the way they are doing it．＂

The other big problem with the NCS is lack of adequate manpower．The pan－India project has only 15 people working on it．That，too，not full－time．In fact，there is no dedicated project director or a CEO for this ambitious mission．The director general of employment is supposedly the head，but he has to look after several other schemes．

Sources say that the NCS could get a big push，if a 2016 order by the department of personnel and training is implemented．The order had mandated that all vacancies should be posted on the NCS．This would mean that major government examinations such as SSC could happen through the NCS，giving it a boost．However，it will take time，and is expected to be done only by 2019．As of now，the NCS is surely a case of a good concept implemented poorly．

The Week，
6 May， 2018.

## 毋の\＆ைの8の



## DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND OR DEMOGRAPHIC ONUS A STUDY ON EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUTH <br> WITH REFERENCES TO KERALA <br> Manju S.V.

Many experts like Okun have pointed out that one point increase in the cyclical unemployment rate is associated with two percentage point of negative growth in real GDP. So in short no government in the world can sustain a jobless growth in long run. India is going through unique phase of demographic dividends, but to derive true benefits focus should be given to elements like strategic policies for youth, massive skill training and productive employment opportunities. Skill and capability growth with corresponding job availability is required to reap demographic dividends. But the reality is that the workforce grows but the job creation fails to keep sufficient pace. An OECD survey on India 2017 revealed that more than 30.83 percentage of Indians in the age group 15-29 are neither employed nor in education or training. Only 2.9 lakhs of 30.67 lakhs candidates have received job offers under Skill India Program. New jobs creations saw a down fall from 2.21 lakhs in FY 15 to 1.5 lakhs in FY16.

Development of a nation can be sustained in long run only with proper utilisation of the workforce. India is expected to become global leader due to demographic dividend it holds, but how far we are equipped is to be analysed. Artificial intelligence, cloud computing and robotics' improves human life but have chances of reducing employment opportunities until proper upgrading is feasible among employed.

The Study also evaluates the employability of Indian youth in the scenario of domestic employee preference by developed nations, Skill gap between education’ and industry needs and innovations in the IT field.

## Objectives :

1. To examine the employability of Indian Youth with emphasis to youth of Kerala.
2. To assess the global scenario of employability and job creation to sustain growth in long run.


## Methodology :

The study covers the employability of youth. (both having higher order and lower order skills), job creation, efforts of Governments comparison with global efforts for reducing unemployment. It also evaluates the importance of social entrepreneurship and community reinvestment for sustaining development. The Study is based on secondary data collected from websites of Ministry of labour and employment, United Nations and OECD.

The statistical data on GDP and employment, nations providing employment for foreign job seekers and trends of world employment and social outlook was used to evaluate the back ground of employment and sustainability.

## Analysis:

It can be seen that there was a jobless growth happening in India.
Table-1-Gap between employment and GDP Growth

| Year | Total employed (in millions) | GDP growth (in Percentage) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
| 2013 | 3.85 | 5.5 |
| 2014 | 3.87 | 6.5 |
| 2015 | 3.80 | 7.2 |
| 2016 | 3.87 | 8 |
| 2017 | 3.92 | 7.1 |

Source: CARE Ratings


Table-2-World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends

| Nations | Unemployment (millions) |  |  | Unemployment rate (\%) |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2016 | 2017 | $2018(\mathrm{p})$ | 2016 | 2017 | 2018(P) |
| World | 197.7 | 201.1 | 203.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| Developed countries | 38.6 | 37.9 | 38.0 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.2 |
| Emerging Countries | 143.4 | 147.0 | 149.2 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| Developing countries | 15.7 | 16.1 | 16.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| NationsVulnerable employmentrate (\%)Working povertyratePercentage |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| World | 42.9 | 42.8 | 42.7 | 29.4 | 28.7 | 28.1 |
| Developed countries | 10.1 | 10.1 | 10.0 |  |  |  |
| Emerging Countries | 46.8 | 46.5 | 46.2 | 25.0 | 24.3 | 23.7 |
| Developing countries | 78.9 | 78.7 | 78.5 | 69.0 | 67.9 | 66.7 |

Source: ILO’s Trends Econometric Models, November 2016
Table-3-Share of non Domestic Job Seekers

| Nations | Share of non Domestic Job Seekers |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $2016(\%)$ | $2017(\%)$ | Difference (\%) |
| USA | 29.6 | 37.3 | +7.7 |
| UK | 12.5 | 10.5 | -2.0 |
| Canada | 9.5 | 6.9 | -2.6 |
| Australia | 3.2 | 3.4 | +0.2 |
| Germany | 4.2 | 3.3 | -0.9 |
| Switzerland | 4.5 | 3.1 | -1.4 |
| UAE | 3.7 | 2.9 | -0.8 |
| France | 3.7 | 2.6 | -1.1 |
| Spain | 2.2 | 2.5 | +0.3 |

Source: Forbes.com


Where the GDP growth increased from 5.5 percentage - in 2013 to 7.1 percentage in 2017 but the corresponding total employment in million increased only to 3.92 percentage from 3.85 percentage in 2013. (Table-1)

The global unemployment rate is expected to rise modestly from 5.7 to 5.8 per cent in 2017 representing an increase of 3.4 million in the number of jobless people. The number of unemployed persons globally in 2017 is forecast to stand at just over 201 million - with an additional rise of 2.7 million expected in 2018 - as the pace of labour force growth outstrips job creation, according to the International Labour organisation's World Employment And Social Outlook-Trends 2017 (WESO). The report shows that vulnerable forms of employment - i.e. contributing family workers and own account workers - are expected to stay above 42 per cent of total employment, accounting for 1.4 billion people world wide in 2017. One out of two workers in emerging countries is in vulnerable forms of employment. The number of workers in vulnerable employment is projected to grow by 11 million per year, with Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa being the most affected. (Table-2)

The global unemployment is also rising due to the fact that many nations like UK, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, UAE and France prefer domestic jobseekers to non domestic job seekers and the share of non domestic workers are decreasing in these nations. (Table-3)

The demographic dividend do not occur automatically but after interaction with demographic changes and policies related to the areas of governance, trade, labour market conditions, capital markets etc. The major issues grappling the achievement of demographic dividend and employment are: Poverty and unemployment, job creation and skill enhancement, reducing regulatory hassles and developing opportunities, lack of homogeneity in the transition across country, addressing automation, reduced GDP rates and lagging skill generation.

## 1. Poverty \& Unemployment

India is facing twin problems of poverty \& unemployment. In the absence of welldeveloped infrastructure of power, transport, roads, ports, railways, telecommunication, rural

sector is much affected than urban sector. It further accentuates the need for promotion of new ventures in rural sector with lower capital investment. The available employment opportunity in rural sector can cater to only $5-10 \%$ of unemployed. India's rural unemployment rate as per BSE index was 7.15\% and urban rate stood at 9.62\% in 2016.

## 2. Job Creation \& Skill Enhancement

Data from World Development Index, 2013 reveal that only 63\% of male students and $60 \%$ of female students who had begun grade one reached grade five and the rate is lower than other lower middle income countries. Lack of employable skills even in graduates of prestigious institutions is huge challenge to be faced by nation and there is no exception across discipline like science, engineering, technology, commerce etc. Creation of jobs is yet another area of concern and it should be in such a way that it can resolve locally relevant issues, facilitate innovations and provide financial stability to the citizens. Job creation is a challenge despite initiatives like Make in India and Skill India which provided meaningful avenues for at least a part of the estimated 10 lakh entrants to the work force annually. It can also be seen that even though educated many do not contribute to the workforce of the nation especially women.

## 3. Developing Opportunities and Reducing Regulatory Hassles

India was in the third position just behind US and UK, and nearly 1,400 new start ups were expected by end of 2016, with an increase of eight to ten percentage from last year. India's start up venture is expected to grow 2.2 times to reach 10,500 by 2020 revealed the "Indian Start up Ecosystem Maturing - 2016" report by Nasscom-ZINNOV. The report found that Bengaluru and Mumbai continued to lead as the major start up hubs in the country. In terms of investors, the preferred venture of start-ups belonged to the domains of healthtech, fin-tech, edu-tech. data analytics, B2B commerce and artificial intelligence, are seeing interest.

NASSCOM believes that the contribution by start ups have been growing at a rapid rate and the landscape has a huge potential in terms of business stability, revenue growth and further

innovation. It added that there is a $40 \%$ increase in the number of active incubators and accelerators in 2016 with impetus from government and corporate. The development of start ups in tier-II / III cities and active participation of student entrepreneurs with reduced regulatory hassles may create a positive ground for developing opportunities.

## 4. Lack of Homogeneity in the Transition across Country

Skill development, demographic transition, and entrepreneurship efforts across the country are highly fragmented. As opposed to developed countries where the percentage of skilled work force is between sixty-percentage to ninety percentage of total workforce, India records a low of 5\% of workforce (under age of 20-24 years) with formal vocational skills. There are serious challenges in transforming potential employees into demographic dividend like enhancing human capital development, addressing the skewed sex ratio, corruption, inflation, social and political factors, issues like increasing crime rate, stress, suicides etc. There are gaps in the capacity and quality of training. infrastructure as well as output insufficient focus on work force aspiration, lack of certification, common standards and lack of focus on unorganised sector.

## 5. Addressing Automation

With increased automation and artificial intelligence usage the companies are hiring few persons to operate machines and the business expansion is also at a slow pace which reduces the chances of employment. Technological innovations should be such that it is relevant to industry by providing technical assistance to local firms, educating professionals and supporting faculty in consultation and commercialisation activity.

## 6. Reduced GDP Rates and Jobless Growth

Domestic rating agency Care has confirmed that employment generation has not kept pace with GDP expansion. Many European countries and Asian countries are facing the issue of growth reported but it is not reflected in employment generation. Jobless growth is a situation when economy revives from recession but job market does not. Financial data 2017 revealed that a handful of sectors have helped the job market grow, while

large employers such as telecom and real estate struggled and the rate of salary growth has also slowed down. In 2017, average salaries grew only by $8.36 \%$ compared to $11.85 \%$ in 2016. On sectoral basis, service sector provided some relief but manufacturing has failed to create jobs in recent times. Twenty one percentage of employment creations are in service sector. Job vacancies /are more in banks, followed by IT mining and retailing. Studies revealed that large share of employment generation are represented by unorganised sector and small business. When near seven percentage economic growth was made, near around 1.6 percentage growth was recorded for employee growth in corporate sector.

## 7. Lagging Skill Generation

More than twenty ministries/departments run seventy plus schemes for skill development in the country. Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship has identified 24 broad areas for skill enrichment and planning to set up 50,000 skill development centres across the country make it an economic power by 2025 capitalising demographic advantage of human capital. But requirement of high skill job sectors and low skill required job sectors are yet to be addressed to enjoy demographic dividend. Educated Youth of the nation requires higher order skill training for employment whereas huge mass of population consisting rural population, migrant labourers etc require lower order skills to become part of active labour force. Good governance, efficient infrastructure, prudent fiscal and macroeconomic management policies, well-developed and competitive financial markets, labour markets, investments in education and training of youth, job training for workers to keep up with new types of services and industries are elements for job creation and addressing lagging skill generation.

## Kerala Scenario

Kerala holds strange demographics of highly educated, underemployed, young and dynamic population which demands huge productive fund requirement for employment generation. There are many cases of suicides; crimes due to informal lending, child labour etc in the State of Kerala even after many Government initiatives were taken. The State faces a shaky income receipt from NRI remittances due to .crisis arising in global scenario. To create

job opportunities and utilize the highly skilled human capital of the State we need enormous funds from within the State itself for capacity building, skill development and strengthening industrialization that support employment generation. The key to employment generation and entrepreneurship is investment and access to credit. Kerala is latest industrialised state in India and has attracted very little industrial investment specially in manufacturing sector. Industrial enterprises especially start-ups in Kerala are facing with financial Gap and are in search of alternative financial models desperately.

The number of registrants in the employment exchanges bears testimony to the gravity of unemployment problem in Kerala. Around 43 lakhs are waiting for a job call at the employment exchanges, where as the students passing out from colleges year after year add to the number. The students are not equipped with adequate skills keeping abreast with the latest trends in labour market; therefore they lose out when it comes to employment. One of the main hurdles in ensuring a readily employable talent pool is the lack of sufficient training infrastructure in the State.

## Employment in Organised and Unorganised Sector

Kerala has in many ways been a model State for the rest of India. The State has consistently topped literacy levels and human development indices but despite these large strides, Kerala continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. A recent report by the Kerala State Planning Board found that employment in the organised sector has declined by 4\% over a period of 15 years. The Economic Review 2016 stated that persons employed in organised sector decreased from 12.26 lakh in 2000 to 11.75 lakh in 2016. The state's recent report is consistent with the Annual Employment Unemployment Survey 2015-16 conducted by Ministry of Labour and Employment, which found Kerala topping the unemployment rate among major . states. The state's unemployment rate is $12.5 \%$. against the all-India level of 5\%, making it the third highest in the country after Sikkim and Tripura.


## Initiatives in Kerala for Employment Generation

Centre for Advanced Training in Security (CATS): Government through Department of Labour \& Skills is focussing on tapping the huge employment opportunities in Cyber Security The Kerala Academy of Skills Excellence (KASE), the skills development division of Ministry of Labour \& Skills has courses in Security and Cyber Security and is offered through Centre for Advanced Training in Security (CATS)' in Kinfra Apparel Park, Thiruvananthapuram. CATS aims at empowering the students for massive requirement of security professionals in the national and international markets and at the same time equip the students with the latest knowledge on the trends and technology in this sector. On successful completion of this certification, CATS will ensure $100 \%$ placement for the students in major institutions across the globe like offices, business complexes, malls, airports, seaports, corporate offices, hotel industry, hospitals, construction companies, PSUs.

## State Skill Development Project (SSDP)

It envisages freeing our state from the predicament of unemployment by generating employment opportunities to unemployed youth and to augment the skill sets of the labour forcein general, emphasizing industry linkages. As a preventive measure SSDP intends to augment the employability of students by imparting additional skill sets besides the regular graduation courses. SSDP attempts to upgrade and incorporate programs to inculcate low-end skills and to equip semi skilled/unskilled workforce in a mission mode institionalized approach.

The project combines both preventive (Additional Skill Acquisition Programme ASAP) and curative approaches (Additional SkIll Enhancement Programme - ASEP). On the preventive side, the General and Higher Education Departments together will implement the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) to amplify working hands in different sectors of the economy, by providing additional skill sets to students along with their regular courses. In the curative part, Additional Skill Enhancement Programme (ASEP), is envisaged to encompass skill development and grooming initiatives for unemployed persons registered in the Employment Exchanges across the State.Local Self Govemment Department through Kudumbasree Mission

is already undertaking programmes to impart low-end skills to equip semiskilled/unskilled workforce to ensure employability. The focus of this-initiative is particularly in areas which are dominated by migrant workers like construction or sectors which face huge shortages of manpower availability like agriculture, operations and home based services sector.

## Information Communication And Education Campaigns

De-skilling of the workforce has taken place in some of the traditional industries like coir and cashew etc. and some of these occupations have become redundant thereby resulting in retrenchment of traditional workers. So a strategy for up-skilling and multi-skilling is to be adopted to increase the employability quotient of the population. The aspiration for blue collar jobs and aversion of menial jobs is a trend in the State. This issue is addressed by mechanisation and popularization of various vocations through Information Communication Education (ICE) campaigns. A formal arrangement among the three key stakeholders in the delivery pyramid viz. Govemment, Industry and Skills Providers (both public and private) is ensured to increase employability.

## Innovation hub

The prosperity and peace of every nation is dependent upon the full and productive use of its human capital. Educated youth, women, rural people etc. must be able to utilise their capacity in full extent for the upliftment of nation. Current composition of workforce requires employment with low skill labour intensive manufacturing uneducated on one hand and educated youth requires investment and innovation in high skill sector on the other hand to get employment within or outside the nation. Speedy reorganisation of employment conditions is needed to achieve a good standard of living and sustainable development.

## Measures for Accelerating Employability

Empowering start-up and SME entrepreneurs, activating initiatives such as Make in India and Digital India, creating skilling ecosystems across high schools, ITls, community colleges, polytechnics and employers and usage of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) will be a

positive stride towards job creation. As a part of government's skill development programme the Government of India is planning to establish India international skill centres through NSDC to help migrant labourers who are in search of overseas jobs and need skill training. The course will be run by Ministry of external affairs as a pre departure orientation training on languages, culture and processes. As a part of Skill India Mission India's surplus workforce will be send abroad where skilled labour is required especially to UK, UAE and JAPAN.

Few measures that can be considered for accelerating employment opportunities are as follows;

1. Start-ups can make greater momentum to employment generation and thereby enable higher contribution to domestic production, utilisation of local resources, increase foreign exchange earnings etc. Business incubators can act as intermediary to strive for gathering government and institutional finance besides providing project planning and management.
2. Self employment must be promoted by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Agro based entrepreneurship can be promoted to fight with the evil of rural unemployment and poverty. People were mostly engaged in agriculture, trade, cottage and small scale industries in rural areas. They need capital along with availability of raw materials and technical training for developing value added products
3. India is working on various programmes and financing options such as MUDRA Yojana, Stand Up India, Start UP India to boost self employment and promote entrepreneurial abilities among youth. But the disbursal under Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana for financial year 2018 is far below the target of Rs. 2.4 crores as against the target of 1.80 crores in 2016 since commercial banks are affected by non performing assets and increasing incidence of frauds including misuse of loans.
4. Capital formation and industrialisation in the country should be accelerated and which in turn will generate employment opportunities for rural and urban residents.
5. The Government of India must assess global employment standards prevailing in nations like Finland, New Zealand and Canada which gives equal importance to educational

system and vocational training．
6．Training institutes guided by National Skill Development Corporation and State Skilling Institutes must be able to cater to industrial requirements through skilling and employability of youth．

7．Social entrepreneurship，community reinvestment and investment from foreign countries can be sought for skilling and generating employment．Kizhakambalam Model of corporate social responsibility can be taken as a case for reference．

## Conclusion

Social entrepreneurship not only enhances living in a society but also contributing back to the society．Social entrepreneurship in the beginning is seen to be developed with government initiatives but once the nudge is created then it seems to occur automatically．The investment in the society can be given a tax relief，where the employed pave way for the generating employment．Lifelong learning through continuous acquisition of knowledge and skills not only enhances active citizenship and personal development，＇but also improves competitiveness and employability．Continuous up－skilling should be adopted to train persons so that they will be equipped with the changing environmental needs．

Southern Economist， 15 May， 2018.

## \＆の\＆の8の8の



1

## Воок Review

## Liberalism on the brink <br> (A Review of the Book ‘The People vs. Democracy: Why Our Freedom Is In Danger and How to Save It’ by Yascha Mounk ) <br> Neera Chandhoke

Charles Dickens authored one of the greatest opening lines in his A Tale of Two Cities: 'It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.' Mounk, wittingly or unwittingly, reinvents the theme. Most of us have spent our lives in ordinary times. Today we live in extraordinary times. Our decisions, he warns, will determine whether terrifying chaos will spread, whether unspeakable cruelty will be unleashed, and whether liberal democracy can survive in the United States, Greece, Hungary, and Germany. Mounk, as is the wont of western political scientists, does not bother to take India into account, but this work could well have been written for us. We used to live in ordinary times. Today we live in extraordinary times, stamped by bitter disagreements on the basic terms of the political contract that inaugurated democracy in the country. What on earth happened?

## Berlin Wall and after

In the aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall liberal democrats rejoiced. The only political system that had challenged their supremacy had collapsed. The future of humankind could be secured only when humanity's love affair with democracy was regulated by constitutions, procedures, institutions, the rule of law, and individual rights. These staples of liberalism are intended to trump the brute power of electoral majorities. Liberals fear mobs; they fear demagogues, who evoke irrational passions, even more.

Today the link between liberalism and democracy, argues Mounk, has been broken for three reasons: economic stagnation, major migrations that transform demographic profiles and shake up power equations, and the rise of an irresponsible social media. This has led to the rise of populism. We cannot say that populist leaders are undemocratic. They come to power

riding the chariot or electoral victories. This power is neither tempered nor regulated by safeguards.

Representing themselves as 'outsiders' to the world of politics, much as Donald Trump and Narendra Modi tend to do, positioning themselves against power elites, disdaining limits placed on pure power, dismissing the media and civil society organisations as irrelevant, and paying scant respect to the rule of law and individual rights, populist leaders have destabilised the balance between limited power and accountability. They prefer to speak directly to a nebulous category called 'the people'.

The anti-elitist and anti-institutional thrust of populism might appeal to crowds, but it is dangerous. In France, Marine Le Pen has chalked up her growing support to rebellion against a self-interested E.U. oligarchy.

## The repercussions

There are other examples of attacks on a powerful political caste in Europe. The problem is that Donald Trump in the United States, Nigel Farage in Britain, Frauke Petry in Germany, Marine Le Pen in France show scant respect either for the lessons of history, or the complexities of plural societies. Their solutions to intractable problems are simple, for example building real as well as virtual walls to distinguish 'us' from 'them'. Axiomatically simple solutions to complex problems do not work. Consequently, populist leaders resort to the ignoble practice of blaming previous governments, political competitors, institutions, foreign powers, migrants and/or minorities, and tagging them as road blocks in the way of change. They claim that they think out of the box and represent themselves as problem solvers. In practice, Mounk seems to suggest they reduce politics to administration or governance.

Visions of how plural societies are held together, how social and economic justice can be realised, how power can be used for creating a good life, and how power holders can be held responsible are relegated to the dustbin of history.

The impact of populist rhetoric, freed as it is from liberal notions of propriety and recognition of the dignity of others, has destroyed democracy. Populist leaders mobilise masses

under the banner of＇the people＇．But masses might mobilise for deeply illiberal causes．A prime example is the anti－immigration movement in Europe．There is no longer any distinction between，the author argues，rights－based movements and movements that trample upon the rights of identity－based groups．Those who disagree with the politics of racial and religious majori tarianism are dismissed as liars，or as in the case of India，as anti－national．

## What lies ahead

The results are serious．In Germany，the right－wing leader Frauke Petrv is known for her toxic rhetoric against immigrants．She openly suggests that fear and envy are an important part of politics．A television channel in India has assembled data on hate speech and concluded that abusive and provocative diatribes against minorities and women has dramatically increased in the last four years．

Confrontational anti－elite rhetoric has catapulted ugly vocabularies in India＇s civil society．If we want to avoid disaster as Mounk suggests，we should revive liberal democracy by tempering inequality，reiterating the value of pluralism，and holding the social media responsible．

The work carries a warning．＇The people＇is one of the most elaborate political fictions invented by power holders after the divine right of kings＇．There is no such thing as a pre－political popular will．It is forged by political leaders．But populists whip up passions and shut down debate．The road to populism is，therefore，expectedly，strewn with the rubble of democracy．

The Hindu
27 May， 2018.

## \＆の8の8の8の



## RESUME OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED DURING THE $14^{\text {th }}$ SESSION OF THE $16^{\text {th }}$ LOK SABHA

The Fourteenth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, which was also the Budget Session, was held in two parts. The First part of the Session commenced on 29 January 2018 and adjourned on 9 February 2018 to enable the Departmentally Related Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments and to submit their Reports. The Second Part of the Budget Session began on 5 March 2018 and concluded on 6 April 2018. The House had a total of 29 sittings, out of which 7 sittings were held in the First Part and 22 sittings were held in the Second Part of the Session.

This being the First Session of the year, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addressed members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall on 29 January 2018, at 11:00 a.m. Later, the Lok Sabha met in its Chamber at 12:21 p.m. with the playing of the National Anthem. A copy of the President's Address was laid on the Table of the House and the House was adjourned for the day.

The Motion of Thanks on the Address by the President was moved by Shri Rakesh Singh on 6 February 2018 which was seconded by Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was held on 6 and 7 February 2018. As many as 123 members belonging to different political parties participated in the debate that lasted 10 hours and 43 minutes. On 7 February 2018, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, replied to the debate. The Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address was adopted the same day after all the amendments moved were negatived.

On 1 February 2018, as soon as the House met, the Hon’ble Speaker made reference to the passing away of Shri Chintaman Navsha Wanaga, a sitting Member of the Lok Sabha. As a mark of respect to the memory of the departed, members stood in silence for a short while. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Speaker made the following observation:
"Hon’ble Members, as per the well settled convention in the event of death of a sitting member, the House is adjourned for the day without transacting any other business as

a mark of respect after the Obituary Reference to the passing away of the Member is made in the House. Keeping in view this convention, I would have adjourned the House for the day, however, today's sitting, has been specifically fixed by the Hon'ble President for presentation of the Union Budget for the financial year 2018-19, which you are all well aware, is a constitutional obligation. Hence the situation being exceptional, the House may go ahead with the presentation of the Union Budget for 2018-19. However, as a mark of respect to the departed soul, the House would not sit tomorrow, i.e., 2 February 2018."

Subsequently, the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley presented to the Lok Sabha a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 2018-19. The Minister also laid on the Table the Statements on (1) Macro-Economic Framework; (2) Medium-Term Fiscal Policy; and (3) Fiscal Policy Strategy under Section 3(1) of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. Thereafter, he introduced the Finance Bill, 2018 and the House was then adjourned for the day.

Earlier, on 29 January 2018, a copy of the Economic Survey 2017-18 was laid on the Table of the House. The House took up General discussion on the Union Budget for 2018-19 on 7 February 2018. The discussion continued on 8 February 2018. As many as 158 members participated in the discussion lasting 12 hours and 13 minutes. The Minister of Finance, ShriArun Jaitley replied to the debate.

As mentioned earlier, the House adjourned on 9 February 2018 to enable the Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/ Departments and submit their Report thereon. On 8 March 2018, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2017-18 were presented by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley. During the second part of the Session, all the Department Related Standing Committees presented their report on their concerned Demands for Grants. The Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on14 March 2018 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed. The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2017-18 were voted in

full and related Appropriation Bill and was passed on 14 March 2018. The Finance Bill, 2018 was also passed by LokSabha the same day. As the Appropriation Bills and Finance Bill were not returned by Rajya Sabha within 14 days of their receipt in Rajya Sabha, the same were deemed to have been passed by the Houses of Parliament on expiry of 28 March 2018. The Appropriation and Finance Bills were assented to by the President on 29 March 2018 and as such the entire Financial Business was completed before 31 March 2018.

During the second part of the Budget Session, the House witnessed uproarious scenes and had to be adjourned almost every day with members of Opposition Parties stalling the proceedings of the House on diverse issues including demand for special status for the State of Andhra Pradesh; formation of Cauvery Management Board; against fraud in Punjab National Bank; demand for reservation more than 50 per cent in Telangana. A total of 127 hours and 45 minutes of time of the House was lost due to interruptions and adjournments. However, the House sat late for 9 hours and 47 minutes and transacted urgent Government business.

On 6 February, Members of the State of Andhra Pradesh, by way of submission, raised the issue regarding non-implementation of the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisations Act, 2014 by the Union Government. The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar, responded to the issue. The Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley also responded.

Shri Anandrao Adsul, MP, made a submission on 7 March regarding need to declare Marathi as a Classical Language. Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, MP, associated himself with the issue. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Rajnath Singh responded to the issue.

On 2 April 2018, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, MP, made submission regarding Supreme Court Judgement on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Responding to the issue, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar assured the House that the Government is one hundred per cent in favour of protection of the rights of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled


Tribes. He informed the House that the Government has already filed a review petition in the Supreme Court.

As many as 43 statements were made by the Ministers on various important subjects. These included statements made by (i) the Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri C.R. Chaudhary correcting the reply given on 06.03.2018 to Unstarred Question No. 1838 regarding ‘Damaged Wheat in Punjab’; (ii) the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Rajnath Singh on violence during Bharat Bandh on 2 April 2018; and (iii) the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Gen. V.K. Singh (Retd.) on behalf of Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar (a) correcting the reply given on 14 March 2018 to Unstarred Question No. 3198 regarding 'Absconding Businessmen' and (b) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply. On 20 March 2018, the Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj informed the House about death of 39 Indians at Mosul, Iraq. However, due to continued interruptions in the House, Smt. Swaraj could not make the statement.

In so far as Question Hour is concerned, out of 580 Starred Questions that were listed during the Session, 17 Questions were answered orally on the floor of the House. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 6,670 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table of the House.

The Hon'ble members made use of Rule 377 to raise 238 matters, particularly relating to their constituencies.

During the Session, 61 reports of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees were presented in the House.

Coming to the Legislative Business, five Government Bills were introduced and five Bills were passed by the House. These included: (i) The Finance Bill, 2018; (ii) The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017; and (iii) The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
(i) The Finance Bill, 2018 sought to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2018-19.

(ii) The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 sought to amend section 2A of the Principal Act to empower the Central Government to notify the period of maternity leave in case of female employees as deemed to be in continuous service in place of the existing twelve weeks; and to amend Section 4 of the Act to omit existing ceiling of 10 lakh rupees on gratuity and to empower the Central Government to notify the ceiling of gratuity under the Act from time to time.
(iii) The Specific Relief(Amendment) Bill, 2018 sought to amend the Specific Relief Act, 1963, inter alia, to do away with the wider discretion of courts to grant specific performance and to make specific performance of contract a general rule rather than exception subject to certain limited grounds; and insert a new section 20A which enunciates special provisions for contracts relating to infrastructure projects.

As regards Private Members' Business, no Private Member' Bills and no Private Members' Resolutions could be taken up during the Session due to continuous disruptions in the House.

You may recall that we have launched an e-Portal to facilitate the members to submit their notices online including notices to raise the matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour, i.e. during Zero Hour. However, members can continue to physically hand over the notices of Zero Hour for which printed form is available in Parliamentary Notice Office. In pursuant to discussion/consultation with Leaders of Parties in Lok Sabha with Hon’ble Speaker on 28 January 2018, there has been a change in timing to submit the notices as well as procedure for raising matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour, i.e. during 'Zero Hour’ with effect from second part of the Fourteenth Session. According to the revised procedure: (i) Notices may be given either through printed form at Parliamentary Notice Office or online by the members from 17:00 hours to 18:00 hours on the day prior to the day/date on which the members desire to raise their matters in the House; (ii) The notices received after 18:00 hours shall be treated as time barred; (iii) Twenty matters as per their priority in the ballot will be allowed to be raised on a day. However, 4-5 notices over and above these twenty matters of national/international importance could also be tabled on the same day morning on which the matter is sought to be raised in the House, for which no ballot would be held and

may be allowed on the basis of their importance and that too only at the discretion of Hon'ble Speaker; (iv) The order in which the matters will be raised, shall be decided by the Hon'ble Speaker at her discretion; (v) A matter proposed to be raised should be under the jurisdiction of the Government of India only so that it would be easier for the Minister concerned to respond to it, in case she / he desires to do so; (vi) Matter proposed to be raised shall not contain any statement making allegations.

On 5 February 2018, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav representing Alwar Constituency of Rajasthan; Shri Raghu Sharma representing Ajmer Constituency of Rajasthan and Smt. Sajda Ahmed representing Uluberia of West Bengal took oath and signed the Roll of Members.

On 16 March 2018, Shri Sarfaraz Alam representing Araria Constituency of Bihar; Shri Nagendra Pratap Singh Patel representing Phulpur Constituency of Uttar Pradesh and Shri Pravin Kumar Nishad representing Gorakhpur Constituency of Uttar Pradesh took oath and signed the Roll of Members.

On 16 March 2018, the Speaker informed the House that under Rule 9(1)of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Shri Kalraj Mishra,M.P.has been nominated as a member on the Panel of Chairpersons, against the vacancy caused due to the sad demise of Shri Hukum Singh.

On 5 March, the Speaker informed the House that Shri Neiphiu Rio, an elected. member from the Nagaland Parliamentary Constituency of Nagaland has resigned from the membership of Lok Sabha and that she has accepted his resignation with effect from 22 February 2018.

Apart from the obituary reference earlier made on 1 February, the Hon 'ble Speaker made references to the passing away of Sarvashri Hukum Singh, a sitting Member of the Lok Sabha (the House was adjourned for the day), Narsingh Narain Pandey, Raghunath Jha, Rudolph Rodrigues, Kamla Prasad Singh, Khagen Das, Bhanu Kumar Shastri, Prabodh Panda, Uttambhai Harjibhai Patel, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, Kumari Farida Topno, Smt. Shyama Singh and Smt. Susheela Bangaru Laxman all former members. She also made reference to the passing away of Prof. Stephen Hawking, renowned British physicist and cosmologist. She further made

reference to the loss of lives of 9 security personnel of CRPF in a bomb blast by naxalites on a CRPF personnel vehicle in Sukma District, Chhattisgarh on 13th March 2018.

On 8 March, the Speaker made a reference on the occasion of International Women's Day.
On 23 March 2018, the Hon’ble Speaker on behalf of the House, paid homage to the great revolutionaries Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Shivaram Hari Rajguru and Shaheed Sukhdev Thapar who were martyred on 23 March 1931.

On 16 March, the Hon’ble Speaker made a reference on the occasion of Nav Samvatsar /Chaitra Sukladi/Gudi Padava/Ugadi and Cheti Chand of the Vikram Era.

On 6 February 2018, the Hon’ble Speaker, on behalf of the House, congratulated the Indian Under-19 Cricket Team for winning the World Cup for the fourth time by beating Australia in the final of ICC Under-19 World Cup on 3 February 2018 in New Zealand.

During the Session, two Parliamentary Delegations graced the Special Box of the Lok Sabha. The first one was led by His Excellency Mr. Fidel Espinoza, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Chile. The other one was led by His Excellency Mr. Chung Sye Kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. They were present in the Special Box on 6 February and 9 March 2018 respectively. Welcoming the distinguished guests, the Hon’ble Speaker extended greetings of the House to the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of both the countries.

The Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG), on 29 January 2018, announced the decision to confer the Outstanding Parliamentary Awards on Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, MP (RS) for the year 2013; Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav, MP(LS) for 2014; Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, MP(RS) for 2015; Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP (LS) for 2016 and Shri Bhartruhari Mahatab, MP (LS) for the year 2017.

On 23 March, the Hon’ble Speaker informed the House that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and she after mutual consultation and following the procedure in the past have decided to appoint a Committee of Parliament, with Dr.Murli Mohan Joshi, Chairperson. Estimates Committee

as the Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee shall be to advise the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and the Speaker, Lok Sabha on the changes that are considered desirable in the structure of scales of pay, allowances, leave, pensionary benefits and other amenities to the officers and all categories of employees of the Secretariat.

During the Session, the Speaker Research Initiative (SRI) organized three workshops for the benefits of members of Parliament. The first workshop was organised on the subject ‘Agriculture’ on 21 March 2018. CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority; Director, ICARNational Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP) and Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) interacted with the members of Parliament on the subject as experts. The second workshop was organised on 'Health' on 22 March 2018. Member, NITI Aayog; Dean, Behavioural Sciences \& Head, Department of Mental Health Education, NIMHANS, Bangalore and Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH briefed the members of Parliament about the critical health issues faced by the nation along with their remedies. The third workshop was held on the subject 'Education' on 27 March 2018. Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development (CSD) \& Former Professor and VC, NUEPA and Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India addressed the members.

I would like to inform you that Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha has constituted subject specific groups of members of Parliament within SRI so that they can have a focused brainstorming sessions amongst themselves and with experts on the subjects of their choice. The seven subjects chosen for the SRI Groups are Agriculture, Education, Health, Environment and Climate Change, Women and Child Development, Finance and Infrastructure and Housing.

Meetings of SRI Groups on Health, Agriculture and Education were organised on 20, 22 and 23 February 2018 respectively which provided an interface between members of Parliament and domain experts on issues relating to these subjects. President, Public Health Foundation of India; Director, NIMHANS, Bengaluru; Advisor, Ayurveda, Ministry of AYUSH and Senior Fellow, RIS interacted with the MPs during the meeting of SRI Group on Health. Director, ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research

(NIAP), Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad acted as resource persons for the meeting of SRI Group on Agriculture. Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR); Principal Advisor (Hon.) to the Director Education, Government of NCT of Delhi and Faculty, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)were the experts for the meeting of SRI Group on Education.

During the Session, a National Conference on the theme 'We for development' was organized on 10 and 11 March 2018. The Conference, an initiative of the Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, aimed to provide a platform to MPs, MLCs and MLAs from across the country to share their experiences, to learn from each other's success stories, and to develop a perspective on developmental issues in the light of the SDGs. The Conference offered special opportunity to those Delegates whose constituencies have greater possibilities and aspirations of development.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi digitally inaugurated the Conference on 10 March in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar, Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Dr. M. Thambi Durai, Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers of State, Presiding Officers of State Legislatures, Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislatures and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi observed there are several districts which are lagging behind in development. He said that their problem lies not in the paucity of the available resources or budget outlays but in the governance, coordination and effective implementation of policies and programmes. He further said that in every State there are a few districts where development parameters are strong. He called upon delegates to learn from them and work on weaker districts. He felt that public participation always helps and wherever officials have worked with people and involved them with the development process, the results have been transformative. Earlier, welcoming the delegates to the Conference, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan said that the inspiration for organizing this unique Conference was drawn from the developmental vision of


Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. She said that though the world community had set the year 2030 for attaining the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet the legislators should endeavour to realize the Prime Minister's vision of achieving these targets in the 75th year of India’s independence in 2022 only to make India a strong and developed nation. Smt. Mahajan recalled that Parliament had already discussed the issue of SDGs on four different occasions. As such, it was high time that the State Legislatures also took a lead in proactively deliberating on this important matter for all round development.

The Conference deliberated on the theme "We for Development" in the Plenary Session. Making a presentation on aspirational districts to the delegates, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog said that although our country has made significant progress in the economic sphere yet India's ranking at 131 in the Human Development Index (HDI) is a matter of great concern for the nation. He said that there are inequalities and inequities between and within the States and districts. He highlighted that 115 aspirational districts have been identified in various States which are lagging behind in development and their transformation into developed districts will improve India’s HDI ranking. Speaking at the Plenary, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry said that development requires both, human resources and natural resources which are plenty in our country. Shri Prabhu said that resource efficiency is the new mantra but in the coming years, we need to find resource alternative, resource mobilization and resource optimization. He further said that as legislators, we need to create awareness among people about acceptability of laws and resources and district based planning.

Later in the day, the Conference took up discussions, in its Parallel Sessions, on the themes (i) Role of Legislators in Development Process, and (ii) Optimum Utilization of Resources in Development. The delegates, divided in four groups (North, South, East and West Zones), shared their concerns and problems relating to the development of their constituencies. The delegates highlighted the need of participation of legislators at all levels, including grassroots level of development. Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan attended all the Sessions.


The Concluding Session of the Conference was addressed by the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari. Addressing the gathering, he urged the legislators to have a strategy with a commitment for the development of their constituency based on four key areas: innovation, technology, entrepreneurship and research. He called upon the delegates to learn new ways of finding solutions to the problems and to develop a model plan. Thereafter, the Reports of the Working Sessions prepared by the Rapporteurs were presented. These reports highlighted the issues, concerns and suggestions given by the delegates from the States in the North, South, East and West Zones.

Subsequently, at the Valedictory Session, the Conference Resolution was adopted. Addressing the delegates at the Valedictory Session, the Union Minister of Finance ShriArun Jaitley, referred to GST as a successful example of Centre-State cooperation in matters of national importance. He also emphasized the need of exploring the feasibility of effective harmony between the Centre and State in other areas such as agriculture, social justice, etc. The VicePresident and Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said that Legislature is the central pillar of democratic governance. It is the voice of the people and articulates their hopes, aspirations and dreams through laws that govern their lives. As such, the legislatures are mandated with the task of catalyzing nation building by propelling socio-economic transformation. Presenting the closing remarks. LokSabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan said that development should be sustainable and we should have a continuous dialogue with all stakeholders, including at the grassroots level. She further said that we all have to be alert and create awareness among people about the Government schemes and policies so that benefits of development trickle down to every nook and corner of the country.

Earlier, during the recess period, the Sixth Conference of CPA India Region was held in Patna, Bihar from 17 to 18 February 2018. Presiding Officers, Secretaries of State Legislatures and legislators from twenty States including Bihar participated in the Conference. For the first time, the Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee, Ms. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka; Secretary-General of CPA, Mr. Akbar Khan and Regional Representatives from CPA


Australia, Africa and Pacific Region also attended the Conference. The Conference deliberated on two subjects: (i) Parliament's role in the development agenda; and (ii) Legislature and Judiciary - Two important Pillars of Democracy. The Conference was inaugurated by the Lok Sabha Speaker and Chairperson of CPA India Region, Smt. SumitraMahajan. Delivering the Inaugural Address, she said that the development agenda of India reflects the aspirations of SDGs. As people's representatives, we need to play a significant role in achieving SDGs. Parliamentarians, as such, can help to accelerate the implementation of these goals through laws, debates, and by actively participating in events like Seminars, Workshops and Conferences. The Hon’ble Speaker of Bihar Legislative Assembly, Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary welcomed the august gathering. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Ms. Emilia Lifaka, Hon’ble Chairperson of CPA Executive Committee also addressed the distinguished gathering. Hon’ble Deputy Chairman, Bihar Legislative Council proposed the Vote of Thanks at the function.

The Conference concluded with the Valedictory Address by Hon’ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Satya Pal Malik. On the occasion, Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Bihar Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Shri Vijay Kumar Choudhary. Secretary General of CPA, Mr. Akbar Khan, and Deputy Chairman, Bihar Legislative Council, Md. Haroon Rashid also addressed the Delegates. At the Valedictory Session, the Lok Sabha Speaker said that there must be a focus on knowledge building, institutionalization of the best parliamentary rules, practices and procedures in a way that will facilitate the engagement of the lawmakers with the development agenda at the regional, national and sub-national levels so as to maximize the welfare of their constituents. The Conference unanimously resolved to expand and increase the functions and programmes of the CPA India Region and decided to organise zonal Seminars/Conferences.

During this period, a five-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) led by Dr. M.Thambi Durai, Hon’ble Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha attended the $138^{\text {th }}$ Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held from 24 to 28 March 2018.Hon’ble DeputySpeaker, Lok Sabha addressed the IPU Assembly during the General Debate on the overall theme of 'strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence- based policy solutions'.


On 4th April 2018, the Hon‘ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly-constructed Western Court Annexe at Janpath, New Delhi. The new Annexe building is a Ground + three storeyed building. While the existing transit accommodation at the Western Court Hostel has 74 suites, the Annexe building provides an additional 88 fully furnished suites. Inaugurating the building, the Prime Minister said that the project has been completed well within the stipulated time and cost and congratulated all those involved in the construction of this project. Earlier, delivering the Welcome Address, Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan expressed satisfaction that the project was completed six months in advance. In this regard, she lauded the efforts of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Union Minister of Urban Development Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Housing and Urban Affairs Shri.Arjun Ram Meghwal, former Chairperson of House Committee (Lok Sabha) and Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Chairperson of House Committee (Lok Sabha) for their relentless efforts and support in efficacious and timely conclusion of the work. Smt. Mahajan hoped that the facilities in the newly-constructed Annexe would certainly help in better accommodation of the newly- elected Members of Parliament and their guests.

Earlier on 5 February 2018, the Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha inaugurated a Creche for the wards of the employees of Lok Sabha Secretariat from one year to ten years of age. The Creche, housed in the Extension Building of Parliament House Annexe, will function on all working days from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM during Inter Session Period and from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM during Session Period.

As usual, functions were held under the auspices of Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to mark the birth anniversaries of Lala Lajpat Rai ( 28 January), Smt. Sarojini Naidu (13 February), Shri Morarji Desai (28 February, actual date of birth is 29 February), Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (23 March) and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (14 April) in the Central Hall of Parliament House where portraits of these illustrious leaders are put up. The Lok Sabha Speaker, Union Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes on these occasions. Besides, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament on the birth anniversary of the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on 4 February. Booklets

containing the profile of these leaders, brought out in Hindi and English by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, were distributed to the dignitaries present on the occasion.

The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training continued to organise various Courses and Programmes during the period.

The Bureau organized a Call-on Meeting of forty-six Children Recipients of Bravery Awards of 2017 with Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 25 January 2018.

An Orientation Programme for the newly elected Members of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly was organized from 7 to 8 February 2018. Twenty-eight members of Legislative Assembly attended the programme.

The Thirty-third Intemational Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organized from 18 January to16 February 2018. Forty-six officials from thirty-one countries attended the Programme sponsored under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP). The Bureau also organized a Special Training Programme for the Officials of National Assembly of Afghanistan which was attended by 39 participants. Five Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures for the probationers of All India and Central Services and for middle and senior level officials of the Govemment of India were organised by the Bureau. In all, 298 participants attended these Courses.

Twelve International Study visits were organized in which there were 310 participants. Besides, fifty eight Study Visits were organized for educational and other institutions from within the country covering 2,758 participants.

The Bureau also organized a training programme on "Information Management in Parliament" for the Personal Assistants and Private Secretaries attached to the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees. Besides, a Workshop for the Employees of the Secretariat to create awareness regarding sexual harassment at workplace was organized which was attended by 45 participants. Further, professional developmental programmes for the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat were organized by the Bureau from time to time.


On the concluding day of the Session, the Hon’ble Speaker, while delivering theValedictory address said:
".....I only wish to state that House is the most sacrosanct forum for Members to raise matters of public interests and welfare of the people. I do appreciate the concern of Hon'ble Members to raise matters relating to their constituencies but they have to also keep in mind the larger interests of the country. It has always been my endeavour to provide opportunity to Members to raise issues in the House after giving proper notice ... "
".... On a positive note, I wish to make a special mention here that notwithstanding the standoff in the House, I got cooperation from all the parties in holding National Legislators Conference on 10th and 11 th March, 2018 .... The success of the Conference is indeed a matter of great happiness for me which underscores the fact that when it comes to topical and core public interest issues, the fraternity of Legislatures rise to the occasion ..."

The Fourteenth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on 6 April 2018 after the playing of the National Song. The President of India prorogued the House the same day.

