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Gst Biggest Madness Of The Century: Subramnian Swamy

HYDERABAD: BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy on Tuesday described the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as the "biggest madness" of 21st century and called for radical reforms like abolishing income tax to achieve 10 per cent growth rate to make the country an economic superpower by 2030.

He said the country has to do something radical given the last one year of economic crisis.

The BJP leader exuded confidence that by 2030 India will become the most developed country and challenge the US, but said for this the country will have to grow at 10 per cent per annum.

He was delivering a talk on "India: An Economic Superpower by 2030", organised here by the Pragna Bharati.

He also called the GST the big-

gest madness of 21st century. "This GST is so complicated that nobody understands which form to fill or where they want it to be uploaded. Somebody came from Barmer in Rajasthan. He said we don't have electricity, how can we upload. I said upload it on your head and go to the Prime Minister and tell him," Swamy said.

Stating that shortage of demand is the problem currently faced by the country, Swamy called for putting money in the hands of people so that they can spend and create the demand to keep the economic cycle moving.

The Rajya Sabha MP said that India can become an economic superpower by implementing some economic reforms.

"If you want 10 per cent growth rate, the investment rate to the GDP should be 37 per cent and 3.7



per cent should be your efficiency factor and not 5 per cent as it is today. Efficiency in use of capital

should be the objective," he said.

For improving the efficiency, he called for fighting corruption. "I will abolish income tax because it is a source of corruption," he said.

Swamy also called for rewarding those who invest. "Don't terrorise the investors," he said, while terming GST as the biggest madness of the 21st century.

He also called for conferring the country's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, on former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao for the reforms he introduced during his tenure.

He noted that there had been no improvement in the reforms brought by Rao.

Pointing out that the growth rate between 1947 and 1990 was a mere 3.5 per cent, he blamed former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for this, and said that

Nehru adopted the Soviet model of economy which had failed even in the Soviet Union.

Stressing the need for reforms and for focus on macro economics, Swamy also made certain remarks while referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I tell the PM that Ujjwala, free gas distribution, startup... all this is micro economics. What you need is macro economics to get the engine of the economy moving. Abolish income tax. The rate of savings will go up and along with what you get from abroad, the rate of investment will rise and the growth rate will go up.

"My regret is that I am unable to persuade the PM to think like me," Swamy said and hoped that when all other methods would not work, the PM would adopt his method.

Modi Govt Does Not Acknowledge The Word 'Slowdown': Manmohan

NEW DELHI: In a sharp attack on the Modi government over the state of the economy, former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday said the current dispensation does not acknowledge the word "slowdown", and the real danger is that if problems are not recognised, then finding credible answers to take corrective action is unlikely.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of Montek Singh Ahluwalia's book "Backstage: The Story behind India's High Growth Years", Singh cited the former planning commission's observations to state that achieving the USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25 was "wishful thinking".

Singh said the former planning commission deputy chairman has written

about the good as well as the weak points of the UPA government.

"I think these issues will be debated and should be debated because we have today a government that does not acknowledge that there is such a word as slowdown. I think this is not good for our country," the former prime minister said.

"If you do not recognise the problems that you face, you are not likely to find credible answers to take corrective action. That is the real danger," he said, attacking the government on the state of the economy.

The book will be of great help to the future growth of the country, Singh said.

"Montek has also pointed out that contrary to what the ruling group may say, today the USD 5 trillion economy by

2024-25 is wishful thinking. Also there is no reason to expect that farmers' income will be doubled in a three-year period," he said.

"At the same time, he (Ahluwalia) said we must work for high rate of growth and that 8 per cent growth rate is a feasible proposition but it requires rethinking about the role of fiscal policy. There is a need for tax reforms in the country in a bolder way," Singh said.

He also hailed the role played by former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao, P Chidambaram and Ahluwalia for supporting his liberalisation of the economy in the 1990s and enabling him as the then finance minister to carry out the reforms despite resistance from different quarters.

Later, during a panel discussion at the

book launch, former finance minister Chidambaram said former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian's remarks that the Indian economy headed for intensive care unit, were "nearly correct".

"I disagree in the following manner -- the patient (economy) is being wheeled into the ICU, the patient is being stopped just outside the ICU and is being looked at by incompetent doctors," Chidambaram said in a dig at the government.

"There is no aggregate demand rise, unemployment is rising, consumption is falling... Yet the government says all is well, which means we have to rewrite our textbooks of economics. Every indicator is pointing southward. If every indicator is pointing southward, how can the GDP rise to 7 or 8 per cent," he said.

Police Foil PHE Workers March To Raj Bhawan

JAMMU: Thousands of workers of Jammu and Kashmir's public health engineering (PHE) department clashed with police on Wednesday as their march to Raj Bhawan here to demand pending wages was stopped midway.

The workers, including casual labourers and daily wagers, began the march from the chief engineer's office.

A large contingent of police had closed the route at BC road

and did not allow the protesters to proceed towards Raj Bhawan, triggering a clash between the demonstrators and police personnel, officials said.

The PHE workers continued to protest at the spot for over two hours, raising anti-administration slogans and resulting in a road blockade, they said.

A leader of the protesters said, "We urge Lieutenant Governor G S Murmu to look into the issues pertaining to regularisation (of our jobs) and release of wages to daily rated workers."

South Kashmir: 3 Militants Killed

He said arms and ammunition was recovered from the encounter site which included two AK rifles, a pistol and two grenades.

Twenty-three militants have been eliminated in various encounters since last month, the DGP said.

He said Wani and Maqbool were involved in several "terror crimes", including killing of two civilians.

"They were also involved in incidents of arson including a firing incident at a mosque and burning of a shop and a truck," Singh said.

He said while 19 militants have been killed in eight operations in Kashmir, four were killed in two operations in the Jammu region since January this year.

"So far, we have had 10 successful operations in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020 in which 23 militants have been eliminated," the DGP said.

"Besides, we have also arrested 40 overground workers who were involved in grenade throwing incidents or facilitating the militants in the valley," he added.

Singh said it was heartening that eight youths, who had left homes to join militant ranks, have been reunited with their families after realising the futility of their decision.

"We have ensured that there is no collateral damage during the operations. The fresh recruitment into militant ranks is next to nil. The life in Kashmir is normal and police will make all efforts to contribute in keeping it that way," he added.

was withdrawn around six months back and it was bifurcated into two union territories. The government had imposed severe restrictions following the move including detaining sizeable number of political leaders.

Replying to a question on widespread protests against the new citizenship law in India, Bera said expressed concerns over it but at the same time added that the demonstrations reflected inherent strength of the democracy.

"It is important to keep lines of communications open," he said, adding India must protect its minorities.

India has witnessed massive protests against the citizenship amendment law which seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslims who came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh facing religious persecution.

The protesters feel the law is discriminatory as citizenship will be granted based on religious identity.

Both the lawmakers also spoke about the bipartisan support to growing ties between India and the US in diverse areas including in trade and commerce, defence and strategic affairs.

Both the lawmakers hoped that India and the US will be able to seal the much anticipated trade deal.

Official sources said negotiations on the deal was not "stuck" and both sides mutually agreed "not to rush" into it, suggesting that it will not be signed during Trump's visit to India next week.

Trump, accompanied by wife Melania Trump and a high level delegation will arrive in India on February 24 for a little less than 36-hour-long trip. From Ahmedabad, he will travel to Agra before arriving at the national capital for main leg of the visit.

Schools

for strict adherence.

He further said that SFCC would soon be reconstituted according to the new Act.

SFCC, a regulatory body with the mandate to regulate the fee structure of schools, was constituted in 2015 in the wake of the Supreme Court's directions asking states to regulate the fee structure in private schools.

The recommendations made by the SFCC on fee structure are implemented by the Department of School Education through Chief Education Officers.

Hopeful Of Trump's Visit Passing

to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5 last year. "The number of ceasefire violations has increased after August 5 (2019). Pakistan is trying to keep the borders hot in order to push in as many militants as possible. While some attempts of infiltration have been successful, many have been foiled," he said.

Singh said a Pakistani drone recently flew over a BSF picket in the Gagwal area of the Jammu region for around 10 minutes, but was pulled back after the troops of the border-guarding force opened fire.

In response to a question, the DGP said he would not be able to give the exact number of militants waiting to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir from across the LoC, but maintained that launch pads were active during the winter months as well.

"Normally, there would not be much activity at the launch pads during the winter months as snow would cover the passes. This winter, however, the movement at the launch pads did not reduce," he said.

SMC Commissioner Tours City

block. Joint Commissioner Works, Chief Sanitation Officer and other concerned were accompanying the Commissioner. Later, Ali convened a meeting to review the functioning of the corporation.

LWWDA Demolishes Illegal Structures

was carried out with the assistance of Police Station Harwan, the officials said.

The people residing within the LDA jurisdiction have been asked not to go for any sort of illegal constructions and encroachments, officials added.

No Clean Chit To Youth Injured

"No clean chit has been given to Fayaz. He has been sent home as he is recovering from bullet injuries. Once he recovers, he will be arrested and questioned about his involvement with the militants," Kumar told reporters during a press conference here on Wednesday.

Two militants -- Khateeb Ahmad Dass of Bijbehara and Zia-u-Rehman Wani of Aarath Budgam -- were killed while Fayaz was injured in an encounter with state forces at Lawaypora in city outskirts. A CRPF trooper was also killed in the shootout on February 5.

Shortly after the encounter, police and CRPF in a joint press conference claimed to have arrested an injured militant. However, family members of Fayaz claimed that he owns a grocery store in the area and was hit by a bullet while he was standing outside his shop when the encounter happened.

Wanted To 'Assess' Ground Situation

having a valid visa she was denied entry into India after she landed at the airport here.

On Wednesday, the British MP visited Pakistan along with eight other lawmakers from the UK Parliament. Debbie and the MPs met Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, New Delhi based India Today reported.

Addressing media on Wednesday afternoon, Debbie said she wants to reiterate her demand to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

"Pakistan has shown an open approach towards resolving the Kashmir issue," Debbie said, adding that she wants to visit Jammu and Kashmir to see for herself the ground situation there. "We are an independent group, we are not anti-India or pro-Pakistan," she said.

"We wanted to make sure that the delegation visits... Jammu and Kashmir... I have gotten no responses for my requests for delegation visit to Jammu and Kashmir by India," she added.

Later in the day, the delegation led by Debbie met with Pakistan PM Imran Khan to discuss the situation in Kashmir, following the abrogation of Article 370 last year in August.

Pertinently, she was among a group of British MPs who issued formal letters expressing concerns over the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 in August last year.

"We are gravely concerned at the announcement by Indian Home Minister, Amit Shah, that Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir, has been removed by Presidential Order," the Opposition MP had noted in her letter to the UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab at the time.

LG Calls For Increasing Security Situation In The Union Territory, It Said

The LG lauded the role being played by the BSF in safeguarding the frontiers and advised heightened surveillance for ensuring safety and security of people.

President Kovind Likely To Visit J&K

Jammu was held on March 18, 2018, in which Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama took part as Chief guest along with Union minister Jitendra Singh and former chief of Army staff NC Vij.

CAA May Leave Muslims Stateless, Afghanistan. After the enactment of the law, protests erupted across the country over fears that it may marginalise the minority Muslim community.

The Indian government has maintained that the CAA is an internal matter of the country and stressed that the goal is to protect the oppressed minorities of neighbouring countries.

The NRC has been prepared to identify genuine Indian citizens living in Assam since March 24, 1971, or before, and identify illegal Bangladeshi migrants in the state.

Out of 3.3 crore applicants, over 19 lakh people were excluded from the final NRC published on August 30.

On Kashmir, Guterres said two reports by the UN High Commissioner on Kashmir played an important role in clarifying exactly what is happening there and it is essential that these reports are taken seriously.

Guterres on Sunday said in Islamabad

Power Shutdown In Parts Of City, Mattan

will remain shut on February 22 and 24 respectively from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm.

While F5 of Receiving Station Fateh Kadal will remain shut on February 23 from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm, officials said.

Likewise, in order to carry out repairs of 132 KV Mir Bazar Mattan Transmission Line, the power supply will remain affected on February 20 from 10 am to 4 pm in the areas fed from the line, the officials added.

Ahead Of Trump's India Visit,

Bera also said he would like to take a Congressional delegation to Kashmir. "We did express our that we would like to take a delegation to Kashmir in some point of time."

The US lawmaker also hailed India's vibrant democracy where he said 800 million Hindus are living side-by-side with 200 million Muslims.

"Indian citizens are the ones that ultimately will control the outcome of where India heads to...We can offer that what we admire about India...is that it's this vibrant secular democracy and we would hate to see India lose or tarnish any of that reputation," said Bera.

On his part, Holding said economic development will bring prosperity to Kashmir, adding a stable and predictable political situation is going to attract investment into the region.

The special status of Jammu and Kashmir

Govt Asks Private

investment into the region.

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