Gst Biggest Madness Of The Century: Subramnian Swamy

Swamy on Tuesday described the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as the "biggest madness" of 21st century and called for radical reto 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.

"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 forms like abolishing income tax 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



He also called the GST the big- 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

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

Swami 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.

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

Pointing out that the growth rate between 1947 and 1990 was me," Swami said and hoped that a mere 3.5 per cent, he blamed when all other methods would former Prime Minister Jawahar- not work, the PM would adopt lal Nehru for this, and said that his method.

For improving the efficiency, he 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 Ujwala, free gas distribution, startup... all this He also called for conferring is micro economics. What you the country"s highest civilian 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

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

NEW DELHI: In a sharp attack on the about the good as well as the weak points 2024-25 is wishful thinking. Also there is book launch, former finance minister Chi-Modi government over the state of the of the UPA government. economy, former prime minister Manmofinding credible answers to take correc- former prime minister said. tive action is unlikely.

Addressing a gathering at the launch stage: The Story behind India's High planning commission's observations to the economy. state that achieving the USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25 was "wishful think-

Singh said the former planning com- contrary to what the ruling group may mission deputy chairman has written say, today the USD 5 trillion economy by

"I think these issues will be debated and han Singh on Wednesday said the current should be debated because we have today he said. dispensation does not acknowledge the a government that does not acknowledge word "slowdown", and the real danger is that there is such a word as slowdown. I that if problems are not recognised, then think this is not good for our country," the

"If you do not recognise the problems that you face, you are not likely to find need for tax reforms in the country in a of Montek Singh Ahluwalia's book "Back- credible answers to take corrective action. That is the real danger," he said, at-Growth Years", Singh cited the former tacking the government on the state of

> The book will be of great help to the future growth of the country, Singh said. "Montek has also pointed out that

will be doubled in a three- year period,"

"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 about the role of fiscal policy. There is a bolder way," Singh said.

He also hailed the role played by for-Chidambaram and Ahluwalia for sup-Later, during a panel discussion at the to 7 or 8 per cent," he said.

no reason to expect that farmers' income dambaram 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 proposition but it requires rethinking 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, mer prime minister P V Narasimha Rao, unemployment is rising, consumption is falling... Yet the government says all is porting his liberalisation of the economy well, which means we have to rewrite our in the 1990s and enabling him as the then textbooks of economics. Every indicator is finance minister to carry out the reforms pointing southward. If every indicator is despite resistance from different quarters. pointing southward, how can the GDP rise

Police Foil PHE Workers March To Raj Bhawan

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Thousands of workers of Jammu and Kashmir's public health engineering sonnel, officials said. 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.

and did not allow the protesters to proceed towards Raj Bhawan, triggering a clash between the demonstrators and police per-

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

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

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 He said while 19 militants have been killed in eight operations in Kashmir, four were

killed in two operations in the Jammu region since Ianuary this year. "So far, we have had 10 successful operations in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020 in

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

which 23 militants have been eliminated," the

militants in the valley," he added. Singh said it was heartening that eight vouths, 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.

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

Two militants -- Khateeb Ahmad Dass of Bijbehara and Zia-u-Rehman Wani of Aarath Budgam -- were killed while Favaz 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.

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

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 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

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 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-hourlong trip. From Ahmedabad, he will travel to Agra before arriving at the national capital for main leg of the visit.

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

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.

Govt Asks Private

Schools for strict adherence.

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

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.

LG Calls For Increasing security situation in the union territory, it

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 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

that he was concerned over the situation in Kashmir, and that he was ready to mediate between India and Pakistan to resolve the long pending issue.

Reacting to his offer, India said the real issue needed to be addressed is to vacate territories "illegally and forcibly" occupied by Pakistan.

"India's position has not changed. Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and will continue to be an integral part of India. The issue that needs to be addressed is that of vacation of the territories illegally and forcibly occupied by Pakistan," the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi.

"Further issues, if any, would be discussed bilaterally. There is no role or scope for thirdparty mediation," it said.

India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5. Reacting to India's move, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

When asked why the UN has failed to constitute a high-powered inquiry commission to go to Kashmir and investigate alleged rights violations, the Secretary General said: Only the governing bodies of the UN or the Security Council can make that decision, but these reports are credible, relevant and very important.

He acknowledged that the current structure of the UN and the veto power to only its five permanent member states were hampering the ability of the UN to deliver the very objective it was created for conflict resolution.

In order to ensure increased efficacy of the UN, he felt the body had to be reformed to be made "more democratic, more open and more effective and to be more representative of today's multilateral world.

"We lived in a bipolar world, the rules were relatively clear. Today it is no longer bipolar, not yet multipolar, it is a kind of a chaotic world. Power relations are unclear so we see situations of conflict to which many spoilers can do whatever they want because there is no way to create a minimum of order, he

When asked about the position of the UN on the Palestinian question, Guterres responded that our position has not changed, asserting that he remained committed to the two-state solution, with the "two states living side by

Guterres also affirmed that the UN stood ready to facilitate a dialogue between Israel and Palestine based on international law and

Guterres during his three-day visit to Pakistan met officials, attended a conference on Afghan refugees, visited Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib and saw cultural places in

LG Reviews Road Safety Initiatives

installation of traffic signages on all roads across J&K, especially the roads vulnerable to accidents," he added.

Murmu also reviewed the steps being taken in conducting the health check-ups of all the drivers and sought a report on the unfit drivers.

He further directed the officers to furnish a report of the driving institutes and put a third party audit check on the certifications by such institutes.

Stressing on removing encroachments and fixing responsibilities, Murmu asked the Municipal Corporations and Development Authorities to intensity anti-encroachment drives and asked the officers to mobilize Mohalla committees and locals for removing encroachments, besides designating spaces for hawkers. He also laid special focus on removing encroachments from bus-stands and railway stations.

A large contingent of police our jobs) and release of wages to had closed the route at BC road daily rated workers.'

the concerned officers to identify and notify parking spaces and prepare DPRs for multilevel parkings to address the problem. The LG further stressed on sensitizing the general public through print and electronic media regarding the road safety measures and regulations, with active involvement of all stakeholders especially the youth and students, which can help in improving the

Regarding parking spaces, the LG asked

traffic management system of J&K. "He also called for inclusion of a chapter on Road Safety and Traffic Sense in the School academic curriculum and utilization of trained NCC and NSS cadets in traffic management," the spokesperson added.

The LG asked the officers to plug all unauthorized cuts along the road dividers on the national highways. He asked the civil administration and National Highway Authority in re-iteration that no such unauthorized cuts would be allowed, and further asked them to aware the general public about punitive action against those found responsible for any such act.

Murmu also reviewed the compliance of directions passed in the previous meeting regarding road safety.

Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo informed the chair that during the last two years, around 10,000 eople were trained as first resp accident cases and more than 6000 health workers were being trained to supplement the support system.

The chair was also briefed on recent road safety initiatives: awareness programmes; action taken against violators; various initiatives by Health Department ,Transport Department, Housing and Urban Development Department towards Road Safety: Road Accident Victim Fund: Intelligent Transport System etc.

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.

Power Shutdown In Parts Of City, Mattan

will remain shut on February 22 and 24 respectively form 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. While F5 of Receiving Station Fateh Kadal will remain shut on February 23 form 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 form 10 am to 4 pm in the areas fed from the line, the officials added.

3 Drug Peddlers Held

He has been arrested and shifted to Awantipora police station where he remains in custody. The vehicle has also been seized. During the course of investigation, two more drug peddlers were arrested. Police were able to recover contraband and psychotropic substance from their possession. Meanwhile, police have filed an FIR in this