

EDITORIAL

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The searing heat forced many people to seek refuge indoors. But the poor and daily-wage labourers employed in outdoor work such as in the construction sector have been the worst-hit. They usually have no choice but to continue toiling in the sweltering heat to make ends meet and also lack access to cooling solutions like fans and air conditioners. A large proportion of our population is highly vulnerable to heat waves due to the possession of fewer household amenities as well as lower rates of literacy and access to water and sanitation. The main summer months—from April to June—are always hot in most parts of India. But temperatures have become more intense in the past decade. South Asia as a whole is considered among the most vulnerable to climate change in the world. If current warming trends continue, temperatures will rise so high that the human body's ability to maintain a stable internal temperature and expel excess heat through sweating could be significantly compromised. This will lead to heat stress, heat exhaustion and even life-threatening conditions like heatstroke. This heat wave has been deadly and studies have shown that climate change exacerbated it not only in terms of temperature but also in terms of the increased humidity — with the heat index 2°C warmer than without climate change. India would face more frequent and intense heat waves in the future, affecting everything from jobs and power production to water and food supply. The time has come to strengthen local climate action across heat stress districts and cities” with strong government policies. Scientists worldwide also say drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are necessary to control the fast-rising global temperatures. India are currently the third-highest emitter of planet-warming gases. But its per capita carbon footprint is far lower compared to Western industrialized nations. India needs a long-term vision where we have policies that help us in managing our work hours, public infrastructure, schools, hospitals, workplaces, houses, transportation, and agriculture to cope with the future heat waves. Humans can only withstand certain combinations of heat and humidity before their bodies begin to experience heat-related health problems, such as heat stroke or heart attack. As climate change pushes temperatures higher around the world, billions of people could be pushed beyond these limits. If people do not find a way to cool down within hours, it can lead to heat exhaustion, heat stroke and strain on the cardiovascular system that can lead to heart attacks in vulnerable people.

DISCLAIMER

"Jammu Bulletin" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.

Edited, Printed, Published and owned by

Ankush Mahajan

Published at Plot No. 4A, 1st Floor, Set or-3, Surya Chowk, Channi Himmat Jammu (J&K)

Printed at JK Printing and Publications, Sunjwan, Jammu (Tawi).

E-mail: jammubulletin@gmail.com

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu only.

Trump takes aim at Ivy League

BY
KALYANI
SHANKAR

In a controversial campaign, President Donald Trump has launched an aggressive offensive against America's most prestigious universities, particularly Ivy League institutions, through funding cuts, policy investigations, and harsh rhetoric

US President Donald Trump has targeted top US universities during his second term. He has been waging a war on Ivy League universities for the past few weeks. He has particularly targeted institutions such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Brown, Dartmouth, and the University of Pennsylvania.

This move has shocked the American higher education system. Academia now faces a significant challenge fighting against the administration. Trump's attacks also have a political dimension. They are viewed as a conservative strategy to reduce the influence of liberalism in higher education. They could be aimed at eroding the Democratic Party's traditional support base.

The affected universities, which include those with funding cuts, are located in areas where the Democrats received strong support. Many of these

institutions are now facing funding cuts and grant restrictions, which have significantly impacted their research and educational programmes. Conservatives have often complained about a bias in these institutions. Some view that these are part of the Trump administration's effort to reshape higher education.

One speculation is that Trump harbours resentment towards Ivy League schools for not granting him an honorary degree or inviting him to speak at graduation, despite his graduation from the Wharton School. Most recent American presidents have graduated from Ivy League universities, including Trump, who attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

In the first few months of 2024, the Trump administration has moved aggressively to strip federal funding from prominent colleges and universities. On March 10, the administration took action against Harvard, Columbia, NYU, and 60 other institutions. It also started investigations into possible violations of the Civil Rights Act due to incidents of antisemitic harassment. More than \$10 billion in research grants have been cut.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has apprehended student activists. International students are not eligible for admission to Harvard, which also risks losing its tax exemption status. Trump has also banned international students from attending

Harvard.

Harvard risks losing its tax-exempt status. These actions have raised tensions among Ivy League universities. Many universities initially chose to adhere to Trump's policies. They have agreed to enhance on-campus security and also allow oversight in some specific departments. Columbia has been warned that failing to address antisemitic harassment incidents adequately could jeopardise its accreditation. Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania have also suspended hundreds of millions in research grants. The Department of Education is investigating ten universities for alleged antisemitism and has warned others that similar inquiries may occur. Furthermore, it is examining 52 universities for illegal race-based projects. Trump has introduced new guidelines aimed at limiting international student admissions, including a cap on visas, and he has publicly criticised Harvard, stating, "Harvard needs to behave itself."

The confrontation marked a dramatic battle between Harvard, America's oldest and wealthiest University, and the president, Donald Trump. "Everyone knows that Harvard has lost its way," Trump posted in X. "Harvard is a JOKE, teaches Hate and Stupidity, and should no longer receive Federal Funds."

Harvard is hard hit both financially and otherwise.



They include funding cuts and agreeing to follow new federal oversight rules, including scrutiny of curricula, admissions, and research priorities. Taking legal action, Harvard has initiated court proceedings and received temporary relief when a federal judge suspended the policy that restricted international students from obtaining visas. As to the reason for Trump targeting the Ivy League institutions, the administration has offered various explanations. Some believe that during the 2024 Presidential campaign, Trump pledged to cut funding and accreditation for colleges that propagate "antisemitic propaganda." After he returned to the White House in 2024, Trump launched a

campaign targeting Ivy League schools. The White House says this campaign was prompted by concerns that these schools are not doing enough to deal with antisemitism on their campuses. This concern has grown due to the anti-Israel protests at US universities since the Gaza conflict escalated. It is unclear how long the Trump versus Academia confrontation will continue. It all depends on how long the affected institutions can withstand the pressure. Will it fight back or comply with the White House? Even if the targeted universities refuse to change their policies soon, some will start changing on their own. For example, Michigan, Ohio State, and the University of California

have already made changes, and more to follow. International students hoping to join these elite institutions now face uncertainty and must consider alternatives in other countries. They contribute vast amounts of dollars mainly to the US economy. Some are considering universities in other countries as alternatives. It is said that it takes years to build an institution but only moments to tear one down. The conflict is escalating, and the affected universities may pursue more legal avenues. If it continues, American universities may lose talent, even as the Trump administration doubles down on its actions.

(The writer is a political columnist. Views are personal)

India vs Japan: Growth in numbers, gaps in development

BY
NEERAJ KUMAR,
DR MAYA K

GDP can open doors, but it is the human development indices that reveal whether people are walking through them

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its April World Economic Outlook report projected India, which is currently the fifth-largest economy, will become the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, with an estimated GDP of USD 4.19 trillion. This would place India just ahead of Japan, whose GDP is expected to be USD 4.186 trillion. After achieving this milestone, India will be behind only the United States, China, and Germany.

NITI Aayog Member Arvind Virmani commented that while this is still a forecast, he is confident that India will officially achieve this milestone by the end of 2025, once the full-year GDP data is available. This economic rise may inspire policymakers, economists, and citizens' confidence. Yet, as with all proud narratives, it demands a deeper, more critical examination. Can a country truly be called "developed" or even "genuinely growing" just because it has climbed the GDP ranks? The answer

requires a thorough examination of the realities beyond GDP, realities defined by health, education, equity, employment, and overall human well-being.

Riddled Story Despite the remarkable GDP figures, India's development story remains riddled with contradictions. One of the most pressing issues is poverty. As per the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024, 234 million Indians continue to live in acute poverty, the highest absolute number in the world. Food insecurity is also a chronic problem, with India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index. The label of a booming economy loses meaning when millions still go to bed hungry.

Healthcare remains another weak link in India's development chain. Public expenditure on health is less than 2 per cent of the GDP, resulting in overburdened hospitals, a shortage of medical staff, and high out-of-pocket expenses for patients. The healthcare infrastructure remains alarmingly inadequate for a population of over 1.4 billion.

At the same time, access to quality education remains uneven across rural and urban areas, as well as along gender lines and socioeconomic classes. The literacy rate, at around 77 per cent, lags behind many nations with far smaller GDPs. Inequality, both economic and social, has also intensified. India

ranks 108th in the Global Gender Inequality Index and 126th in the World Happiness Index. The concentration of wealth continues to rise, with a significant portion of national resources and opportunities confined to a small elite.

The labour market reflects this skewed growth. Despite an increase in GDP, employment generation remains weak. Youth unemployment stands at around 23 per cent, and a significant portion of the workforce remains engaged in informal, low-productivity jobs, particularly in agriculture and small-scale industries. This phenomenon, often referred to as "jobless growth," highlights that rising output is not being matched by increasing incomes or quality employment.

GDP only one of the Dimensions

In contrast, Japan, despite being overtaken in GDP, offers a more balanced and mature development profile. Japan's GDP stands at around \$4.1 trillion, but its GDP per capita is nearly USD 34,000, compared to India's approximately USD 2,400 in 2025. Japan ranks 23rd in the Human Development Index, compared to India's far lower rank of 130, and has near-perfect literacy and comprehensive public health systems. While India struggles to meet basic health and education needs, Japan spends around 11 per cent of its GDP on health and has virtual-

ly eliminated extreme poverty.

India is projected to become the world's fourth-largest economy, surpassing Japan, yet vast gaps in health, education, equity, and employment persist. GDP growth alone doesn't ensure development, and India must address its human development challenges to achieve inclusive prosperity.

Japan's model is a contrasting example with important lessons: a slower-growing but inclusive and equitable economy that prioritises the well-being of its citizens. The comparison reinforces the idea that economic size does not automatically mean development. Development is multidimensional, and the GDP is only one of those dimensions. Although there are many differences between India and Japan, this comparison can help clarify the layman's misunderstanding that growth means development.

The IMF has projected India's growth rate for 2025 to be 6.2-6.5 per cent, which is substantial but still below the 8 per cent threshold that economists believe is necessary to replicate the high-growth phases once seen in China and Japan. Moreover, India's capital formation rate, an indicator of investment activity, is only 24 per cent, while the ideal threshold for sustained development is around 32 per cent.

Without strong capital formation, growth may stagnate and

become unsustainable in the long run.

Experts have pointed out another significant fact: India's per capita GDP today is comparable to Japan's in the 1950s. Assuming Japan's economy stagnates, it would still take India approximately 22 years to reach Japan's current level of per capita income. Furthermore, India currently falls behind countries such as Kenya, Morocco, Libya, Mauritius and South Africa in per capita GDP, underlining how far the average Indian is from benefiting equally from national economic growth.

Notable Achievements

While challenges exist, one must also acknowledge the country's notable achievements. One of India's key strengths lies in its domestic consumption, which accounts for nearly 70 per cent of its GDP. This reflects the growing aspirations and spending capacity of a rising middle class that plays a crucial role in stabilising and expanding the economy.

India has also made commendable mark in global trade. According to World Trade Organization (WTO) data, India ranked 7th in global merchandise imports and 14th in leading merchandise exports in 2024. The country is also witnessing a boom in digital infrastructure, fintech, and e-commerce sectors, which have the potential to generate employment opportunities and boost productivity.

Additionally, India continues to lead the world in remittance inflows, receiving over \$100 billion for the third consecutive year, as per the World Bank. These remittances — accounting for over 14 per cent of global flows, serve as a financial push for millions of Indian households, contributing to rural consumption and investment.

Broader Truth

Yet, these positives cannot distract from the broader truth: India's development remains uneven and incomplete. Rising GDP figures are necessary but not sufficient. A truly "growing" economy must also grow in inclusiveness, equity, and human well-being. It must reduce poverty, bridge inequality, empower women, and provide quality education and healthcare for all. A growing economy must ensure job-rich growth and guarantee dignity and opportunity for every citizen.

As India aspires to move to the fourth-largest economy spot, it must also aspire to become a nation where prosperity is measured not just by numbers but by the lives those numbers touch. GDP can open doors, but it is the human development indices that reveal whether people are walking through them.

(Neeraj Kumar and Dr Maya K are Assistant Professors, Department of Economics, CHRIST University, Bengaluru)