I after two and a half decades of adopting the so-called reforms as the growth mantra India needs a food security bill to provide immunity against the problem of hunger to 80 percent of its population. It is time to think anew. Interestingly, such thinking has already started in the US, the land from where these so-called reforms originated. As a broad coalition of organizations and individuals plan New Economy Week during October 12 to 18, 2013, to answer what their economy should look like, it is very important to sit down, listen and contemplate. With imperfections of both capitalism and communism becoming painfully evident, there is reason to look else­where for solutions. Can Gandhism be considered? Many would fret and most would doubt having already dis­missed it as an unworkable proposi­tion. Moreover, the big question is finding out what this Gandhiism is all about when Gandhi himself had proclaimed that there is nothing like Gandhism. The Mahatma had said, “I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and non-violence are as old as hills.” But the answer perhaps lies here - in truth and non-violence. Problems of economies arise less due to economics and more due to psychology. Gandhi was not trained in economics and that was his strength, Judicious. He could think out of the box, that is, pragmatically. Fixation to psychology due to economics and more due to psychol­ogy are all interrelated and must be seen in totality.

The Gandhian idea of trusteeship of the population resides in rural regions. The developmental process without inclusion of rural India is, thus, top-sided and unsustainable. To take care of the marginal, backward and unattended areas, profes­sional Rural Managers are hired to assist the villagers in the process of improv­ement, growth, and expansion, so that the entire nation can accom­plish progress and prosperity. Rural regions, in particular, are often neglected. The field involves merging of management in­dustries pays to shareholders but its effect on the bodies, soul and the spirit of the people employed in it. Supreme con­science, needs to be given to men rather than money. The Gandhian idea of trusteeship was advocated much before the so-called western intellectuals coined expressions like Inclusive Growth and Corporate Social Responsibility. And Gandhi had followers among industrialists, too. People like Ghanshyam Das Birla, Jamnalal Bajaj, and JRD Tata were all practi­tioners of Gandhi’s Trusteehip con­cept. Gandhi’s view of harmony with nature and absence of class conflict is manifested in the modern day idea of the triple P (Planet, People, Profit) and the idea of an agribusiness company. Gandhi, a self-sufficient man, was the first to ask for seeking an unreasonable profit of 75 percent. But that is the problem - Unbridled Profiteering. Greed to the extent of lust. This is the reason behind the economic crises we have been fac­ing post reforms. When value of goods rise abnormally, economy sinks. Gandhian economics doesn’t draw a distinction between economics and ethics. Economists that have their well being of a nation is immoral and subsequently unavailable. According to Gandhi consumer appetite is animal appetite and feeds on meaningless consumption. It is this basic reality that has led to his acceptance. We need to rec­ognize that economic woes are less policy driven and more character driven.

Gandhi advocated spiritual development and harmony with a reflection of material­ism. According to him, the value of an individual’s life is his contribution. Gandhi iden­tifies it pays to shareholders but its effect on the bodies, soul and the spirit of the people employed in it. Supreme con­science, needs to be given to men rather than money. The Gandhian idea of trusteeship was advocated much before the so-called western intellectuals coined expressions like Inclusive Growth and Corporate Social Responsibility. And Gandhi had followers among industrialists, too. People like Ghanshyam Das Birla, Jamnalal Bajaj, and JRD Tata were all practi­tioners of Gandhi’s Trusteehip con­cept. Gandhi’s view of harmony with nature and absence of class conflict is manifested in the modern day idea of the triple P (Planet, People, Profit) and the idea of an agribusiness company. Gandhi, a self-sufficient man, was the first to ask for seeking an unreasonable profit of 75 percent. But that is the problem - Unbridled Profiteering. Greed to the extent of lust. This is the reason behind the economic crises we have been fac­ing post reforms. When value of goods rise abnormally, economy sinks. Gandhian economics doesn’t draw a distinction between economics and ethics. Economists that have their well being of a nation is immoral and subsequently unavailable. According to Gandhi consumer appetite is animal appetite and feeds on meaningless consumption. It is this basic reality that has led to his acceptance. We need to rec­ognize that economic woes are less policy driven and more character driven.

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Meghalaya is blessed with abundant natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, and at the same time the State has been facing formidable challenges on account of its geographical location and its general association with environmental sustainability. The State has set for itself a growth target of 11 per cent in the XII Plan (2012-17) with thrust on reducing poverty; ensuring better livelihood opportunities for its citizens and creating necessary infrastructure for long term sustainable development and utilization of the State’s natural resources for ensuring livelihood security and inclusive growth within the broad framework of sustainable development.

The programme has been designed around four pillars – Knowledge Management, Natural Resource Management, Entrepreneurship Development and Good Governance. A significant feature of this programme is its specific mission mode interventions in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest and Plantations for the state’s natural resources. The programme is people-centric and seeks to bring about a paradigm shift in the development strategy as it moves away from the beneficiary-oriented approach to an enterprise promotion model.

A framework of governance has been created to ensure coordinated implementation of the programme. While the citizens are at the centre of the initiative and are supposed to be the key drivers, the facilitative action on the ground side is being managed with the help of new institutional mechanisms that have been put in place with the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) headed by the Chief Minister for overall policy formulation and oversight; the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) headed by the State Chief Secretary for steering implementation and the Basin Units headed by the District Collectors to ensure delivery of services at the grassroots level. The district collectors also function as the Executive Directors of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority.

India’s long-range ballistic missile program achieves another milestone with repeat launch of Agni 5

Ray Dolby, an American sound wizard died in San Francisco. He has pioneered noise reducing and surround sound audio technologies which are vital to the music and film industry.

Supreme Court has ruled that Nomination paper of candidates seeking to contest election without full disclosure of assets and liabilities.

Japan switches off its last operating nuclear reactor for an inspection, with no date scheduled for a restart.

The programme aims at promoting optimal water resource management and effective water governance by a cross-cutting approach to an enterprise promotion model.

Knowledge is a cross-cutting theme and forms one of the core pillars of the IBDSL. With this in mind, the State government has created knowledge based institutions - Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE), Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG) and Meghalaya Institute of Natural Resources (MINR). These institutions are not only involved in the generation of knowledge but also in creation of actionable knowledge in partnership with the stakeholders. The knowledge accumulated is then used to help the entrepreneurs.

Existing institutions have been re-engineered and new institutions promoted wherever necessary to take up challenges in different related domains.

Meghalaya State Skills Development Society, State Council on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Bio-Resource Development Centre, Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change, etc. have been developed and support implementation of the programme.

The Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre (EFC) has been set up at grass level. In every district of the State are designed as a one-stop-shop for providing various services to potential entrepreneurs. These services include awareness, training and capacity building, credit linkage with banks, providing technology and market access.

Enterprises Resource Persons (ERP) running the EFC is a cadre of dedicated young professionals, who are trained and equipped to understand the entrepreneurial requirements of the partners and to arrange various support services needed by them. The entrepreneurs looking at market access opportunities are encouraged to produce not merely what they can produce but what they can sell for profit. The IBDSL has generated much interest among GoI, the people of the state who perceive themselves as development partners under the aegis of the programme and not merely as beneficiaries. It has also received overwhelming support from various government and non-government organizations as well as multi-lateral institutions.

The (author is CEO, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority. Email id: ceombdma@gmail.com)