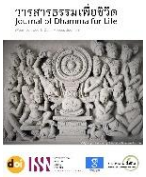
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Gandhian Impression on Modi

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ABSTRACT

In India's extensive and diverse political chronicles, only a select few have wielded an enduring impact comparable to that of Mahatma Gandhi and Narendra Modi. Despite the considerable temporal and ideological distance separating their perspectives and epochs, the style and policies of PM Modi evinces a clear and indelible legacy of Gandhi. PM Modi inaugurated several policies and schemes for the development of Indian people. This paper consists of Gandhian thoughts which have been followed by PM Modi. They also include several schemes which are based on Gandhian thoughts. The notion of "*Swadeshi*" or self-reliance, espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, remains a pivotal facet of India's socio-political and economic landscape under PM Modi's stewardship. PM Modi's government has executed policies and legislations that bolster the "Make in India" campaign and conform to *Swadeshi* principles, intending to foster the growth of domestically produced goods. The *Ayushman Bharat* initiative, which was initiated during Modi's tenure, endeavors to furnish complimentary health insurance to the underprivileged strata of society, with a focus on financial safeguards and preventive healthcare measures. While there may be differing opinions on their legacies but Mahatma Gandhi and PM Modi both have left an indelible mark on India's history and continue to shape the country's future.

Introduction

PM Narendra Modi, who graced the world on September 17, 1950, in Vadnagar, a petite hamlet in Gujarat, India, is unequivocally one of the most distinguished political magnates in the modern-day Indian political arena. His odyssey from an unassuming inception to holding the esteemed position of Prime Minister of India is characterized by an amalgamation of political sagacity, unwavering commitment, and a resolute vision for the nation. There exist two significant dates that hold immense importance in the trajectory of PM Modi's career. Both Modi and Gandhi are nationalists. The only distinction was their respective birth dates. Gandhi gave cleanliness a lot of attention. After taking office in 2014, Modi launched the Clean India mission. Modi prioritized digitalization, demonetization, and law enforcement by cutting out middlemen from the system to eradicate corruption. He also started some welfare programs to raise people's standard of living. Modi has attempted to implement Mahatma Gandhi's calls for equal rights for women, youth, and religious minorities despite the caste system and religious convictions. (Sen, R., 2016) (Varu *et al.* 2016).

While Mahatma Gandhi and PM Narendra Modi are both significant figures in Indian history, they represent different periods and political contexts. Gandhi's legacy is deeply rooted in India's struggle for independence and his philosophy of non-violence, while Modi is a contemporary political leader who has shaped India's political landscape in the 21st century. The views of both leaders may vary, and opinions about them are often shaped by political and ideological perspectives (Ghosh, 2020).

Gandhi's dedication to truthfulness and the use of forceful resistance served as a source of motivation for the Indian struggle for independence, which had limited relevance to Indian politics or society. Despite the possibility of differing viewpoints on their respective legacies, both Gandhi and PM Modi have made an enduring impact on Indian history and are still decisively influencing the fate of the nation (Mishra and Nargunde 2017).

Literature Review

In 2017, Singh and Deepika [6] Examined how India views the regional organization in common and ASEAN specifically under the control of PM Narendra Modi. The base of "Modi's doctrine" appears to be "economic interest," with the superstructure being security and the fight against terrorism, as well as fostering cultural ties and technological cooperation. The conclusion can be drawn from the above observation of India's beginning relationships with its immediate neighbours Bhutan, Nepal, BRICS, and ASEAN

In 2019, Balakrishnan and Jithesh [7] sought to go into great detail about PM Modi's gifted diplomacy during his time as India's prime minister from 2014 to 2019. There are three sections in this essay. A thorough report on the presents that PM Modi gave throughout his international trips was explained in the first part. The study of the primary goals or substance of Modi's "Gifted Diplomacy" was covered.

In 2020, Balasubramanian *et al*. [8] The life and freedom struggle of Mahatma Gandhi are the primary subjects of this essay. This chapter examines the lessons to be learned from a person who was not easy to understand nor immune to failure or wrong, but who nevertheless continues to inspire and fascinate a large number of people. We try to explain the approach to learning that this incredibly astute tactician and strategist put forward. This paper, in this context, is a representation of the entire life and freedom struggle from this point of view.

In 2022, Sud N [9] examined a sub-sub-national district's violently suppressed protest and forcefully promoted industry. Next, I interact with those who observe and occasionally take part in the politics and economics of the Gujarat model in the hinterland of the villages. Deep cracks are shown here, however, by the capitalist development based on insecure labor and jobless growth, as well as by the country of Hindus, which is deeply divided along caste, class, region, and gender lines. Notwithstanding these fissures, growing state authoritarianism and the populist bond with a charismatic leader persist—at least for the time being—in the lack of viable political alternatives.

Compare Gandhi's and Modi's Thoughts

Despite their shared passion for nationalism, the personal approaches of PM Narendra Modi and Mahatma Gandhi were significantly influenced by their distinct historical backgrounds. In 1869, Gandhi was born and played a significant role in the struggle for Indian independence against British colonial rule. His nationalism heavily relied upon acts of civil disobedience and non-violence. On the other hand, Narendra Modi, born in 1950, is a contemporary political leader whose pursuit of India's progress and international recognition prioritizes political and economic nationalism. Due to their disparate birth years, they harbored diverse notions and methodologies in their endeavors to achieve their nationalistic aspirations (Hall, 2017).

Despite their significant differences in ideology, historical context, and leadership style, there are a few common aspects between Mahatma Gandhi and Narendra Modi:

Nationalism

Both Gandhi and Modi share a deep sense of nationalism and love for India. While their expressions of nationalism may differ, they are united in their commitment to the welfare and progress of the country (Hall, 2019).

Emphasis on Cleanliness

Mahatma Gandhi emphasized cleanliness and sanitation, considering it an essential aspect of individual and community well-being. Similarly, Modi launched the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* (Clean India Mission) to promote cleanliness and hygiene across the country (Rana, H. and Sharma 2022).

Mass Appeal

Both leaders have demonstrated a significant mass appeal. Gandhi's ability to connect with the masses, especially through non-violent movements, and Modi's charismatic leadership and effective communication have allowed them to garner widespread support (Mishra, 2018).

Focus on Development

While their approaches differ, both leaders have shown a commitment to the development of the nation. Gandhi focused on rural development and self-reliance, while PM Modi prioritized economic reforms and infrastructure development (Sinha, 2021).

Connection to the People

Gandhi and PM Modi have both tried to connect with the common people. Gandhi's simple lifestyle and accessibility, as well as Modi's efforts to communicate directly with citizens through social media and public addresses, reflect their attempts to establish a direct link with the people (Abi-Habib 2020).

Influence on the Global Stage

Both leaders have had an impact on the global stage, albeit in different ways. Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence influenced global leaders and movements, and PM Modi has actively engaged in international diplomacy to promote India's interests (Schroeder, 2022).

Empowerment of Women

Both leaders have spoken about the empowerment of women. Gandhi advocated for women's rights and their active participation in the independence movement, while Modi's government has launched initiatives like the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign (Sengupta 2019).

While Mahatma Gandhi and PM Modi have different political and philosophical foundations, these common aspects demonstrate some shared values and concerns for the well-being and progress of India and its people. However, it's important to recognize that their methods and specific policy implementations may vary significantly (Sharma *et al.* 2022).

Emphasis on Swadesi (Self-Reliance)

For many years, the concept of "*Swadeshi*," or self-reliance, has played a significant role in India's socio-political and economic landscape. Since Mahatma Gandhi ardently advocated it during the Indian freedom struggle, the concept of "*Swadeshi*" has performed a significant character in India's politics and profitable landscape. It continues to do so in the present day, even under PM Modi's leadership**.** Between regional and international brands, there is perpetual conflict. India is a sizable nation with a sizable population that offers enormous commercial potential to both domestic and foreign businesses. Indians now have access to a wide range of *swadeshi* (local) and *videshi* (foreign) brands as a result of globalization. While some consumers choose local brands over global brands in specific product categories, others favor local brands over global brands overall. Therefore, it is crucial to determine whether consumers favor local or international brands. Under PM Modi, the *Swadeshi* movement in India, which attempts to encourage and promote domestically manufactured items, has experienced a rebirth. During his administration, several programs and laws that support the "Make in India" movement and adhere to the *Swadeshi* principles were implemented (Ruparelia and Sanjay 2015) (Dash 2020).

Make in India

The Make in India program, which was introduced on September 25, 2014, was intended to advance India's position as a major global manufacturing hub and strengthen its manufacturing industry. The main goals are to support indigenous manufacturing and draw in foreign capital to the industry. The tax code has been made simpler, bureaucratic red tape has been reduced, and infrastructure improvements are just a few of the steps the government has taken to make doing business in India easier. The government has set goals to raise the GDP contributions of 25 important industries, including the automotive, textile, and electronics industries, as part of the Make in India project. The project has resulted in job growth and increased exports for the nation. The Make in India project aids in employing India's ever-growing population. India becoming a center for producing a range of commercial goods, and developing the neighborhoods and surrounding areas where the industries would be located. The scheme will increase India's GDP since foreign investments will generate a sizable amount of income. The manufacturing industry is the only focus of the Make in India initiative (Chenoy *et al.* 2019) (Srivastava 2019).

India received $70.97 billion in overall FDI inflows during FY 22–23, including $46.03 billion in FDI equity inflows. India's GDP is expected to grow by 6%. To 6.8% In 2023-24. India moves up 79 spots in the World Bank's 2020 Ease of Doing Business Ranking, from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in 2019. India moved up 41 places in 7 years to take 40th place in the global innovation index. India's total exports (including both merchandise and services) increased by 13.84% over the previous fiscal year to reach $770.18 billion. India has increased its position as the world's second-largest maker of mobile phones from just two plants in 2014. By 2025, India will achieve a $5 trillion economy. India's population is projected to increase by 25.7% between 2011 and 2036, from 121.1 billion to 152.2 billion. The largest tax reform since independence, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), creates a common national market by combining numerous indirect taxes. (Li and Yanfang 2017) (Echeverri-Gent *et al.* 2021).

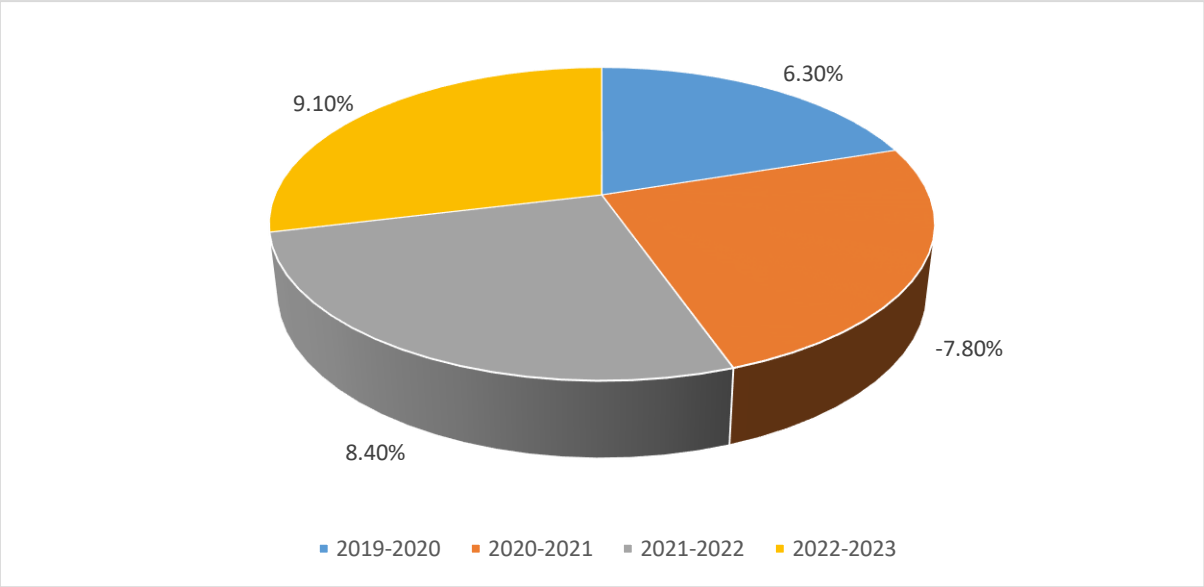


Figure 1 (a): Service Sector Growth

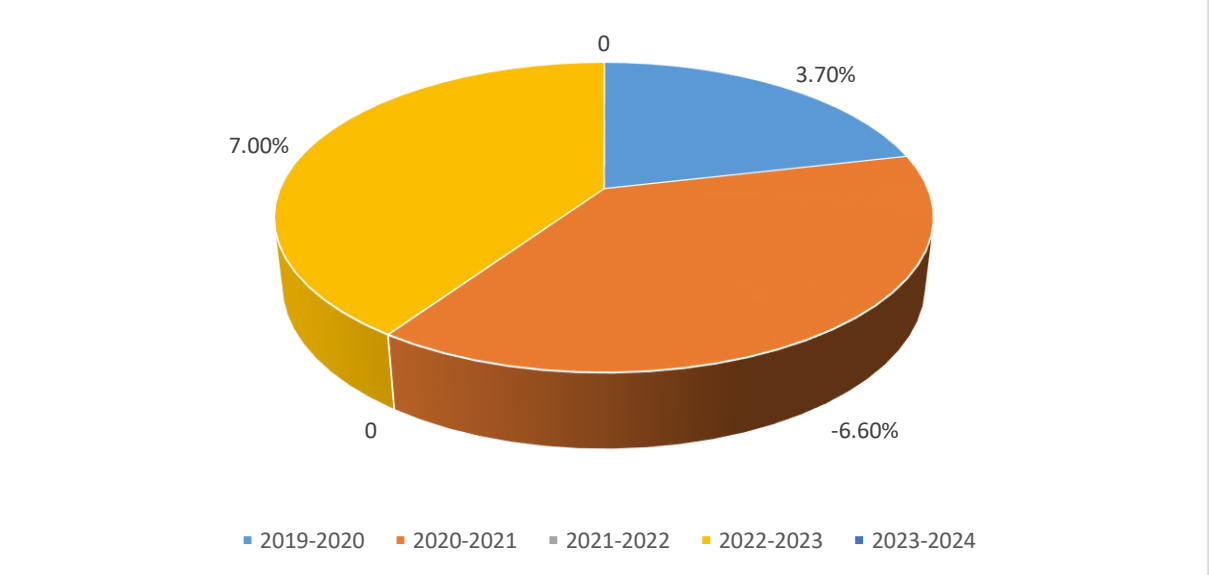


Figure 1 (b): GDP Growth

The prognosticated tangible GDP expansion for FY24 is anticipated to be 6.5 percent, a statistic that bears a striking resemblance to the evaluations furnished by various global institutions including the "World Bank, the IMF (International Monetary Fund), and the ADB (Asian Development Bank)", as well as the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) within India. It is anticipated that during FY24, economic growth will be robust owing to a strong credit disbursal and capital investment cycle, along with the bolstering of corporate and banking sector balance sheets in India. Additionally, the expansion of public digital platforms, as well as innovative calculations such as "PM *GatiShakti*, the National Logistics Policy, and the Production-Linked Incentive schemes" aimed at boosting production outcomes will offer further support to the growth of the economy (Priyadharshini 2018).

Atmanirbhar Bharat

The notion of self-reliance in *Atmanirbhar Bharat* has its genesis in the Gandhian ideology of *Swadeshi*. *Swadeshi* was a concept espoused by Gandhi to promote a robust economy, decentralization of power to rural communities, and promoting localized and lesser industrialization. Gandhi firmly believed that India's economic destiny was intricately linked to the adoption of *Charkha* and *Khadi*. Gandhi was clueless about poverty and unemployment in India. Gandhi firmly believed that mainstream politics should not interfere in village political affairs and placed his trust in indigenous institutions. He identified the devastating release from *Swadeshi* in the financial and manufacturing life as a major contributor to the deep poverty of the masses. He viewed *Swadeshi* not as a boycott movement driven by requital, but as a spiritual precept to be embraced by all. While Gandhi acknowledged that he was not an economist, he had read treaties that suggested that England could readily become a self-sustained country, raising all the creation it needed. He remarked that "had we not abandoned *Swadeshi,* we need not have been in the present fallen state. If we get rid of the economic slavery, we must manufacture our cloth and, the present movement, only by hand-spinning and hand-weaving". (Ghosh and Sudaita 2021) (Dwivedi *et al.* 2021)

"Vocal for Local" is closely associated with the larger *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan*, which entails several economic stimulus programs to encourage independence and strengthen the Indian economy, particularly in the rouse of difficulties like the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has announced some initiatives as part of the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* project, including a production-linked incentive program for many industries, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, and textiles, among others. Additionally, the government has proposed efforts to encourage exports as well as reforms in the agricultural industry. This initiative had both positive and negative impacts such that, the economic stimulus package gave several different economic fields, containing "micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), agriculture, healthcare, and more, much-needed financial support, job creation, and agriculture reforms". (Jain et al. 2022) (Maravi et al. 2022).

Cleanliness, Sanitation, and Gandhi's *Sulabh* Movement

Mahatma Gandhi once expressed his desire for a clean India before striving for independence. The act of manual scavenging has persisted in India since ancient times. Such habits of cleaning excrement with bare hands are considered inhumane. The individuals assigned to this task of cleaning squalid toilets and disposing of human waste are referred to as carnivores and are often addressed as untouchables. In the 1970s, the "*Sulabh* Movement"

was initiated, which resulted in the creation and development of various two-pit-pour flush toilet designs. These designs were subsequently popularized as *Sulabh Shauchalayas* (Toilets). Today, "*Sulabh* serves a daily population of roughly 20 million individuals by constructing 1.5 million household toilets, over 9,000 public toilets, and 20,000 school toilets". *Sulabh* not only fulfilled Mahatma Gandhi's dream of emancipating scavengers from their degrading profession but also provided them with alternative means of livelihood, thereby catering to their comprehensive welfare. As a result, *Sulabh* addresses a wide range of issues about ecological cleaning, people's healthcare, untouchability, social discrimination, and the struggles faced by marginalized communities, including widows (Rodrigues *et al.* 2017) (Pathak *et al.* 2019).

On October 2, 2014, the birth dates of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi, and the *Swachh Bharat Mission* (the Clean India project) were unveiled in New Delhi (Rukmini, 2014). Every person should dedicate 100 hours a year to cleaning, according to Modi. The World Health Organization estimates that inadequate sewerage valued India almost "$54 billion in 2006, or 6.4% of its GDP ("Inadequate Sanitation Costs," 2010)". By establishing a partnership between the national and state governments and the populace, the Clean India project seeks to promote cleanliness and hygiene as well as to end open defecation in India. Under *Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin SBM (G)*, "the nation's 10.9 crore individual household latrines (IHHLs) have been built". The incentive for building IHHL was increased under *SBM (G)* from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 to permit a water repository ability for hand hygiene and toilet cleaning. via a self-sufficient validation office and with World Bank funding to *SBM (G)*, the management of potable water and hygiene conducted three rounds of the "National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) from 2017–18 to 2019–20". The availability of water for toilet use was one of the survey's primary indicators. According to the NARSS 2019–20 data, 99.6% of families with access to toilets also had access to water, and 95.2% of rustic residents who had obtained toilets used them. Additionally, the government started the *Jal Jeevan Mission* in 2019 to give every rustic household an operational household tap connection by 2024 (Singh *et al.* 2018) (Singh, Renu) (Bhanot *et al.* 2017).

Table 1: Toilets Built Under SBM

Targets	Original Targets	Revised Target (Revised in 2019)	Actual Built
Individual HHL	66,42,000	58,99,637	62,60,606
Community and Public Toilets	5,08,000	5,07,587	6,15,864

Table 1 offers valuable insights into the sanitation program's objectives, showcasing both the original and revised goals as of 2019, as well as the actual outcomes of individual household latrines (IHHL) and community/public toilets built. The initial targets aspired to establish 66,42,000 (equivalent to 6.6 million) individual household toilets, however, a revision in 2019 resulted in a reduction to 58,99,637 (equivalent to 5.8 million). In contrast, the number of built individual household toilets exceeded both the original and revised objectives, with a remarkable total of 62,60,606 (equivalent to 6.2 million). Similarly, the original goal for community and public toilets was 5,08,000 (equivalent to 0.5 million)with a slight decrease to 5,07,587 (equivalent to 0.5 million) in the revised plan. Notably, the actual number of built

communities and public toilets surpassed both the initial and revised targets, amounting to a total of 6,15,864 (equivalent to 0.6 million)(Mohapatra, 2019).

Empowerment of Underprivileged Persons

During PM Modi's era, the empowerment of underprivileged persons has drawn both praise and condemnation. It's significant to record that there is an expansive viewpoint on these subjects, and various stakeholders have varied views on the policies and steps implemented by the government in this regard. Modi has implemented various initiatives that aim to empower the underprivileged population, drawing inspiration from the Gandhian ideology.

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Financial inclusion is a procedure that confirms everyone in wealth may simply acquire, utilize, and be a section of the formal economic system. The innovative concept of financial inclusion encourages the adoption of banking practices and catalyzes the eradication of poverty. The government of India took a step in that direction by introducing the *PMJDY.* The program includes more benefits than just opening a bank account, such as a "zero-balance bank account with a RuPay debit card, accidental insurance coverage of 1,00,000 rupees, life insurance coverage of 30,000 rupees for those who open accounts by January 26th, 2015 in addition to the 1,00,000-rupees accidental cover", etc (Sarma *et al.* 2011).

According to the Government of India (GOI), payments made under the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)" must be sent into the accounts of MGNREGA workers in rustic regions held in either banks or post offices (unless exempted). The *PMJDY* program's goal is to make sure that no household is free of a bank account. "There are 9.98 billion MGNREGA worker accounts at banks and post offices. There are 3.66 billion accounts in post offices and 0.75 billion in cooperatives out of this total". All banks cooperated in this way to go toward this road of greater inclusiveness. There are some challenges to implementing the initiative, like private banks imposing hidden fees on the beneficiary, which could make financial inclusion more difficult. There have been several occasions where people have started several accounts at various kinds of banks. Government budgetary arrangements for inducements have not been given, risking the financial stability of the institutions (Shettar and Rajeshwari 2016) (Senapati and Partha Sarathi 2018).

Ayushman Bharat or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

Launched on September 23, 2018, the *Ayushman Bharat* action focuses on supplying free health insurance to economically weaker sections of society to cover their medical expenses (Figure 3.7). The initiative focuses on providing financial protection to families and promoting preventive healthcare measures. The government aims to cover more than 100 million families under the scheme. As part of the *Ayushman Bharat* initiative, the government has launched two components, the Health and Wellness Centres, which seek to provide complete basic healthcare services, and the *PMJAY*, which offers free Medicare reportage of up to 5,00,000 rupees per household per year for secondary and therapy hospitalization. There are some challenges in implementing the *PMJAY*, there is not enough inducement for good tertiary hospitals to sign up for the program also, a low level of knowledge of their rights and eligibility for the benefits are among the challenges of this program. The challenges also included limited ability in some states to implement the system effectively to ensure that the

affiliated hospitals provide high-quality medical treatment (Chandrakant and Lahariya 2020) (Panda and Pradeep Kumar 2019) (Furtado *et al.* 2022).

Stand-Up India

The game-changing "Stand-Up India" scheme, launched by PM Modi on April 5, 2016, aims to encourage self-employment at the basic level for financial authorization and job development. It focuses on utilizing the corporate credit system to broadcast to the under-resourced population, including women and entrepreneurs from organized castes and organized tribes, to provide them the chance to contribute to the country's financial prosperity. via a general network of 1,25,000 bank branches, the program aims to assist at least 250 million borrowers. Stand-Up India Scheme's goal is to help at least one woman borrower and at least one borrower from a scheduled caste (SC) or scheduled tribe (ST) every bank branch of all scheduled commercial banks gets bank loans between one to ten million rupees for starting a new business. The portal offers a digital platform built on three pillars (Handholding assistance, providing financial information, and Guarantee of Credit) to help business promotion for entrepreneurs in the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and women categories (Dutta and Jyotisikha 2018) (Amlathe *et al.* 2017).

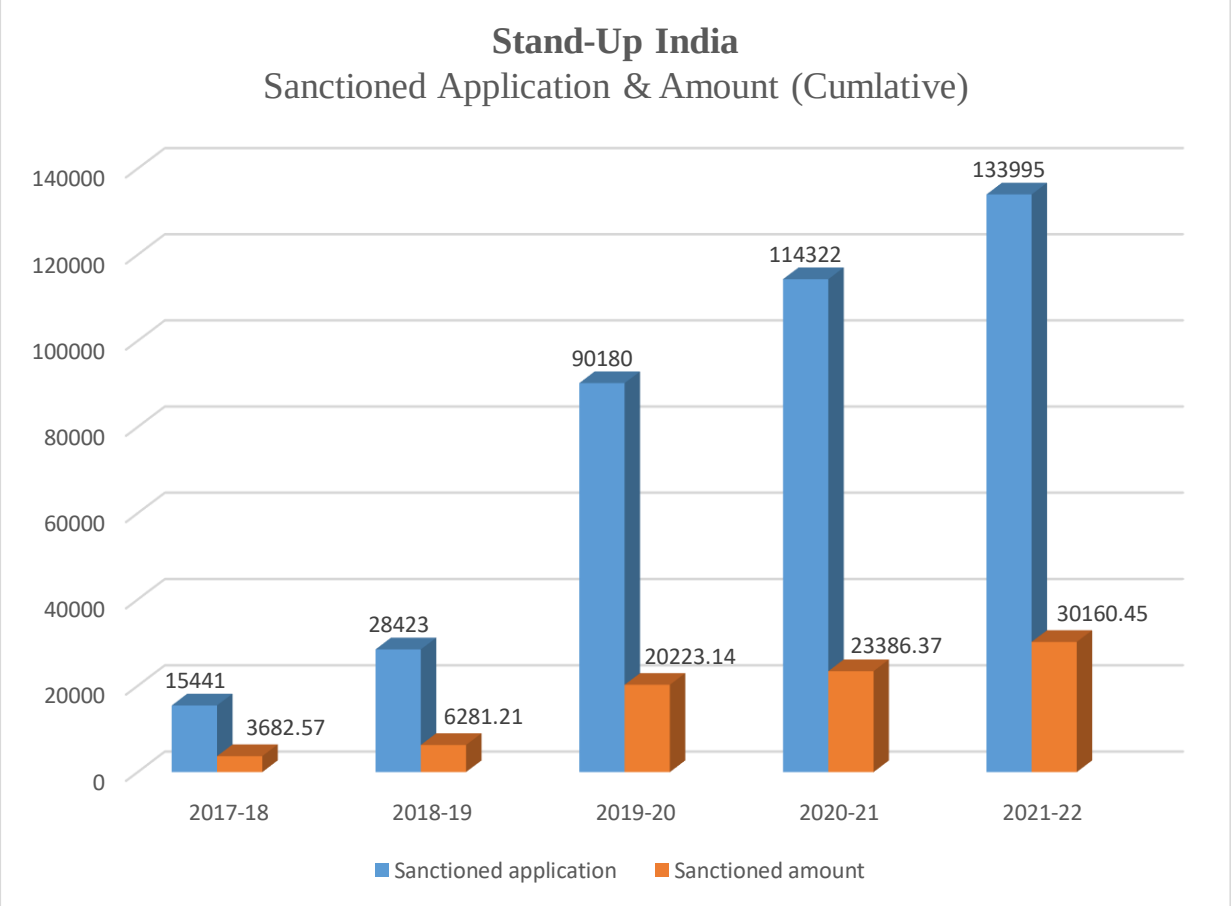


Figure 2: Stand-up India

The Stand-Up India Scheme has successfully reached its 7th year of implementation. The primary focus of the program is to foster economic empowerment and employment generation. Furthermore, the Stand-Up India Scheme has been extended for the entire period of the 15th Finance Commission, which spans from 2020 to 2025 (Manshani *et al.* 2017).

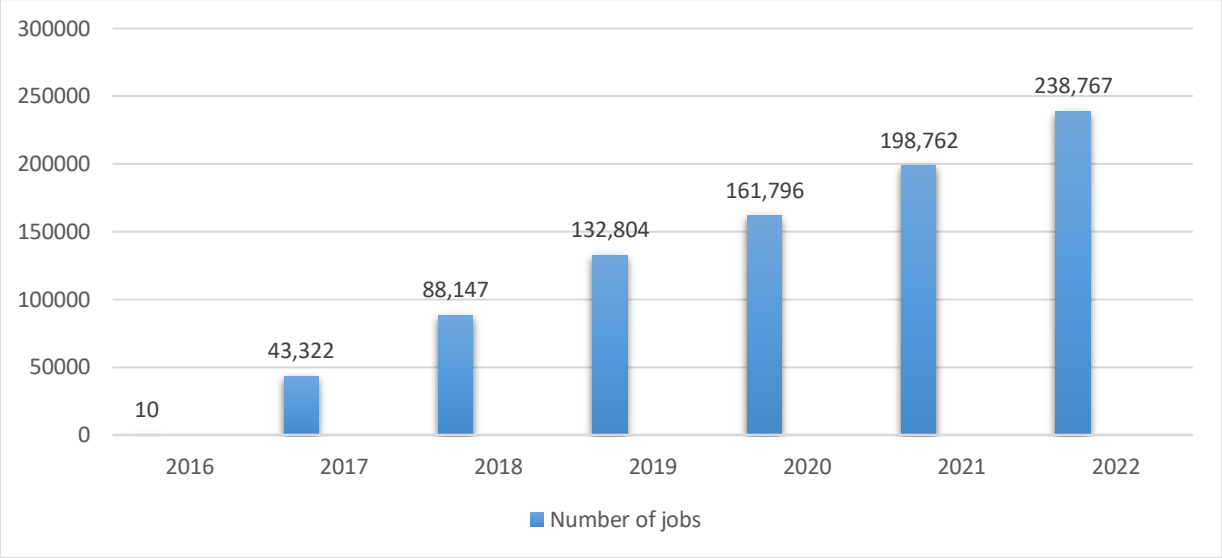


Figure 3: Stand-Up India Achievements till 2022

Figure 3 shows the Stand-Up India's Achievements till 2022. In 2022, there was a recorded escalation in the number of employment opportunities declared by distinguished companies that fall under the Stand-Up India initiative, which is enforced by the central government of the nation, reaching a staggering 238,767 establishments. This represented a notable upswing in comparison to the previous year. Additionally, since the inauguration of the Stand-Up India initiative, the government has declared the inception of approximately 860,000 jobs (Gupta 2022).

Rural Development

PM Modi inaugurated various rural development programs and policies that were influenced by Gandhi's thoughts. These programs seek to advance self-reliance, one of Mahatma Gandhi's basic beliefs, as well as the improvement of rural populations' standards of living.

Gandhi's Khadi Promotion

He promoted the utilization of indigenous resources and the manufacturing and consumption of *Khadi,* or hand-spun and hand-woven cloth, as a means of promoting an independent India. Under Gandhi's guidance, the *Charkha,* or spinning wheel, came to symbolize economic independence and the empowerment of rural populations. It has since become an iconic emblem of self-reliance. Gandhi's advocacy of hand-spun and hand-loomed material for the whole nation can be comprehended via the lens of his philosophical principles and their alignment with *khadi.* His contemplations concerning *khadi* were influenced by diverse ideologies, including the early *Swadeshi* movement, vegans, and worshippers that he encountered in London, as well as the works of Leo Tolstoy and John Ruskin. These components contributed to the formation of his distinctive philosophies and instigated his pragmatic undertakings with *khadi*. Importantly he believed that these initiatives can develop rural areas. The *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a governmental body, was founded in the year 1956 to generate employment opportunities, encourage self-reliance amongst the impoverished, and foster a solid sense of public life in rural areas by consolidating *khadi* and other township trades. It is noteworthy that only the KVIC has the authorization to manufacture the Indian national flag using *khadi*. The KVIC's undertakings involve secondary

khadi creators, safeguarding *khadi's* worth through labeling, and arranging *khadi* fashion shows. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-year progress report published in 2018, "Earlier *khadi* for nation and *khadi* for fashion, now it is becoming *khadi* for transformation". The KVIC foresees *khadi* playing a significant role in metamorphosing rustic manufacturing into a general asset. Although Gandhi's preferred version of *khadi* was white and coarse, the KVIC presently markets *khadi* in various colors and designs. Additionally, they use the term "*khadi*" for other items such as *"khadi* shampoos, *khadi* candies, or *khadi* cosmetics". Thus, *khadi* is emerging as a social economic national brand for contemporary India (Kumar *et al.* 2019) (Thakur, 2020).

Rural Electrification

PM Modi debuted the *Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana*, also known as *Saubhagya*, on September 25, 2017. The total outlay of the project is 162300 million while the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) is Rs. 120 million. The outlay for rural households is 140 million while the GBS is 100 million. For urban households, the outlay is 20 million while GBS is 10 million. There are likely to be 30 million families covered by this program out of the total 40 million un-electrified households. The program will be very helpful for people in their day-to-day lives because it will benefit several industries, including agriculture, health, education, and enterprise (agro-based industry setup). The plan will support both national financial expansion and the development of new jobs. Every unconnected impoverished household is given a free electrical connection as part of the program. However, the consumer is responsible for paying the electricity consumption bill (Jain and Varinder 2018) (Iqbal *et al.* 2021).

Digital India

The goal of the Digital India scheme is to turn the nation into a knowledge economy and a community that is enabled by technology. It was launched on July 1, 2015 by PM Modi. The Digital India action would guarantee that citizens could access government services online. Via this scheme, households in inner-city and rustic places can obtain government opportunities digitally or electronically. The Digital India initiative is built on nine pillars that work together to prepare India for knowledge-based change and to provide the people with excellent governance through coordinated and synchronized interaction with both the central and local governments (Sharma and Jyoti 2016) (Midha and Rahul 2016).

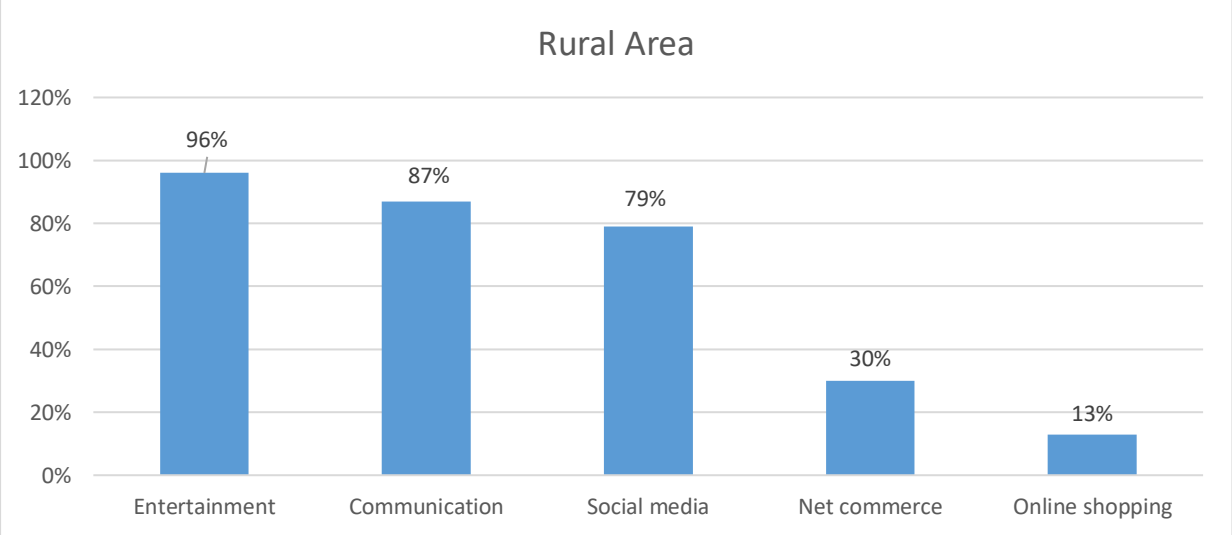


Figure 4 (a): Digital Development in Rural Areas

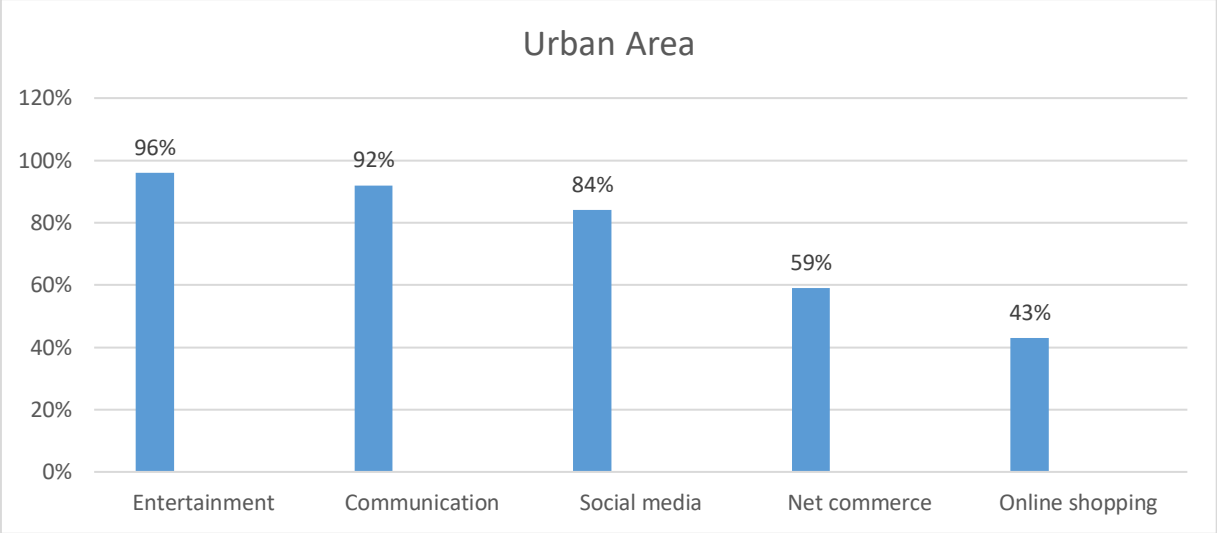


Figure 4 (b): Digital Development in Urban Areas

The number of individuals utilizing the internet in the urban regions of India experienced a rise of 4% in the year 2020, resulting in a total of 323 million users, which represents 67% of the urban populace. The per capita income of India is likely to grow around 70% by 2030 and is expected to reach ₹3,32,180 (equivalent to $4000) from the current levels of ₹2,03,460 (equivalent to $2,450) Telangana currently takes the top spot in the per capita income rankings with ₹2,75,443 (equivalent to $3,360). Following closely are Karnataka with ₹2,65,623 (equivalent to $3,048) Tamil Nadu with ₹2,41,131 (equivalent to $2,903), Kerala with ₹2,30,601 (equivalent to $2,776), and Andhra Pradesh with ₹2,07,771 (equivalent to $2,501) (Jindal *et al.* 2019).

Non-violence and Diplomacy

In the history of the globe, Mahatma Gandhi is regarded as one of the most important proponents of nonviolence *(ahimsa)*. His worldview and way of living were firmly based on peaceful ideals, and he used nonviolent resistance as a powerful tool in the effort to free India of British colonial authority, he had a big influence on diplomacy both before and after India's independence movement. Followed by Gandhi, PM Modi has a significant contribution to non-violence, especially in diplomacy (Jahanbegloo and Ramin 2020).

Gandhi's Non-Violence Movement

Satyagraha, as expounded and employed by Gandhi, can be comprehended on no less than two tiers. Primarily, it pertains to the course of action of cultivating a comprehension of any given circumstance and the perspectives of all parties involved. *Satyagraha*, which can be rendered as "Soul Force" functions in this capacity as a process to substantiate the veracity. In his endeavor to appreciate the soundness of each perspective, Gandhi was cognizant of his limitations as well as those of all human beings who attempt to establish absolute truth. Given these constraints, he believed that we can never be entirely certain whether we, as one faction of a dispute, are accurate in our stance or if our adversaries, on the opposing side of the dispute, own the truth. Therefore, while Gandhi regarded the pursuit of truth as an ongoing facet of life that is never fully attainable in an absolute sense, *satyagraha* represented a crucial orientation to uphold on an individual level. The second interpretation of the term *satyagraha*

is as a constructive strategy for peacebuilding on a grander societal scale; in this context, *satyagraha* denotes a process of civil disobedience or nonviolent resistance (Balasubramanian *et al.* 2021).

Foreign Policy

In May 2017, the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) administration finished three years in power. He is one of the few Indian prime leaders who has invested a lot of time and effort in foreign affairs. Following Basrur (2017), he "began his occupancy as prime minister with an outbreak of foreign visits to huge and trivial powers alike". He has visited more than forty-nine states as of August 2017 in his thirty-one international journeys across six subcontinents, consisting of eight states twice and the USA five times. The new government has implemented numerous actions, such as the "Act East strategy and Neighbourhood First policy", to reenergize India's international relations (Chandra and Vikash 2017), a few noteworthy aspects of Modi's foreign policy are as follows.

First, he views foreign policy as a tool of national interest and uses this presumption to approach competing countries without considering their policy preferences. The past hesitation brought on by interstate rivalry and reluctance to offend their feelings has been replaced by the boldness with the clear aim that relations with India are for mutual benefit and not against their rivals. With a clear vision for shared prosperity and security, he joined the US, Japan, and Australia in the Quad for Indo-Pacific, seeking a common rules-based order for the region that would include all countries in this geographical area on an equal footing. For economic progress, the US, UAE, Israel, and other countries have joined another quad for West Asia (Alden and Aran 2016).

He carries on with the meetings with RIC (Regulated Investment Company), and BRICKS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) concurrently. Closer ties between Russia and the nations of Afghanistan and Central Asia are being developed, and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is being operationalized. India is working to have an alternative to the TAPI (Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline) gas pipeline, in conjunction with Iran, where India has operationalized the Chahar port. Russia's invitation to Prime Minister Modi to be the head of the Eastern Economic Forum in September 2019 demonstrated its desire to include India in its Far Eastern economic agenda. Putin agreed with the Indian concept of the Indo-Pacific region when he recently visited India and agreed to hold consultations on the Indian and Pacific oceans. India is demonstrating its independence in international affairs by purchasing Russian S-400 weapons in defiance of US pressure (Kaarbo, 2015).

Second, he developed the Security and Growth for All Regions (SAGAR) concept, which was grounded in strategic and financial needs. This is a long-term strategy to ensure closer links with India in addition to meeting domestic needs. The *Chanakya* principle, which states that every friendship is motivated by self-interest, seems to have been internalized by him. Without self-interests, friendship is impossible. The truth is bitter. He added Act Far East and Act West Asia policies and redesigned the Look East policy as Act East Asia policy. He stands out as a skilled diplomat because of how he manages the intricate relationships with Saudi Arabia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran. Previously, reluctance prevented India from utilizing its connections with them to their fullest (Morin 2018).

Third, his idea of "effective multilateralism," which acknowledges that the opinions of many people, not just a select few, should influence the global agenda and reflect the reality

of the growth of numerous nations. This also challenges any power's hegemony. Based on this idea, India started to cultivate ties with those nations that were getting less attention, mostly as a result of policy gridlock. In 2015, he upgraded the comprehensive collaboration to a strategic partnership and became the first prime minister to visit Mongolia. The partnership between Vietnam and Modi was upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. In 2017, Modi made the first-ever visit to Israel as the prime minister of India, and as a result, the relationship was elevated to a strategic one. He was the first prime minister to visit the UAE and Canada since 1986. Additionally, he redoubled his attempts to strengthen connections with India's neighbors under the banner of "Neighbourhood First." To address the persistent problem of unfavorable enclaves, he approved the Land Border Agreement with Bangladesh.

Fourth, Modi has made an effort to pragmatically combine national economic goals with international policy. In the face of domestic resistance, he has increased the campaign to attract FDI into India. He is using foreign agreements to help the "Make in India" and *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* because he is pragmatic in a world where protectionism is on the rise and attempts are being made to weaponize interdependence. India now has trade agreements with over 50 nations that grant it privileged market access and economic cooperation. FTAs are currently being negotiated with Australia, the United Arab Emirates, and the European Union.

Fifth, he audaciously exploits the Indian diaspora to gain influence abroad, elevating their stature to that of significant political players in the host nations. Sixth, he not only cancelled the nuclear threat from Pakistan but also demonstrated that India had transcended the strategic constraint that had previously limited its position in terms of national security by punishing Pakistan for its misdeeds, as demonstrated by the surgical strikes and the Balakot air strike (Wehner, 2020).

Indian Foreign Policy in 2023

Strategic Autonomy: India still places a high priority on pursuing its national interests and maintaining its strategic autonomy. It aims to continue making independent foreign policy decisions while interacting with different nations and superpowers.

Indo-Pacific Engagement: India aspires to strengthen its ties with nations in the Indo-Pacific area and accords great importance to this region. It seeks to promote open trade, freedom of navigation, and an order based on norms throughout the Indo-Pacific region. India's dedication to the security and stability of the area is demonstrated by its involvement in programs like the Quad, which brings together Australia, Japan, the United States, and India.

Regional Cooperation: India is still committed to promoting regional cooperation throughout the wider neighborhood and in South Asia. It seeks to advance people-to-people interactions, economic integration, and connectivity via organizations like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Nonetheless, there are still issues with addressing political divides and settling conflicts between the nations in the region (Wojczewski, 2023) (Rathbun and Srinivasan Rathbun 2023).

Economic Diplomacy and Global Trade: India still regards economic diplomacy as a top priority. The administration wants to increase exports, draw in foreign investment, and fortify its economic connections with nations all over the world. It actively pursues free trade agreements (FTAs) with other nations and areas and participates in multilateral trade discussions, notably through the WTO.

Security Challenges: Cyber threats, territorial disputes, and cross-border terrorism are just a few of the security issues India must deal with. It still places a high priority on intelligence sharing, counterterrorism initiatives, and defense cooperation with allies. To address security concerns, initiatives such as improved border control, defense force modernization, and investments in cybersecurity infrastructure are being undertaken.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development: India is steadfast in its resolve to combat climate change and advance sustainable development. It strives for resource efficiency, climate resilience, and clean energy transitions while striking a balance between its developmental aims and climate goals. In this context, international cooperation, technological transfer, and capacity building are still essential (Roy, 2023).

Emerging Technologies: India is aware of the importance of cutting-edge technology like internet connection, space exploration, and artificial intelligence. It seeks to use these technologies for social development, governance, and economic prosperity. Effective use of these technologies requires international partnerships, research collaborations, and regulatory frameworks.

Diaspora Engagement: India cherishes its diaspora and aims to strengthen relationships with Indian populations living abroad. In addition to facilitating remittances and utilizing their knowledge for economic and cultural diplomacy, the government tries to allay their worries. Relationships with the diaspora are strengthened by initiatives like the *Pravasi Bharatiya Divas* (Adesina, 2017).

Conclusion

The governance of PM Modi has demonstrated a resolute influence of Mahatma Gandhi's principles. The notion of "*Swadeshi*" which Gandhi fervently advocated for, has remained a significant factor in India's socio-political and economic landscape under Modi's judicious leadership. The administration of Modi has implemented various programs and laws that endorse and uphold the "Make in India" movement while adhering to the principles of *Swadeshi*, to promote domestically manufactured items. Notably, the *Ayushman Bharat* initiative, introduced during Modi's tenure, endeavors to deliver free health insurance to economically scrawnier units of society, drawing inspiration from the esteemed Gandhian ideology.

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