

Course correction – Stalemate at WTO

U.S. Obstructionism has worsened the developed developing countries divide

The 11th **biennial** ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation ended in a **stalemate**, with countries divided along industrial and developing lines. India is seeing the **outcome** as a partial success; none of its "**offensive**" interests were achieved, but its "**defensive**" interests remain protected. While India's push to ensure a **consensus** around a 'permanent solution' to the public **stockpiling** of food for food security purposes was **thwarted** by the U.S., the "peace clause", under which countries would not **lodge** complaints against developing country **subsidies** to meet their food security needs, remained in place. The failure of industrial countries to fast track e-commerce talks, and commitments that reductions in fishing subsidies would not be discussed at least until the next ministerial in 2019, are being seen by India as points in its favour. The **rift** between advanced economies and the rest was **apparent**. Industrial countries have been keen on moving the agenda forward from development, which was the stated focus of the Doha Round that began in 2001. Developing countries want Doha Round commitments to be fulfilled before topics of interest to the West such as e-commerce and market access for small enterprises – are discussed. The U.S. has said it wants to clarify its understanding of "development", and **contended** that members were using it to gain exemptions from rules, and that some of the richest countries (**presumably** in **absolute** and not per capita GDP terms) were claiming this status. It also issued a joint statement with the European Union and Japan, aimed primarily at China, on trade-distorting practices such as over capacity and **mandatory** technology transfer policies, while India and China submitted a proposal to end the trade distorting farm subsidies of Western nations.

President Donald Trump's **disdain** for **multilateral forums** and agreements which he sees as opportunities for countries to take advantage of America, was reflected by Lighthizer left before the conference concluded, leaving a leadership **vacuum** that his EU counterpart, Cecilia Malmstrom, unsuccessfully tried to fill. In fact, since Mr. Trump assumed office, the administration has blocked the reappointment of judges to the **appellate** body of the WTO despite the U.S. being a frequent user of the dispute **resolution** mechanism, India rightly argued that while its GDP may be growing, the country has hundreds of millions living in poverty and without food security. While India can, and must, develop a **multipronged** approach to end hunger, it is correct to seek clarifications that its **sovereign** right to provide subsidies for food security is not compromised by the WTO. What has become clear in Buenos Aires is that India cannot rely on the Trump administration for support on crucial trade issues at multilateral forums.

WORD LIST

1. **Biennial** (adj) : taking place every other year.
(n) (of a plant) taking two years to grow from seed to fruition and die.
Synonym : flower, grass, herb, seedling, shrub, tree, vine, weed, perennial
2. **Stalemate** : (deadlock)
Synonym : delay, gridlock, impasse, standoff, standstill, arrest, draw, pause.
3. **Outcome** : (consequence, effect)
Synonym : conclusion, event, fallout, issue, reaction, result

4. **Offensive** : (disrespectful, insulting, displeasing)
synonym : abhorrent, abusive, annoying, distasteful, embarrassing, horrible, irritating, objectionable, obnoxious, outrageous, repugnant, repulsive, rude, shocking
5. **Defensive** : (Protective, watchful)
synonym : opposing, averting, conservative, foiling, preservative, preventive, thwarting.
6. **Consensus** : (general, agreement)
synonym : accord, consent, harmony, unanimity, unity, concord
7. **Stockpile** : (Supply)
synonym : accumulation, build up, cache, hoard inventory, nest egg, reserve, stash, stock
8. **Thwart** : (stop, hinder)
synonym : circumvent, counter, curb, defeat, foil, frustrate, impede, obstruct, oppose, prevent, stymie.
9. **Lodge** : Present (a complaint, appeal, claim, etc) formally to the proper authorities.
synonym : submit, register, enter, place, advance, lay, tender, proffer
10. **Subsidies** : (money given to help another)
synonym : aid, allowance, appropriation, assistance, bonus, contribution, endowment, gift, grant, premium, support, scholarship, payment, pension)
11. **Rift** : (Break, crack)
synonym : breach, fissure, flaw, gap , split, cleft, chink, interruption, rima.
12. **Apparent** : (seeming, not proven real)
synonym : possible, probable, supposed, credible, likely, plausible, semblant, spacious.
13. **Contended** : (complete, fight)
synonym : Argue, confront, cope, dispute, go after, grapple, meet, oppose, push for, resist, vie
14. **Presumably** : (Likely, reasonably)
synonym : apparently, doubles, probably, seemingly, supposedly, surely, assumably, credible, hypothetically.
15. **Absolute** : (without limit)
synonym : complete, full, infinite, outright, pure, sheer, simple, unconditional, unlimited, unqualified, utter, entire, total
16. **Mandatory** : (Required, necessary)
synonym : binding, compulsory, essential, imperative, indispensable, involuntary, obligatory, requisite.
17. **Disdain** : (hate, indifference)
synonym : antipathy, arrogance, aversion, contempt, derision, dislike, hatred, pride, ridicule, scorn.
18. **Multilateral** : (agreed upon or participated) by three or more parties, especially the governments of different countries.
19. **Forum** : (Meeting)
synonym : conference, convention, gathering, seminar, symposium, conclave, congregation.
20. **Vacuum** : (emptiness)
synonym : gap, void, exhaustion, nothingness, rarefaction space.

21. **Appellate** : (especially of a court, law)
synonym : concerned with or dealing with applications for decisions to be reversed.
22. **Resolution** : (determination, strong will)
synonym : Decision, settlement, verdict
23. **Multi-pronged** : (having several distinct aspects or elements/having several prongs)
24. **Sovereign** : (dominant, effective)
synonym : Absolute, autonomous, unlimited, imperial, independent.

Course correction – All gore

Regulating jallikattu remains an impossible challenge for district authorities in Tamil Nadu

With animal rights activists at the head of the campaign against jallikattu, more attention seems to have been paid to cruelty to the bulls than the **inherently** dangerous nature of the bull taming event, that puts both spectators and participants at risk. Two **onlookers** have died in the space of two days in the jallikattu events in Palamedu and Avvarangadu in Tamil Nadu as the barricades separating the spectators from the arena were **inadequate**. Two others were killed in the manjuvirattu (a variant of jallikattu) at Siravayal when the bulls were **unleashed** outside the **earmarked arena**, a violation of due procedure. Clearly the safety arrangements **monitored** by the district administration at these annual events in the Pongal Season failed to prevent death and injury. With some of the events inducting more than 400 bulls and almost twice as many **tamers**, jallikattu has become a disorderly spectacle, making a **mockery** of even well laid out plans. The Animal Welfare Board of India, which was earlier in the **forefront** of documenting instances of mismanagement in the organising of jallikattu events, seems to have shifted its **stance** with a change of office bearers. Other than spotting some "small mistakes" and "human errors", the AWBI team's convener, S. K. Mittal, found little **amiss** in the Palamedu event. The concern, instead, was on preserving "native breeds" of bulls. After last year's protests against the Supreme Court ban on jallikattu, when thousands of people gathered in public places in Tamil Nadu demanding a revival of the sport, the authorities have been **wary** of **condemning** bull taming during Pongal. They now speak the language of custom and tradition, one that is similar to that of the jallikattu enthusiasts.

When the Supreme Court banned jallikattu on the basis of submissions made by the AWBI, which recorded instances of cruelty to animals in regulated events, it did so on the ground that regulations were not working. Following public protests and political pressure, and on the strength of hurriedly drafted legislation, jallikattu is now back on the Pongal calendar. But nothing much has changed on the ground. Of course, participants and bulls are screened before being allowed into the arena. But the bulls do not **heed** the barricades that are meant to **fence** off spectators from the arena. Also, there is the risk of hyper excited **miscreants** releasing the bulls outside the arena: this is what happened in Siravayal. District authorities have so far failed to find better ways to regulate the events but more than the size of an event, the scale is the challenge. In short, there are too many events in too many places within a period of a few days, making regulation next to impossible. It is one thing to have well regulated jallikattu. But we are far from staging it in a manner that leaves nothing to chance and that is insured against damage **wreaked** by a **rampaging** bull.

WORD LIST

1. **Inherently** : (innately)
Synonym : constitutionally, genetically, intrinsically, naturally, congenitally, natively
2. **Onlooker** : (Person observing an event)
Synonym : bystander, observer, sightseer, spectator, viewer, watcher, beholder, eyewitness, looker on
3. **Inadequate** : (defective, insufficient, incompetent)
Synonym : deficient, faulty, lacking, meagre, poor, scarce, skimpy, unequal, weak
4. **Unleash** : (let loose)
Synonym : discharge, free, release, vent
5. **Earmark** : (reserve)
Synonym : allocate, designate, set aside, label, maintain, name, slot, tab, tag
6. **Arena** : (building or enclosure for entertainment or sports)
Synonym : field, gym, gymnasium, park, ring, rink, square, stadium, stage
7. **Monitor** : (listen, watch carefully)
Synonym : audit, check, control, follow, keep an eye on, observe, oversee, scan, supervise, survey, track
8. **Tame** : (adj. Tamer, tamest) (changed from the wild or savage state; domesticated)
Example : a tame bear.
9. **Mockery** : (joke, parody) (insult, disrespect)
Synonym : farce, sham, travesty, butt, caricature, deception, imitation, jest, mimicry, mock spoof.
10. **Forefront** : (Prominence)
Synonym : Cutting edge, fore, leading edge, limelight, vanguard, beginning, foreground, front, lead
11. **Stance** : (position, posture)
Synonym : attitude, posture, stand, viewpoint
12. **Amiss** : (wrong, defective)
Synonym : awry, improper, untoward, confused, crooked, erring, erroneous, faulty

13. **Wary** : (careful, cautious)
Synonym : attentive, circumspect, considerate, distrustful, frugal, leery, prudent, suspicious, vigilant, watchful, alert, cagey, canny
14. **Condem** : (blame, convict)
Synonym : castigate, censure, chide, criticize, decry, denounce, punish, sentence, adjudge, belittle, damn, deprecate
15. **Heed** : (care, thought)
Synonym : attention, application, carefulness, caution, cognizance, concentration, concern, consideration, deliberation, heedfulness.
16. **Fence** : (barrier used to enclose a piece of land)
Synonym : barricade, block, dike, net, rail, railing, roadblock, wall.
17. **Hyper** : (as in active, anxious, beyond, distressed)
Synonym : aggressive, alive, bold, busy, determined, diligent, dynamic, eager, energetic, engaged, enthusiastic, forceful, intense, keen, lively, quick, ready, resolute.
18. **Miscreant** : (evil, immoral)
Synonym : criminal, degenerate, reprobate, corrupt, depraved, infamous, rascally
19. **Wreak** : (force, cause)
Synonym : bring about, inflict, unleash, wreck, create, effect, execute, exercise
20. **Rampage** : go crazy; storm
Synonym : rage, tear, run wild, run riot, run amuck

SOME IMPORTANT ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

PHRASE	ONE WORD
1. A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body	Drove
2. A small fleet of ships or boats	Flotilla
3. A small growth of trees without underbrush	Grove
4. A community of people smaller than a village	Hamlet
5. A group of cattle or sheep or other domestic mammals	Herd

6. A large group of people	Horde
7. A temporary police force	Posse
8. A large number of fish swimming together	Shoal
9. A strong and fast-moving stream of water or other liquid	Torrent
10. The medieval forerunner of chemistry	Alchemy
11. A person who presents a radio/television programme	Anchor
12. One who studies the evolution of mankind	Anthropologist
13. A person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft	Astronaut
14. The scientific study of the physiology, structure, genetics, ecology, distribution, classification, and economic importance of plants	Botany
15. A person who draws or produces maps	Cartographer
16. A person who writes beautiful writing	Calligrapher
17. A person who composes the sequence of steps and moves for a performance of dance	Choreographer
18. A person employed to drive a private or hired car	Chauffeur
19. A person who introduces the performers or contestants in a variety show	Compere
20. A keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection	Curator
21. The branch of biology concerned with cyclical physiological phenomena	Chronobiology
22. A secret or disguised way of writing	Cypher
23. The study of statistics	Demography
24. The use of the fingers and hands to communicate and convey ideas	Dactylogy
25. A person who sells and arranges cut flowers	Florist
26. A line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor	Genealogy
27. The therapeutic use of sunlight	Heliotherapy
28. The art or practice of garden cultivation and management	Horticulture
29. One who supervises in the examination hall	Invigilator

30. The theory or philosophy of law	Jurisprudence
31. A person who compiles dictionaries	Lexicographer
32. The scientific study of the structure and diseases of teeth	Odontology
33. One who presents a radio programme	Radio Jockey
34. The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing	Rhetoric
35. The branch of science concerned with the origin, structure, and composition of rocks	Petrology
36. One who study the elections and trends in voting	Psephologist
37. An artist who makes sculptures.	Sculptor
38. The scientific study of the behaviour, structure, physiology, classification, and distribution of animals	Zoology
39. A collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people	Archives
40. A large cage, building, or enclosure for keeping birds in	Aviary
41. A building where animals are butchered	Abattoir
42. A place where bees are kept; a collection of beehives	Apiary
43. A building containing tanks of live fish of different species	Aquarium
44. A place or scene of activity, debate, or conflict	Arena
45. A collection of weapons and military equipment	Arsenal
46. An institution for the care of people who are mentally ill	Asylum
47. A hole or tunnel dug by a small animal, especially a rabbit, as a dwelling	Burrow
48. A collection of items of the same type stored in a hidden or inaccessible place	Cache
49. A public room or building where gambling games are played	Casino
50. A large burial ground, especially one not in a churchyard	Cemetery
51. A room in a public building where outdoor clothes or luggage may be left	Cloakroom
52. A place where a dead person's body is cremated	Crematorium

53. A Christian community of nuns living together under monastic
vows Convent
54. Nursery where babies and young children are cared for during the
working day Creche
55. A stoppered glass container into which wine or spirit is decanted Decanter
56. A large bedroom for a number of people in a school or institution Dormitory
57. The nest of a squirrel, typically in the form of a mass of twigs in
a tree Drey
58. A room or building equipped for gymnastics, games, and other
physical exercise Gymnasium
59. A storehouse for threshed grain Granary
60. A large building with an extensive floor area, typically for housing
aircraft. Hangar

***"You can't have a better
tomorrow if you're still thinking
about yesterday."***

Charles F Kettering