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Special Message

## **A CASE FOR THE 'NOT RICH'**

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Since the French Revolution, there have been two sections acknowledged in the modern history as distinct classes, the bourgeois and the proletariat, the haves and the have notes. The so called middle class have been rather neglected in the political economics. The French Revolution and later the Marxism both put this significant class, which contributed to social economics, at a discount. The contributions of the 'not rich' have been tremendous in any period of the history, but hardly acknowledged. So has been the planning of the governments. The 'not rich' have seldom been directly addressed in any of the plans.

The contributions of the 'not rich' in nation building in economy and political organisation need not be overemphasised. It is mostly taken for granted in any socio-economic planning and the trickle-down effect is supposed to take care of them in any economic reform

### **The Pandemic and the Not Rich**

In this pandemic all the governmental effort of social concern has been the labour rehabilitation, to put it briefly. The return of the migrant labour, the provision of food and shelter on the one hand and bringing the Industry on its legs have been engaging attention of powers that be as well as the fourth estate of Media.

Now look at the contributions of 'Not Rich' in this time of great upheaval. Millions of the 'not rich' have helped the men in need by food, grains, money without caring

for publicity. They are just motivated by sheer humanism. What is worrying is that this section of significant majority has been at a discount in policy formulation and mitigation. All limitations put in place to contain, effect this section negatively the most, be it small traders, service class most. There has been no effort to mitigate the problems that this section faced

It is high time this 'not rich' is placed at the centre of political and economic planning and make them feel that they are also acknowledged as a significant section in consideration and not 'trickledown effect' section. There have been no consultative group of this section as contrasted to labour unions of FICCI CII etc.

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