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Essays

DEMONETISATION

Executing ideas that haven't crossed your mind is an apt phrase for our PM Narendra Modi, whose out of the box ideas for the last two years leave people swooning and opposition fuming but his "who cares" attitude, when it comes to nation, has garnered enormous support as well as acrimonious criticism at the same time. From Swatch Bharat Abhiyan to Make in India and then to Digital India, his ideas won both laurels and criticism but suddenly like a bolt from the blue for many Demonetisation appeared out of the blue.

On 8th November 2016, Mr. Modi announced on all national television channels that ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 currency notes would not be legal tenders from midnight. Like a thunderbolt, it struck many, from tax evading businessmen and corrupt officers stashing money in their lockers to terror funding organizations causing bloodshed and massacre with help of fake Indian currency and black money. Demonetisation jolted the nation out of its slumber after decades.

Demonetisation is the act of stripping a currency unit of its status as legal tender. The Union (Parliament) has the sole power to make laws regarding currency, coinage, legal tender and foreign exchange under entry 36 of first list of schedule 7 of the constitution. Demonetisation took place in India in 1976 as well as in 1978 when ₹ 10,000 notes were demonetised along with ₹ 1000 in 1954 and along with ₹ 1000 and ₹ 5000 by the Morarji Desai Government in 1978. This is the third time, similar decision has been taken.

The decision of Demonetisation was taken mainly because of three reasons. The first one was to tackle black money, the second was to check corruption and cash circulation and the third was to stop terror funding. If these problems are considered in as grave manner as they really are, this move had in fact been due for a long time. In India, all sections have been accustomed to using cash for all petty transactions and even high value transactions for a long time. This has resulted in a parallel economy and has caused inflation and grave problems like insurgency, black marketing, terrorism etc. Inflation has sent the price of land and building sky-rocketing and owning a house has become a distant dream for a common man.

This weapon of Demonetization shall be used to fight against undisclosed income which is converted into assets like gold and real estate. Government officers have their palm greased and the money find its way to properties usually benami. Within days on his decision on Demonetisation, our PM attacked benami properties. These properties are those that are bought by people with black money on fictitious names or names of other people but enjoyed by the black money holders. Under the Benami Transaction Prohibition Act 2016, a transaction is termed benami, if a property is owned by one and paid by another. The act prohibits recovery of the property held benami from benamidaar by the real owner. Also benami properties are liable to be confiscated by the government.

Demonetisation has severely attacked terrorism too. Where earlier the anti-national elements had a free run through India's security apparatuses, now the absence of cash will hit all terror activities that thrive on black money and fake notes for their survival. Lack of hawala transaction will hit activities of Maoist and other insurgent groups too as the stocked currency has become useless and the availability of new high-value notes is not in abundance.

Demonetisation though has multifaceted positive effects on the health of our country yet it brought hardships in the life of the common man. While black money hoarders and tax evaders are finding ways to make their black money white; a common man is still standing in long queues wasting thousands of productive hours. Besides this, the black money stashed in terms of gold, properties, foreign assets, foreign currencies and in foreign banks are still out of purview. The large fishes are at large while the small fry has been trapped. Several labourers and hawkers have lost their livelihood as there is no cash to pay them. A daily wager committed suicide as he wasn't getting work and a few old and feeble died while waiting for their turn in queue.

No pain, No gain may be the right phrase to sum up this discussion on demonetisation. With a windfall of approximately ₹ 12 Lakh crore back to the banks and people's support to this move of cleaning the system, Mr. Modi is raring to go ahead. Only time will tell us how this step has been taken by the history of India. Of course the government, its spokesperson and pro-demonetisation economists constantly speak of intangible long term benefits such as a move to a cashless economy and widening the tax base while the analysts are asking, "Did the achievement of this whole process merits the pain and disruption caused by the demonetisation exercise?"

MAKE IN INDIA

Childhood memories are engraved in our mind, heart and soul. Some lines stay there forever and one was 'Made in India'. Usually on most of our things, we had this line printed and then came a time when we grew up. We then got coloured in the culture of malls and international brands and then 'Made in UK', 'Made in USA' and certain international brands superseded 'Made in India'. The youths today are flamboyant and like to show off the tags of international brands on their shirt, jeans, and jackets and on every small thing they buy or use. Suddenly, on 25th September 2014 the manufacturing sector of India was taken by storm when our PM Narendra Modi launched the Make in India programme.

The 'Make in India' has not only its Tense changed, but also the attitude. This initiative 'Make in India' emphasizes to transform India into a global manufacturing hub. It is a powerful galvanizing call to business leader of the world to come and invest in India. This slogan is an inspiring call to all global business leaders by the government of India with a promise to facilitate the growth of the companies they bring into India.

The logo of 'Make in India' a lion made of gear wheels, reflecting the government's vision of manufacturing India. This initiative is based on 4-pillars: - New processes that would replace outdated policies, decade old long procedures and red tapism, new infrastructure that will comprise smart cities with state-of-the-art-technology, identification of new sector to attract FDI in them and a new mindset where the government won't be a regulator but rather a facilitator to woo global manufacturing giants to invest in India.

Make in India is the single largest manufacturing initiative undertaken by a nation in recent history. It has been built by collaborative effort. The department of industrial policy and promotion initiated this process by inviting participants from union ministries, secretaries and various knowledge partners. Various sectors have been opened up for investment and sectors like defence, railways and space have also been open for FDI.

Make in India has to be a movement rather than an initiative to be successful in a policy-ridden country. It has to be beyond full-page coloured advertisements. It must be informative and must inspire and infuse confidence in the business world, inspiring them to become potential partners of the Indian business communities and reforms. Make in India till now has been lauded by the manufacturing world. The government within a short span of time has replaced obsolete obstructive framework of the past and has replaced it with user-friendly system to drive investment and increase in FDI. Till March 2016, 44% (percent) increase in FDI equity inflows was seen. The rise

in FDI points towards stronger investors' interest in India on the back of robust economic growth. Higher inflows also suggest that the government's liberal policies are bearing fruits.

Today India's credibility is stronger than ever. There is a visible enthusiasm, momentum, energy and raring to go attitude in the business world. India has opened its investment doors and world's largest democracy is well on its way to become world's most powerful economy.

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

“One country two laws”, two ways to treat the citizens of the same nation, weird, shocking but true. Welcome to India, a country ruled by the constitution of India, different Acts enacted by Parliament as well as very old Personal Laws. A need for single law for the whole of nation was felt while making the constitution itself and article 44 of the constitution itself says that the state shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India.

Uniform Civil Code means that all citizens of India will be governed by the same set of secular civil laws in matters of marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption, inheritance etc. It is an irony that on one hand a Hindu woman enjoys the complete right of being the single soul-mate of her husband as per Hindu Marriage Act, Muslim women on the other hand don't have this privilege. While a Hindu male is punished with an imprisonment of seven years if he errs in bringing in a second wife, a Muslim male can have 4 wives at one time. Getting divorced too is not that easy if you are a Hindu but Muslims it is as easy as uttering the word “Talaq” thrice to your wife, no matter from where. Similarly whereas Hindus have a comprehensive Act enacted on adoption this concept is not recognized by the personal laws of Christians and Parsees.

In 1985, the Supreme Court reminded the Parliament in very strong terms to frame a Uniform Civil Code in Shah Bano case. In this case a very poor Muslim woman claimed maintenance from her husband u/s 125 of CRPC, after she was divorced by her husband. The Supreme Court held that she did have such a right and observe that even the Quran imposed an obligation on a Muslim husband to make a provision for his divorced wife. The response to this judgment was strong and reactionary. Strong protests and disturbance erupted and the anger flared up. To mollify the anger of the minority, the govt. led by Prime Minister Late Rajeev Gandhi immediately sprung into the action and the Parliament passed the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights in Divorce) Act 1986, which nullified the decision of SC passed in Shah Bano's case. The second case when the SC again strongly reminded the parliament the need of Uniform Civil code was in Sarla Mudgal vs. Union of India, when in question on the legality of the second marriage of a Hindu husband after getting converted into Islam was in question. The court decided against the legality of such marriage and strongly recommended the necessity of the Uniform Civil Code.

Uniform Civil Code is guided by the basic ideology of equality and equal protection of laws enshrined in our constitution but this issue has become controversial because of two reasons. Firstly it touches the personal laws of different religions and secondly because different political parties use it for their political mileage and make it more controversial and then an unending acrimonious debate on this issue starts.

One must understand that Uniform Civil Code is not a weapon directed against any particular community. It is simply a code that puts all the citizens of India irrespective of their caste, religion or gender under one umbrella when the constitution of the nation guarantees equality, allowing discrimination on the ground of religion and gender is totally unconstitutional, unethical, unwanted, unwarranted and unlawful.

Digital India

“A country that needs to be taught where to go for toilet, wants to go Digital.” A Sarcastic remark by many and some call it Mohammad Bin Tuglak’s idea. Really it need guts to talk about digital India in a country where more than three hundred million Indians do not have electricity facility too. Mr. Narendra Modi an astute administrator and seasoned leader, on 1st July 2015, announced to go digital. A past master in statesmanship, PM Modi, didn’t even bat an eyelid before announcing this initiative to connect people of the rural and urban India. This initiative aims to make India a better governing place facilitating Indians with electronic government services, reducing paper work, improving work efficiency and saving time. This ambitious project will transform India into a complete digital country with efficient and transparent e-governance.

Digital India is India Digitally Empowered Knowledge Economy with digital infrastructure and e-government providing services and information easily available online and integrating many departments for hassle free e-governance.

Digital India programme aims at ensuring the broadband highways and universal access to mobile phones. It not only aims at e-governance but also ensures more IT jobs for the general public but this gigantic programme needs digital infrastructure first. This programme will be implemented in phases till 2019 and will be monitored by the Digital India Advisory Group chaired by the Ministry of Communication and IT. This initiative includes plans to connect rural India with high speed internet network. Under this visionary programme a two way platform will be created where the service providers and consumers shall be benefitted. It will be an inter-ministerial e-governance connecting services like public health care, education, housing, banks etc. This programme will act like an umbrella programme covering several departments.

This highly ambitious programme needs strong pillars as the plinth of such a huge programme must be strong. The first requirement is that all the people of India, even of the remotest village, must have universal access to mobiles and high speed internet. Broadband services will have to be made available to 2.5 lakh villages and 400 thousand public internet access points will have to be created. Around 2.5 lakh school, all universities and public places must have wi-fi hotspots. For this e-governance (Reforming govt. through technology) and e-Kranti (electronic delivery of services) are must for this programme to see the daylight.

A wonderful thing about this project digital India that may bring smile on the face of unemployed youths is that it creates huge job opportunities in India. 1.7 crores direct opportunities and 8.5 crores indirect opportunities will be created in the IT

sector. Besides this every Indian citizen can avail himself of a digital locker facility which will help him to store important document like PAN card, Passport, Marksheet and degrees. The digital locker provides a dedicated personal storage space in the cloud to citizen linked to their Adhaar Number too.

Will this programme turn into reality or remain an illusion, time will tell but the government has taken a giant leap forward to transform the country into a digitally empowered economy. Hurdles have started obstructing the path of this programme. To start with not a single telecom operator or industry house has signed up to partner the NOFN programme. NOFN stands for 'National Optical Fibre Network' that is responsible to lay 7 lakh kilometres of optical fibre to connect the gram panchayats of all the villages within three years. Infact this programme must be called 'Digital Bharat' programme because we need to connect with the rural parts of India. Infact laying fibre optic cables is the least of the challenges, the gigantic ones will be ensuring functional broadband points at each panchayat, distribution of internet services and finally their usage by the rural folk.

Digital India reflects out of the box thinking of the present government. The beauty of a natural digital platform is transparency which doesn't hide anything nor has the potential to hide. This digital world is going to be a part of our life. In near future and whether we like it or not we will be forced to place ourselves in the flow of this digital river slowly arriving at the digitally empowered India, though some of us take this idea of digital India with a pinch of salt.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

'God cannot be everywhere so he created Mother'. I feel this saying is very old and we all love our mothers. Let me put it differently. 'Angels cannot be everywhere so God created daughters.' Strange but true, we desire for a loving mother and a beloved wife but we don't want daughters. We worship goddesses as and kill daughters. This problem of gender discrimination has been in India and almost all the developing countries for centuries. In our country this problem is aggravating day by day and this is reflecting in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) which is defined as number of girl per thousand boys between 0 and 6 years of age. The CSR has decreased drastically from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and now to 918 in 2011. This decline in CSR is a glaring indicator of gender discrimination and social mindset of Indian masses. This grey situation drew the attention of almost all the governments of India and the present NDA government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi launched a divine programme with great fanfare named 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) to save and empower the girl child. This programme was launched on 22nd January 2015 from Panipat, Haryana. BBBP is a tri-ministerial endeavour of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development. Through various awareness programmes, the government is trying to sensitize the masses about the importance of daughters. The emphasis is to mobilise communities at ground level and bring about a change in the way the society looks at a girl child. Social media too is being utilized to its fullest to share this awareness and we know how selfie with daughters became a world-wide hit overnight.

Under BBBP Scheme, the District Tasks Force and Block Task Force have been formed to reach upto each stratum of the society and disseminate the actual motive of the scheme at a wider level. Villages too are encouraged to come up with ideas and they too are participating enthusiastically. Street plays portraying the problems of sex-selective abortions and issues related to girl child are being organized in Pithoragarh. Mansa district in Punjab launched an initiative 'Udaan-Sapney Di Duniya De Rubaru (Udaan-Live Your Dream for One Day)' to inspire people to educate their girl child and the Sarpanch of Bibipur was the one who came up with the idea of 'Selfie With Daughter'. People are beaming with ideas and this initiative has been received with open arms by one and all.

Under this scheme, a strong effort is being made to save and educate a girl child. A money saving scheme called 'The Sukanya Samriddhi Account' has been introduced, the saving amount of which will be free from tax deduction and only the girl can withdraw the amount after she reaches the age of 18. A total of 100 districts have

been identified with low CSR and ₹ 1 crore has been given to the villages for maintaining sex ratio. It is high time, we as a nation paid attention to this grave problem. The government is doing the best it can but we, the common masses, need to introspect. Are we ready to change?

No country in this world has reached the Developed Nation's Status if the women folk of that nation are not equal partners of their male counterparts in every walk of life. Educated and financially independent women add to the strength of nation but we as a nation is struggling to fix the CSR and it is a distant dream for us to bring the women folk at par to the men of the country. The initiative of Modi government at such a large scale and with so much of enthusiasm can do wonders if we go strong towards implementing this initiative at the grass root level of the country and let the girl child live and prosper and spread wisdom and knowledge for if you educate a man, you educate a man but if you educate a girl you educate generations to come. Let her live at least. Life finds its own way to flourish.

Terrorism

Amputated¹ limbs², headless³ torso⁴, charred⁵ body, heart rending sight⁶. Our present world! We surely didn't struggle to scale the ladder⁷ of civilization⁸ for this result. Terror had always been in this world. Organized⁹ and disorganized¹⁰ wars have always caused several human lives to perish¹¹. But the global and extremely organized form to terrorism aided¹² with the lethal¹³ and sophisticated¹⁴ weapons¹⁵ of mass destruction¹⁶ had never been there in the past history of human civilization. From being savage¹⁷ to civilized, man adopted certain new values¹⁸. These values resulted in the development of certain human tendencies¹⁹ which on one hand unite the people irrespective²⁰ of their race²¹, culture, caste, creed²² and religion, while on the other hand create danger for humanity. The former human tendency helps life blossom²³, on this earth but the latter²⁴ assisted by the fanatics²⁵, and extremists²⁶ equipped²⁷ with the latest²⁸ inventions of science and technology is posing a serious threat before the world in the form of global terrorism.

Terrorism is an act of terror which creates fear in the mind of the common people. The path resorted²⁹ by the terrorists is full of bloodshed³⁰, massacre³¹ and callousness³². Today terrorism has become global and its main targets are the democratic countries of the world. Since democracy is the best form of governance³³, so these, attacks are surely deplorable³⁴. The situation worsens when some countries join hands to promote terrorism in those countries with which they don't have

friendly relation. Sadly these cruel hard hearted³⁵ criminals are called freedom fighters by the terrorism promoting countries.

When we talk about terrorism, we need to understand the difference between terrorists, separatists³⁶ and the naxalites³⁷ as India is facing not only external but also internal terrorism. Although all the three mentioned above can be defined in three separate definitions yet, to keep it simple, separatists are those who wish to get separated from a particulars country, religion or race while Naxalites are those whose main problem is related to their economy especially the land.

The most serious threat is from terrorists aided by international terrorist organization who commit heinous crime in the name of holy war. Though different in their forms and origin, all the three sooner or later³⁸ resort to grotesque³⁹ murder, hijacking and serious threats⁴⁰ to mankind.

India has been facing the problem of terrorism since 1980s and has tried to raise the issue before all international bodies time and again but the complaints fell on deaf ears⁴¹. This gigantic⁴² problem attracted the attention of the whole world only on 11th September 2001 when America was attacked. Today a huge amount of money is spent in fighting against terrorism and the citizens of every country are living in constant⁴³ fear of terrorists attacks.

Whether it is India or the world, there are certain reasons behind the problem of terrorism. To deal with this problem, it is extremely essential to know the reasons,

behind it. It is believed that the main reasons are poverty and backwardness. Besides these, ignorance⁴⁴ and illiteracy⁴⁵ are also the other causes but can poor people afford sophisticated weapons? Can illiterate people use biological⁴⁶ weapons and latest technology? Of course not. These terrorists are neither poor nor backward. Infact, the so called global terrorists are fanatics. They use the unemployed youth to spread terrorism in the world and it is a matter of sorrow that they do so in the name of religion though all of us know that no religion preaches⁴⁷ terrorism.

Now the question arises 'what is the solution of this problem?' Firstly the developed countries must understand that terrorism of one country is no less severe⁴⁸ than the terrorism of another country. So, all the terrorist organizations should be dealt with⁴⁹ strictly⁵⁰. Anyone found guilty of terrorism should be severely punished and adequate⁵¹ security should be provided to the common people. But, terrorism has another aspect also. The policies of developed countries and the inability⁵² of the United Nations in restricting them in many matters of international importance have aggravated⁵³ the already volatile⁵⁴ situation and have promoted terrorism. If 'Might is Right' becomes the norm⁵⁵ of life, as seen in the matter of Iraq at the hands of the United States, it will surely be adopted by one and all including the terrorist organizations.

Secondly, employment opportunities should be given to the youths⁵⁶ of terrorism affected states and rehabilitation⁵⁷ opportunities should be provided to those youths who were forced to join terrorist organizations due to poverty and unemployment. Children and youths should be taught that no religion teaches terrorism and education based on modern technique should be promoted all over the world. Children should be taught the importance of tolerance⁵⁸

and brotherhood⁵⁹. This problem requires a permanent solution which demands an honest effort and not just lip service⁶⁰.

Terrorism recently has taken more ugly turn by the advent⁶¹ of extremely extremist groups such as Boko Haram and Islamic States (IS). In September 2001, al-Qaida gained prominence⁶² for the first time. Before 2001, the developed world considered that the problem of terrorism had nothing to do with them but the attack on four important places including World Trade Centre that killed around 3000 Americans made the European countries realize that terrorism is a global problem. Al-Qaida and its leader Osama bin Laden came on the radar of Bush government and later in May 2, 2011, Laden was hunted down in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Al-Qaida is still a very much active terrorist organization. Boko Haram is a militant Islamist movement based in Northeast Nigeria. It was founded in 2002 and in its violent uprising in July 2009, its leader and founder Mohammed Yusuf was executed. Its unexpected resurgence took place in a mass prison break in September 2010. Since then it has been attacking both military and common citizens of Nigeria. The Nigerian military proved ineffective in countering the insurgency.⁶³ Shamelessly, in the garb of their propaganda 'Western education is a sin' the Boko Haram fighters have repeatedly targeted places of learning and have kidnapped school girls mostly under 12 to perform household chores⁶⁴ and sexual services including bearing⁶⁵ and rearing⁶⁶ their children.

In Iraq the situation had never been stable but after the catastrophe⁶⁷ at the hands of America, the political situation of the country has turned from bad to worse. The recent uprising of Islamic States of Iraq & Syria (ISIS) has startled everyone. The group under the leadership of Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi gained notoriety⁶⁸ by the internet videos of the

beheading of Europeans and the genocide⁶⁹ of the Yazidis. ISIS used to be called 'al Qaida in Iraq' but in February ISIS and al-Qaida got separated. With its severe barbaric acts, ISIS gained the reputation of a more barbarous⁷⁰ group. It took over Mosul, Tikrit, and three other Iraqi towns by the end of June 2014. It then changed its name to Islamic State (IS). In Syria, ISIS took control of a major Syrian oil field, al-Omar by July 2014. The beheading of US journalist James Foley and Steven Sotloff and the execution of British aid worker David Haines and American hostage Peter Kassing sent shivers down the spine⁷¹ of the civilized world. The massacre of the Yazidis too at the hands of IS attracted the attention of the world.

The Yazidis are inaccurately described as devil worshipper. They kept themselves segregated⁷² and exogamy⁷³ is strictly prohibited in their sect. Today they are facing a possible genocide in Iraq and their already small population of a couple of lakhs is now at the verge of extinction.⁷⁴

S.No.	Words in English	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Amputated	कटे
2.	Limbs	हाथ-पैर
3.	Headless	बिना सिर का
4.	Torso	धड़
5.	Charred	जला हुआ
6.	Heart-rending	दिल दहला देने
	sight	वाला दृश्य
7.	Scale the ladder	सिढ़ी चढ़ना
8.	Civilization	सभ्यता
9.	Organized	संगठित
10.	Disorganized	असंगठित
11.	Perish	गायब होना
12.	Aided	सहायता प्राप्त
13.	Lethal	घातक
14.	Sophisticated	विकसित
15.	Weapons	हथियार
16.	Mass destruction	जन-संहारक
17.	Savage	निर्मम
18.	New values	नये मूल्य
19.	Tendencies	प्रवृत्ति
20.	Irrespective	की परवाह किये बिना
21.	Race	नस्ल
22.	Creed	मूल-वंश
23.	Blossom	खिलना
24.	Latter	बाद वाला
25.	Fanatic	कट्टरपंथी
26.	Extremist	चरमपंथी
27.	Equipped	सज्जित

S.No.	Words in English	Meaning in Hindi
28.	Latest	नवीनतम
29.	Path resorted	रास्ता अपनाना
30.	Bloodshed	खूनखराबा
31.	Massacre	मार-काट
32.	Callousness	क्रूरता/संवेदनहीनता
33.	Governance	शासन
34.	Deplorable	निंदनीय
35.	Hard-hearted	पत्थर-दिल
36.	Separatists	अलगाववादी
37.	Naxalites	नक्सलवादी
38.	Sooner or later	जल्दी या देर से
39.	Grotesque	विभत्स
40.	Serious threat	गंभीर खतरा
41.	Deaf ears	बेहरे कान/अनसुना करने वाले
42.	Gigantic	भीमकाय
43.	Constant	लगातार बना हुआ
44.	Ignorance	अनभिज्ञता
45.	Illiteracy	अज्ञानता
46.	Biological	जैविक
47.	Preach	ज्ञान देना
48.	Severe	तीव्र
49.	Dealt with	सख्ती से निपटना
50.	Strictly	
51.	Adequate	पर्याप्त
52.	Inability	अक्षमता

S.No.	Words in English	Meaning in Hindi
53.	Aggravated	बदतर बनाना
54.	Volatile	अस्थिर
55.	Norm	नियम
56.	Youths	नौजवान
57.	Rehabilitation	पूर्णस्थापन
58.	Tolerance	सहनशीलता
59.	Brotherhood	भाईचारा
60.	Lip Service	जुबानी जमाखर्च/ सिर्फ बातों से समर्थन कार्य से नहीं
61.	Advent	आगमन
62.	Prominence	प्रधानता
63.	Insurgency	विद्रोह
64.	Household Chores	घर के काम
65.	Bear	पैदा करना
66.	Rear	पालना-पौसना
67.	Catastrophe	विनाश
68.	Notoriety	कुख्याति
69.	Genocide	नस्लहत्या
70.	Barbarous	क्रूर
71.	Send shivers down the spine	शरीर में कंपन दोड़ जाना
72.	Segregate	अलग-थलग करना
73.	Exogamy	अपने समाज या विरादरी से बाहर शादी
74.	Verge of extinction	विलुप्त होने के कगार पर

Child Labour

If you want to see Godliness¹, watch a child smiling. The innocence² of a child reveals³ the purity of his heart but sadly, this world of cruel human beings and the universal disease called poverty have not left this beautiful and innocent form of life untouched⁴. The existence⁵ of child labour is a ground reality⁶, a social crime and a crime against humanity⁷, which steals⁸ away the innocence of a child and leaves him as a machine in this cruel world of human beings, the most savage⁹ animal of this world.

A good proportion¹⁰ of children throughout the world, especially in India, form a part of the toiling¹¹ masses-destitute¹², deprived¹³ and disadvantaged¹⁴. It is a matter of shame that maximum number of child labourers is in India. As per the Government data, the number of child labourers in India is approximately two crores. They work in fields and factories, at street corners and in garbage dumps¹⁵. With low level of education and no sense of social responsibility, these children can do much harm to the society, if they are not given protection and equal opportunities to develop.

The existence of child labour in India is a complex problem. Poverty is the main and parent cause of the existence of child labour

in India. Ineffective¹⁶ laws and more often, lack of political will to implement¹⁷ them and social unawareness contribute to the continuation of this problem. Child labourers are preferred by many employers as they are available at cheap rates, and come without much liability¹⁸. They are easy to be moulded¹⁹ to different circumstances but lack of education, games and fun make them mechanical and hamper²⁰ their all round development.

The Constitution has prohibited²¹ the employment of children below the age of 14 in any hazardous²² industry under Article 24. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 was also a welcome step. Their employment at homes as domestic help and at dhabas has also been banned by an amendment made effective from 10th October, 2006. The amendment included houses, hotels, Dhabas restaurants etc in Part A of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, by recognizing the above mentioned places as places of hazardous occupation. But the reality is far away from what was expected. In spite of various safeguards²³ provided in the different Acts, the existence of child labour is a shocking reality²⁴. Hunger²⁵ and starvation²⁶ push the poor children to do odd jobs²⁷. More often the parents in greed²⁸ of some extra income push

their children to do various odd jobs but there is also another stark²⁹ reality. Abrupt end to child labour without any solution to the, problem of hunger, starvation and poverty may lead to more grim exploitation³⁰. The plight³¹ of the poor children would be more severe if they are suddenly deprived³² of their livelihood³³. Crime, prostitution³⁴ and destitution³⁵ can hardly be a better fate³⁶ than child labour but at the same time, with this huge population of child labourers, the dream of a developed India seems distant³⁷.

S.No.	Words	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Godliness	देवत्व
2.	Innocence	मासूमियत
3.	Reveals	दर्शाना
4.	Untouched	अनछुआ
5.	Existence	मौजूदगी
6.	Ground reality	जमीनी हकीकत
7.	Humanity	मानवता
8.	Steals	चुराना
9.	Savage	बर्बर
10.	Proportion	अनुपात
11.	Toiling	मेहनत करता हुआ
12.	Destitute	निस्साहय
13.	Deprived	विहीन, वंचित
14.	Disadvantaged	सुविधा से रहित
15.	Garbage dumps	कूड़े डालने का स्थान
16.	Ineffective	अक्षम
17.	Implement	लागू करना
18.	Liability	दायित्व
19.	Moulded	ढालना
20.	Hamper	रूकावट पैदा करना
21.	Prohibited	पाबंदी लगाना
22.	Hazardous	खतरनाक
23.	Sefeguards	सुरक्षा
24.	Shocking reality	दहलाने वाली हकीकत
25.	Hunger	भूख
26.	Starvation	भूखमरी
27.	Odd jobs	छोटे-मोटे काम
28.	Greed	लालच
29.	Stark	कठोर
30.	Exploitation	शोषण
31.	Plight	बुरी स्थिति
32.	Deprived	वंचित
33.	Livelihood	आजीविका
34.	Prostitution	वैश्यावृत्ति
35.	Destitution	असहाय हालत
36.	Fate	किस्मत
37.	Distant	दूर

Women Empowerment

A famous saying¹ goes 'God cannot be everywhere, so he created mother' and another reads 'God dwells² where women are worshipped'. It is quite interesting to see that we want either to worship a woman as a Goddess³ or hate her as a whore⁴. Why doesn't the society let her live as a woman, just a simple living being made of blood and flesh? Why can't she be a normal human being and not a symbol of tolerance and sacrifice⁵? Our patriarchal⁶ form of society made the woman believe that she will carve a niche⁷ for herself in the heaven, if she remains chaste⁸, tolerant, sacrificial, faithful and most important of all if she worships her husband and treats him like a God. She was given a subordinate position⁹, in the society and was confined¹⁰ within four walls, to help her remain chaste and pure, which was supposed to help her develop godly powers¹¹. Time and again she was narrated the stories of Sati Savitri and Sita. It is rightly said "Women are not born, they are made".

In India, female exploitation is reflected in' sati, wife beating, dowry deaths, eve teasing¹², child prostitution, female foeticide¹³ and flesh trade. Besides defective¹⁴ and ineffective¹⁵ legislation¹⁶, it is the traditions attitudes towards women and their role status in the family and the society, which is mainly responsible for the continual¹⁷ suffering of women.

Most of the crimes against women in India are directly traceable¹⁸ to their inferior subservient¹⁹ position supported by religions and social norms²⁰. For women empowerment, the first requirement is educating the women.

If we educate a man, we educate an individual, but if we educate a woman, we educate a family. Besides this only an educated mind can think and evaluate²¹. Just as the knowledge of English language helped some revolutionists²² in gaining information about the French revolution and then raising similar demands in India, the knowledge about right to equality and equal opportunity will help the women to come out of their cocoon²³ and occupy equal status in the society.

Women also need to have adequate representation in the seats of power. Sadly the 50 percent population of women has only 11% percent representatives in the Parliament. The Women Reservation Bill is shamelessly²⁴ resisted²⁵ by many parliamentarians on one or other frivolous²⁶ excuse²⁷. Adequate representation in-the Parliament will be helpful for women as, then they would be able to frame and implement²⁸ laws for the welfare of the women. Some people oppose this citing²⁹ the example of Panchayats where women sarpanch are puppets³⁰ in the hands of their male counterparts³¹. We need to understand that, this is the transition³² stage. Today they have the power, tomorrow they will understand its value and day after tomorrow they will exercise it. We cannot expect changes overnight. Secondly they need to be financially independent³³. In the absence of financial independence she became a suppressed³⁴, exploited³⁵ and impoverished³⁶ class of the society. As society progressed, division of labour took place. Women took the charge of rearing³⁷ the children which was not an easy

task at that time, but this led to their financial dependence on men. The earning members of the society became stronger, socially active and all powerful. Women lost their social status. Now the need of financially independence is felt because if the women are financially independent, the chances of tolerating domestic violence decrease. They are then more confident and are aware of their rights and know how and where to go to seek redressal³⁸ of their grievances³⁹. Women must demand their rights and must not just wait

for any mercy⁴⁰ or miracle⁴¹. They must not tolerate exploitation in any form. In the name of family and honour many women have sacrificed their lives. This has done nothing but has worsened⁴² the condition of women. They must take care of themselves. They shouldn't let others take them for granted⁴³. Women should respect themselves. They do not need to be like men to be respected. They are the creator⁴⁴ of life on this earth. They command respect not as Goddesses but as women, the most beautiful creation of God.

S.No.	Words	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Saying	कहावत
2.	Dwell	निवास करना
3.	Goddess	देवी
4.	Whore	वैश्या
5.	Sacrifice	सहनशीलता एवं बलिदान
6.	Patriarchal	पितृस्तात्मक
7.	Niche	स्थान
8.	Chaste	पवित्र
9.	Subordinate position	अधिनस्थ दर्जा/दोयम स्थान
10.	Confine	कैद करना
11.	Godly powers	दैविक शक्ति
12.	Eve teasing	छेड़छाड़
13.	Foeticide	भ्रूणहत्या
14.	Defective	त्रुटिपूर्ण
15.	Ineffective	अक्षम/प्रभावहीन
16.	Legislation	विधान
17.	Continual	लगातार
18.	Traceable	पता लगाना (किसी चीज को उत्पत्ति)
19.	Subservient	दोयम
20.	Norms	नियम
21.	Evaluate	अवलोकन करना
22.	Revolutionists	क्रांतिकारी

S.No.	Words	Meaning in Hindi
23.	Cocoon	सीमित दायरा (जैसे रेशम के कीड़े का होता है)
24.	Shamelessly	बेशर्मी से
25.	Resisted	विरोध करना
26.	Frivolous	हल्का, गंभीरता से विचार न करने वाला
27.	Excuse	बहाने
28.	Implement	लागू करना
29.	Citing	उल्लेख करना
30.	Puppets	पुतला
31.	Counterparts	साथी
32.	Transition	दो अवस्थाओं के बीच
33.	Financially independent	आर्थिक रूप से स्वतंत्र
34.	Suppressed	दबे-कुचले
35.	Exploited	शोषित
36.	Impoverished	गरीब
37.	Rearing	पालना
38.	Redressal	क्षतिपूर्ति
39.	Grievances	शिकायत
40.	Mercy	दया
41.	Worsen	बदतर करना
42.	Miracle	चमत्कार
43.	Take for granted	हल्के तौर पर लेना
44.	Creator	रचनाकार

Politics on Reservation



Recently Reservation stirred the hornet's nest when the Jaat community was given reservation under OBC category by the UPA Government in nine states before the Lok Sabha election in 2014 and then the Supreme Court scrapped it citing the reason that caste though a prominent factor cannot be the sole factor for determining the backwardness of a class. Similar controversy caused 10-day stand off between the Gujjars and Rajasthan government that ended when the government bowed before the demand providing 5 percent reservation to Gujjars in the special Backward Classes category and another 14 percent reservation for the Economically Backward Classes category among the upper castes.



Do we need reservation? This is a controversial question. One section of the society says that reservation divides the society and sows the seed of enmity, conflict, friction and disharmony, while the other section says that reservation is essential to bring the suppressed and the downtrodden to the main stream of the society and for the all round progress of the society. Broadly speaking progress is of two types. The first one ensures the progress of haves only. The rich becomes richer and the poor becomes poorer. This type of progress can be seen in a Capitalist Society. India is a Socialist Country. Here the

Government has to bridge the gap between the haves and the have nots. For this some privileges are given to the weaker section of the society to ensure their progress. In our country this privilege was given in the form of reservation. Article 15 of our Constitution guarantees us Right to Equality which states that the State shall not discriminate against any person on grounds of religion, race, caste etc but Article 16(4) empowers the State to make special provision for reservation in favour of backward classes, which in the opinion of the State are not adequately represented in the services under the State. Besides this Article 15(4) empowers the State to make special provision for socially and educationally backward classes. Now since both types of contrast provisions are there in our Constitution, a need to strike balance between them arises. Recently in the matter of Jaat Reservation the Supreme Court raised a question why communities are being increasingly included in the OBC list and not being removed from the category with the passage of time.

Reservation had been such an issue on which even the Courts have given quite contradictory judgements. In Balaji versus State of Mysore the, Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that national interest would suffer if qualified and competent students were excluded from admissions while in Indra Sawhney versus Union of India popularly known as Mandal case the court by 6-3 majority upheld the decision of the Union government to reserve 27% government jobs for OBCs, provided, creamy layer among them are excluded.

Important Events related to Reservation

- 1882** - Hunter Commission appointed Mahatma Jyotirao Phule who made a demand of free and compulsory education for all along with proportionate reservation/representation in government jobs.
- 1902** - In the year 1902, Chatrapati Sahuji Maharaj, Maharaja of Kolhapur in Maharashtra introduced reservation in favour of backward classes to eradicate poverty and give them chance to participate in the state administration. The notification of 1902 created 50% reservation in services for backward classes/communities in the State of Kolhapur. This notification is the first Govt. Order providing for reservation for the welfare of depressed classes in India.
- 1908** - Reservations were introduced in favour of a number of castes and communities that had little share in the administration by the British.
- 1909** - Provisions were made in the Government of India Act 1909 commonly known as the Morley-Minto Reforms.
- 1919** - Provisions were made in the Government of India Act 1919.
- 1921** - Madras Presidency introduces Communal G O in which reservation of 44 percent for non-Brahmins, 16 percent for Brahmins, 16 percent for Muslims, 16 percent for Anglo-Indians/ Christians and eight percent for Scheduled Castes.
- 1935** - Indian National Congress passes resolution called Poona Pact to allocate separate electoral constituencies for depressed classes. Provisions in Government of India Act 1935.
- 1947** - India obtained Independence. Dr. Ambedkar was appointed chairman of the drafting committee for Indian Constitution.
- 1950** - The Constitution of India came in force on 26th January.



- 1951** - In the case of State of Madras Vs. Smt. Champakam Dorairajan AIR 1951 SC 226, Court pronounced that caste based reservations as per Communal Award violates Article 15(1). 1st constitutional amendment (Art. 15 (4)) introduced to make judgment invalid.
- 1953** - Kalelkar Commission was established to assess the situation of the socially and educationally backward class.
- 1963** - Court put 50% cap on reservations in the case of Balaji vs Mysore AIR 1963 SC 649 Tamil Nadu (69%, under 9th schedule) and Rajasthan 68% exceeded this limit.
- 1979** - Mandal Commission was established to assess the situation of the socially and educationally backward classes.
- 1980** - The commission submitted a report, and recommended changes to the existing quotas, increasing them from 22% to 49.5%. As of 2006, number of castes in Backward class list went up to 2297 which is an increase of 60% from community list prepared by Mandal Commission.
- 1990** - Mandal commission recommendations were implemented in Government Jobs by Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

1991	- Narasimha Rao Government introduced 10% separate reservation for Poor among Forward Castes.
1994	- Supreme Court advised Tamil Nadu to follow 50% limit.
1995	- Parliament by 77th Constitutional amendment inserted Art 16(4) (A) permitting reservation to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes in promotions.
2005	- In 12th August 2005, The Supreme Court delivered a unanimous judgment by 7 judges on August 12, 2005 in the case of P.A. Inamdar & Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors. declaring that the State can't impose its reservation policy on minority and non-minority unaided private colleges, including professional colleges.
Note	- In 2005, 93rd Constitutional amendment brought for ensuring reservations. To other backward classes and Scheduled castes and Tribes in Private Educational institutions. This effectively reversed the 2005 August Supreme Court judgment.
2010	- In 9th March 2010, Women Reservation Bill passed in the Upper house, Rajya Sabha.

Reservation had been surely a blessing for the landless, exploited and weaker sections of the society who were punished for even touching the shadow of a higher class person. They could not go to temple or draw water from the public wells. They were humiliated and

despised. They surely needed help and the provision of reservation proved to be a blessing for them. Now, they can also dream of a bright future. Their caste now is not the criterion determining their profession but only reservation cannot improve their status and their educational standard. It would be better if the Government starts a headstart programme of providing them with facilities such as education based on modern technique and demand, besides food and health care, right from childhood, and thus making them competent to compete with the other sections of the society rather than relying on the clutches of reservation. Reviewing reservation policy from time to time and adopting economic criteria for determining backwardness are also ideas worth giving a second thought.

N.R Narayanmurthy had once said "India is the only country where people fight to be backward". This was seen time and again but recently in Rajasthan and Haryana we saw the most wierd form of demand; the demand to be called backward! It is said "As you sow, so shall you reap". The weeds of division have been sown now and then for temporary political gains. We cannot expect any harmonious result out of it.

According to our Constitution, India is a Socialist Country. Reservation was a tool provided by our Constitution framers to achieve the goal of socialism enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution. This tool must be used judiciously and not for personal or any political gain. Besides this, ignoring, the advancement of the rest of the society altogether, in zeal to promote the welfare of the state, would be suicidal for a country. Hence, there is a need to strike a balance between progress and welfare.

Article-370

Jammu & Kashmir



The Bhartiya Janta Party's stand during the Lok Sabha election on the necessity of a debate on Article 370 has made this issue hot potato for the same at the eve of election in that state. Article 370 has always been a controversial issue. The traditional position of BJP on Article 370 was defined by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the founding president of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Mukherjee termed the Article as a problematic one and a symbol of incomplete integration of the state with India. He was convinced that Article 370 was the base for advocating a spirit of separation. It was in line with this argument of Mukherjee that Jana Sangh placed the demand for abolition of Article 370. Mr. Narendra Modi however did not raise the demand of abolition of Article 370 during his Jammu Rally. He rather asked for a rational debate. Being a seasoned national leader, he first wants to take the people of the state into confidence and not to thrust something down their throat and that's what is the beauty of a democracy.

Article 370 of the Indian constitution is a temporary provision which grants special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir under part XXI of the constitution of India, which deal with temporary, transitional and special provisions giving special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir under article 370. All the provisions of the state which is applicable to other states are not applicable to J&K. The article says that the provision of Article 238, which was omitted from the constitution in 1956 when Indian states were reorganized, shall not be applicable to the state



of Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar the principal drafter of the Indian constitution, had refused to draft Article 370.

In 1949, the then Prime Minister Nehru had directed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdullah to consult Ambedkar (then law minister) to prepare the draft of a suitable article to be included in the constitution. Article 370 was eventually drafted by Gopalaswami Ayyangar, who was a former diwan to Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir. Sheikh Abdullah who was appointed as Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir by Maharaja Hari Singh & Jawahar Lal Nehru argued that Article 370 should not be placed under temporary provisions of the constitution.

The 1952 Delhi agreement also specified that the state should have its own flag in addition to the union flag and they should have the same status. This agreement was further ratified by the 1974 agreement between the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the then J&K Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah. It

was agreed that the head of the state called *Sadar-e-Riyasat* (or Prime Minister) was to be elected by the state legislature. The agreement opposed imposition of article 352, empowering the President to proclaim general emergency in the state. The state legislature has a six year term, unlike other elected bodies, which have a five years period including our Parliament.

According to Article 370–

1. Except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the State Government consent for applying all other laws. Thus the state residence live under separate set of laws.
2. The Indian Supreme Court has no jurisdiction in J&K.
3. Disrespecting the Tricolour and other national symbol is not a crime in the state.
4. J&K residents enjoy dual citizenship. Women lose their J&K citizenship if they marry residents of any other state. This was infact made clear by an administrative rule. People's Democratic Party Government tried to overturn the court's order by introducing a bill but for some or other reason the bill could not see the light of the day. However in a landmark judgement in October 2002, the full bench of J&K High Court, with one judge dissenting, held that the daughter of a

permanent resident status on marrying a person who is not a permanent resident, will enjoy all rights, including property rights.

5. A Pakistani residents gains J&K citizenship if they marry J&K citizen.
6. RTI, RTE, CAG and majority of Indian Laws are not applicable in J&K.
7. Because of Article 370, no outsider can purchase land in Jammu & Kashmir.
8. Under Article 370, the centre has no power to declare financial emergency under article 360 in the state. It can declare emergency only in case of war or external aggression.
9. Under Article 370 the Indian Parliament cannot increase or reduce the borders of the State.

Though a lot of hue and cry is raised on this issue, prime importance must be given to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their betterment. But yes, one thing for sure you utter Article 370 and eye brows are raised.

Hence most of the national parties of India keep this issue at arm's length. Not to mention, the two major parties of Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) as well as the separatists are in the favour of Article 370.

Disaster Management



'Natural Disaster' is an overwhelming ecological disruption causing loss to life, property and livelihood. Disaster involves widespread human, material economic or environmental impacts, which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope with the sudden changes that took place in their life. It has been experienced by human beings since time immemorial. Recently, disasters have increased in frequency and intensity due to our interference with the nature. Last month on April 25, 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake (also known as Gorkha earthquake) of magnitude 7.8, in which 7,271 people have been confirmed dead and more than 17,000 were injured. The tremors of earthquake were also felt in India, people rushed out of their homes. Around 45 people were killed, and hundreds were injured. Numerous aftershocks were also felt by people in Nepal and India too. This earthquake, has ruptured a piece of the main Himalayan Thrust (MHT). The rupture started at the epicenter, about 80km to the North West of Kathmandu and propagated eastward for about 130km, rupturing the area directly located under the capital city of Nepal. A new earthquake of 7.3 magnitude hit devastated Nepal again on 12th May, 2015. India was the first to send aid to Nepal. PM Narendra Modi monitored the relief efforts personally. Operation "Maitri" deployed two dozen military aircraft and choppers for this purpose. During the last 15 years, the country has experienced 10 major earthquakes that have resulted in over 20,000 deaths. As per the current seismic

zone map of the country, over 59 percent of India's land area is under threat of moderate to severe seismic hazard.

Disasters are also caused by human activities carried by human beings directly. Bhopal Gas tragedy (2-3 December 1984), Chernobyl nuclear disaster, wars, release of CFC (Chlorofluoro carbons), release of greenhouse gases, environmental pollution like noise, air, water and soil are some of them. There are some other activities of human beings that accelerate or intensify disasters indirectly like landslides and flood due to deforestation, unscientific land use and construction activities in fragile areas.

Types of Disaster

There are two types of disaster: Natural disaster that includes floods, hurricanes, earthquake, volcano eruptions, droughts, landslides, emergency diseases Tsunami, wildfire etc. Man-Made and Technical disaster include release of hazardous material in the environment, power service disruption, nuclear power plant and nuclear blast, radiological emergencies, chemical threat biological weapons, cyber attacks, explosion, civil unrest etc. There is a direct correlation. Higher human development are more vulnerable to risk of disaster and hence higher preparedness is needed. India due to its geological formations and geographical locations, is a highly disaster prone country. Its high mountain ranges, long coastline, snowclad high peaks, the perennial rivers in the north combine together to add this problem. India has only two percent total geographical area, which has to support sixteen percent of the total population of the world.

Classification of Natural Disasters

Atmosphere	Blizzards, Thunderstorms, Lightening, Tornadoes, Tropical Cyclone, Drought, Hailstorm, Frost, Heat Wave or Loo, Cold Waves etc.
Terrestrial	Earthquakes, Volcanic Eruptions, Landslides, Avalanches, Subsidence Soil Erosion.
Aquatic	Floods, Tidal Waves, Ocean Currents, Storm Surge, Tsunami.
Biological	Plants & Animals as colonisers. (Locusts etc) Insects infestation. fungal, bacterial & viral diseases such as bird flu, dengue etc.

Source-N.C.E.R.T

There is a tremendous pressure on Natural resources directly or indirectly which further leads to disaster. Along with human population, India has to support large cattle population which depends on biomass and graze in forest area. Forest cover is 23 percent of total land area and due to over grazing quality of soil is also degrading resulting in soil erosion, silting of rivers, removal of fertile soil and heavy silting of cultivable land. Also, sometimes we see heavy rainfall during the monsoon which further creates problems for people residing in those areas. Northern part of India faces problems of landslides, floods, droughts, avalanches and earthquakes because this region falls under the seismic zones III to V. The Eastern region faces problems of floods due to perennial rivers, Brahmaputra, Ganga etc., heat wave, cyclone, hailstorm, heavy wind and earthquake. The Northeastern region faces the natural disaster in the form of flood, wind outrage, landslides earthquake as this part of the country comes under seismic zone IV and V. The western region faces severe drought,

wind erosion of land and soil, flood, cyclone and earthquake. The Southern region (coastal region) faces cyclones, sea erosion, tsunami, landslides. Islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep are confronted with the problems of sea erosion and Tsunami. In 2005, Volcano in the barren island of Andaman group of islands became active.

The worst affected group is the poor sections of society, who are daily wage-earner. They are the most vulnerable and suffer the loss of their livelihood. Even the psychological traumas caused by the disasters is so severe that they span whole of the life of victim. In some natural disaster like earthquake, Tsunami, cyclones, it is the building structure which becomes the cause of destruction and death. In India, disaster is a state subject. It is also the responsibility of the state to provide every kind of support and assistance to the victim. The Central Government has a facilitating role. With proper coordination with various ministries, it extends all required support and helps to the states, namely defence services, air dropping,

NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (NDRF)

Formed - 2006

Headquarter - New Delhi

Director General - Om Prakash Singh

Work - The National Disaster Response Force

(NDRF) is a disaster response agency under National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) created by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It was established for disaster management and specialised response to natural and man-made disasters. Under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) it functions at state and central-level and consists of ten battalions of Central Armed Police Forces, including three each of the BSF, CRPF, and two each of the CISF and ITBP.



rescuing, searching, transport relief goods, availability of rail and ferry services, health personnel and medical support. In 1999 a high powered committee on Disaster Management system was set up by the Government of India to look into the existing disaster management system in the country and to suggest measures to improve it. Besides, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted with contribution in ratio 3:1 between the centre and the respective State Government. The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended nearly Rs.11,000 crore for the period spread over five years, while the Twelfth Finance Commission has also recommended Rs. 23,000 crore assistance for the states.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is an agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India in 2005. Primary purpose of NDMA is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disaster and for capacity building in disaster resiliency and crisis response. The PM is the defacto Chairperson of NDMA. The agency is responsible for framing policies, laying down guidelines and best practices and coordinating with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAS) to ensure a holistic and distributed approach of disaster management. NDMA also collaborates with the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

National Police Academy to impart training to administration and police officers in planning and incident response. It monitors and develops guidelines for the local Firefighting Services across the country. It also collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Family welfare in developing emergency health and ambulance services. Specifically, it focuses on capacity building in dealing with mass casualty at local hospitals. NDMA runs various programmes for mitigation and responsiveness for specific situations like National cyclone Risk Management project, School Safety project, Decision support system etc.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a disaster response agency under National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) created by the Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India. It was established in 2009 in Delhi, for disaster management and specialized response to natural and man-made disasters. Functioning at State and Central level under NDMA, it consists of ten battalions of Central Armed Police Forces including three each of the BSF, CRPF and two each of the CISF and ITBP. Even in response to the 2015 Nepal earthquake, NDRF teams have been rushed to affected areas in both India and Nepal. In future the key to efficient disaster response will depend primarily on effectiveness of training and re-training of specialized Disaster Response Forces.

Disaster Management in Developed Countries

Like India, most of the countries are also affected by disasters. India is taking various measures for Disaster Management, but still more efforts are required to solve the problem of disaster. In United States, many local municipalities have a separate Office of Emergency Management (OEM) along with personnel and equipment. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) part of the Department of Homeland security is a federal agency for emergency management. The US and its territories are broken down to ten regions for FEMA's emergency management purposes but it does not override state authorities. The Citizen Corps is an organization of volunteer service programmes, administered locally and coordinated nationally by DHS, which seek to mitigate disasters and prepare the population for emergency response through public, education training and outreach. Red cross is also chartered by congress to coordinate disaster response services. The US congress also established the Centre for excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian assistance as Principal agency to promote disaster management in Asia-Pacific region. National Responsive Force (NRF) allows the integration of

federal resources with local, county or tribal entities with management of those resource to be handled at the lowest possible level, utilising the National Incident Management System (NIMS). In Australia 'Emergency Management Australia' a principal government agency is formed to tackle the problems of disaster. In Russia, Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) is engaged in fire fighting, civil defence and search and rescue after both natural and man made disasters. In UK, Civil contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) was also passed. In Japan, every year there is great loss of life and property due to natural disaster like earthquake and tsunami. The Central Management Council has developed a policy framework for large-scale earthquake Disaster Prevention and Reduction. When tsunami is expected to cause coastal damage, the Japan Meteorological Agency issues a big tsunami warning or advisory warning within 2-3 minutes after the earthquake and this information is immediately transmitted to Disaster Management organisation and media outlets and further forwarded to residents and maritime vessels. Coastal/tide embankments and prevention gates have been also developed.

With this vision, a detailed 'Training Regime for Disaster Response' has been prepared by NDMA/NDRF identifying the specific disaster response training courses and devising a unified, structured and uniform course module as well as syllabus for these training courses. And the State Disaster Response Forces (SDRF) and other stakeholders will be trained on the same line. NDRF personnel are invariably trained in courses like flood Rescue, collapsed structure search and Rescue, Medical first Responders, Rope Rescue, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Emergencies, Dignified Disposal of Dead Bodies etc. NDRF are trained in prestigious institutes like NISA, DRDO, BARC, CME, Army, Navy and Air Force as well in foreign countries like USA, Singapore, China, Finland, Korea, Switzerland etc.

Rehabilitation is an integral part of Disaster Management. When disaster occur administrations measures are terribly inadequate and perhaps this is the most difficult period for the victim. Thus, role of administration does not end with the end of

disasters. It requires proper coordination among various agencies. As we know that disasters are non-routine events that require non routine response. It is the duty of NDMA to generate data and information about disasters, preparing vulnerability zoning maps and spreading awareness among the people about these. Apart from these disaster planning, preparedness and preventive measures are need to be taken care in vulnerable areas. In recent times Disaster Management has assumed great importance. To handle the situations efficiently, we need to be well equipped with latest technologies. Introduction of Disaster Management Bill 2005 and establishment of NDMA and NDRF are positive steps taken by the Government of India.

“Even with all our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on earth, we are still at the mercy of nature.”

Ban on Pornography

What is Pornography?

Pornography is the depiction of erotic behaviour (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement and depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense sexual reaction.

A debate

In the 60s and 70s, debates over pornography mirrored the counter-culture's clash with conservative values. In this classic Liberal vs. Conservative encounter, the Liberal argues that there already exist laws to protect people from violence and children from exploitation and that the government has no business getting in the way of people's freedom of expression in democracy. Moral beliefs about sex should not be used to censor individual tastes whereas Conservative demands it should be banned.

Why pornography should be banned?

There are billions of people (children, teenagers, youth, and Old) who are connected from virtual and elusive world of internet. Porn contains that contents which is more artificial than real. It gives a very false image of a very natural process. Porn has long lasting fanciful effects which directly and indirectly are responsible for instigating men to dishonour women. Also, the brutality involved in many rape cases takes its birth from these porn movies. In Indian history, there are many incidents and archaeological sites like Khajuraho temples which present these contents in a very open manner. But these archaeological sites stand testimony to the kind of culture, we propagate and perpetuate. When it comes to morality, it can be felt that Indian morality gets qualified by uncertainty. The link between pornography and crime

moves the issue from a personal concern with moral conduct to a legal concern with civil protection. Robin Morgan's (an American poet, author, political theorist and radical activist) phrase, "pornography is the theory, rape is the practice, even without practice, theory can exist." captures the explicit link between production of pornography and violence against woman. Porn-industry has most devastating impact on the women. What porn does is to present woman as commodity for consumption thus purging the humanity attached to women? Women trafficking, sex slavery, violence against women, rapes and brutal murders thus become a natural outcome. The impact is not limited to women only. Youth who are its consumer base waste their energy in unproductive work. The impact on their moral and ethical fibres is beyond reconstruction. Love gets replaced by lust, care with cruelty and humanity with bestiality. What proponent of individual right forget is the women in porn are mother, sister or daughter of somebody. If they disregard and disrespect other women, how can they demand the respect for their own women? Hence security of entire society would be in peril. Moreover, any individual right can't be above the societal rights. Even our own fundamental right are restricted by decency and morality clause. Simultaneously our fundamental duties demands from us to respect women and renounce practice derogatory to the dignity of women. Flesh trade is one of the oldest yet most disparaging businesses which are bereft of even the minutest streak of humanity. Porn industry has not only glamorised this business but also increased its reach to every nook and corner of society. Four south Indian states—Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu account for almost 60% of the

pornography cases booked in the country in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Kerala tops the table with 386 cases, while Maharashtra comes in second with 199 cases in the three-year period, according to information accessed from the ministry of home affairs. Kerala, the most literate state in the country, has a huge lead over others in the country when it comes to uploading obscene stories and photos on the internet, as per data from the police. In the year 2012, nearly 25 percent of cases registered for uploading pornographic materials were from Kerala. As many 589 cases were registered in India for uploading lewd videos and images, last year. The highest numbers of cases are registered against children are for misusing social networking sites. Several people use it for taking revenge or breaking up marriages. The much promoted computer literacy is now backfiring with a large number of people including school children getting involved in cyber crimes. If we look at the school students mainly in metropolitan areas, majority of them would be carrying most advanced mobile phones having internet facilities. The parents and teachers should take more responsibility. Parents should not buy mobile phones for minor children. Besides, teachers should take action against the school students who bring mobile phones to school. The catastrophic materials on internet distort the fragile mind brain of children and teenagers. It must be controlled. Though banning porn is an infringement of an individual's privacy, but if we look at the greater good of society, it surely is a better choice than letting porn continues. Hence, in the interest of women, society and for the evolution of a common culture for the nation, porn must be banned.

In this regarding the government of India has given the list of 857 websites it considers pornographic to internet service providers (ISPs) and has banned access to them at least. This came after the Supreme Court refused to order a ban on pornographic websites saying such an order would impinge freedom. Before this, Supreme Court has told that little had been done to prevent child pornography, which is illegal, from being accessed on the web. It is remarkable that even educated and gentle

people also see these pornographic websites and they do not become lustful or rapist generally but the effect of their cultural structures plays a pivotal role on influence of pornography. It is notable that Supreme Court has expressed a serious concern in this regarding and told that this problem is related to each class of our society while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by a lawyer seeking a curb on pornographic sites on the internet, particularly those showing child pornography.

Why pornography should not be banned?

Last month, while hearing a petition to ban all pornographic sites, chief justice of Supreme Court HL Dattu had said, "Such interim orders cannot be passed by this court. Somebody can come to the court and say 'Look, I am an adult and how can you stop me from watching it within the four walls of my room? It is a violation of Article 21 (right to personal liberty) of the Constitution. Yes the issue is serious and some steps need to be taken. The Centre has to take a stand, let us see what stand the Centre will take.'" However, the Centre looks determined to ban porn based on its factually wrong views. But given the information of age, can porn be banned? While whether porn can entirely be banned or not is a debate for another day, India definitely needs porn to stay.

Source of curiosity :-

Discussing sex in India is taboo. Even the mere mention of the word raises many eyebrows. Parents, who ideally, should have sensitive conversations with their children over sex, hardly engage. Therefore, in such a conservative cultural scenario, porn serves as a source of information for teenagers about sex and its various intricacies. Satisfying teenagers' curiosity about sex is important and therefore providing sex education is critical. But the Indian government is opposed even to sex education, as was made clear last year by Union minister Harshvardhan.

Banning porn doesn't reduce crime

In 2013, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a ban on porn, citing

it as a major cause for crimes against women, which is believed to be the reasoning behind banning porn by the government. However, there is ample evidence that banning porn doesn't lower crime rates. Arundhati Ghosh, a woman activist said, "The more repressed a society is, the more the acts of sexual violence. If you see examples of Congo, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India- these are places (where) sexuality is not out in the open and acts of sexual violence are high". Furthermore, research studies in the Czech Republic, Denmark and Japan established that with increasing availability of pornography there was a significant decrease in the number of sex offences.

India lifted ban on internet pornography after criticism

The Indian government directed internet services providers to restore access to those among 857 banned porn and humour websites that did not feature child pornographic contents.

The effort to completely ban pornography is impossible because in the world of internet everything is connected to everywhere. We can immediately reach from India to Europe as well as Europe to India within seconds. Internet has broken the myth of geographical distance. Pornography has made its special position across cosmopolitan life to remote areas of villages. In an early age where the innocence of children is missing, erotic concocted clips are taking the psychology of young people to the verge of insanity. This point is really very remarkable that our children, teenagers, youth, even uneducated peoples are also involved in the lattice of pornography. Harvard Research says that rape proneness among men is proximately caused not by genetic variation, but by developmental events involving learning. Their analyses indicate that rape-prone men come from harsh developmental backgrounds involving impersonal and short-term social relationships, and backgrounds in which manipulation, coercion, and violence are valid ways of conducting social relationships.

In Britain, where pornography is already more restricted than it is anywhere else in the English-speaking world or in Western Europe,

sexual media is easily smeared for an audience that is seldom given an opportunity to see what really is sold under the name of 'pornography'. The UK is still the only Member State of the European Union that prohibits private imports of adult pornography by consumers coming from other Member States of the European Union. Christians may find pornographic materials morally and socially offensive, but not all pornography is legally prohibited in America. Pornography in the United States of America has existed since the country's origins. Individuals, groups, and companies advocating for the public availability of pornographic materials primarily cite the First Amendment's freedom of expression clauses. However, obscene material is not protected by the First Amendment, though there has been considerable debate and evolution over what is considered obscene. Despite this debate, the legal restrictions prohibiting obscene materials have remained, because protecting society from obscenity is considered a public good. Attempts made to suppress it include: outright bans, prohibitions of its sale, censorship or rating schemes that restrict audience numbers and claims that it is prostitution and thereby subject to regulations governing prostitution.

Furthermore, in 2014 China had started a campaign 'Cleaning the Web 2014' in which 'all online texts, pictures, videos and advertisements with pornographic content had been deleted without exception,' Chinese media stated the intention was "to purify the Internet environment." In 2014, Japan's parliament passed a bill to ban the possession of child pornography. Under the new law, people found with explicit photos or video of children can be imprisoned for up to one year and fined up to 1 million yen (\$10,000). In 2008 Indonesia's parliament too passed an anti-pornography law.

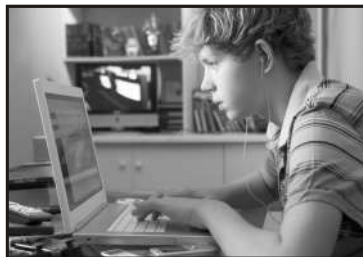
Net Neutrality in India



The debate on Net Neutrality in India started after Airtel, a mobile telephone service provider in India announced in December 2014 to charge additional rates for making voice calls from its network using apps like WhatsApp, Skype etc. In March 2015, TRAI released a formal consultation paper on Regulatory Framework for over-the-top services, seeking comments from the Public. The consultation paper was criticised for being one sided and having confusing statements. It was condemned from various politicians and Indian Internet users. By 24th April 2015, over a million e-mails had been received by TRAI demanding net neutrality.

What is Net Neutrality

When the internet started in 1980s and 1990s, there were no specific rules that guided the Internet Service Providers (ISPs). All service providers were not supposed to follow the same principle (i.e. to provide unfiltered and unrestricted services). But, mostly because telecom operation were ISPs too, they stuck to the same principle. This principle is known as Net Neutrality. Hence users were able to access any legal website like YouTube videos and Facebook without any interference from an ISP.














Role of Net Neutrality in shaping the Internet

Net neutrality played a great role in shaping the Internet. The web users are free to connect whatever website or service they want. ISPs do not bother with what kind of content is passing from servers. This has allowed the internet to grow into a truly global network and had allowed people to freely express themselves and to have access to almost everything they want. Net neutrality has also enabled a level playing field on the internet. A lot of money or connections are not necessary to start a website. If a service is good, it will find favour from web users. The service provider doesn't have to talk to ISPs to put his website online. This has led to creation of Google, Facebook, Twitter and other countless services. All these websites were started as basic websites but they succeeded because net neutrality allowed web users to access these websites in an easy and unhindered way.

Result of no Net Neutrality

If there is no Net Neutrality, the ISPs will have the power to shape the Internet traffic and they will derive extra benefit from it. Several ISPs want a share in the money that YouTube or Netflix make. If there is no net neutrality the ISPs will start charging these companies. Without Net Neutrality, the internet will be 'Package Plans' for consumers. There may be different connection speed for different types of contents, depending on how much you pay for the service. Lack of net neutrality, will also spell ruin for innovation on the web. It is

Famous social sites in the world

S.No.	Sites	Founded	Founder	Monthly Visitors
1.		4 February 2004	Mark Zuckerberg and others	90 crore
2.		21 March 2006	Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass and others	31 crore
3.		5 May 2003	Reid Hoffman, Allen Blue and others	25.5 crore
4.		March 2010	Paul Sciarra	25 crore
5.		22 June 2011	Google	12 crore
6.		February 2007	David Karp	11 crore
7.		6 October 2010	Facebook	10 crore
8.		10 February 2006	Pavel Durov	8 crore
9.		10 February 2004	Ludicorp (Yahoo)	6.5 crore
10.		24 January 2013	Twitter	4.2 crore
11.		2009	Jan Koum and Brian Acton	70 crore

possible that to enable faster access to their website, ISPs will charge web companies. Those who will not pay will find their websites functioning slowly. This means that big companies like Google will be able to pay more to make access to Youtube or Google+ faster for web users. But a new starter that wants to create a different and better video hosting site may not be able to do so. Without net neutrality we are likely to get a web that have silos (a collection of information not available to other programs etc.) in it and to enter each silo, we will have to pay some 'tax' to ISPs.

View of Politician on Net Neutrality

The parliamentarian Tathagata Satpathy and Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that any move to allow telecom operators to charge subscribers separately for using some apps would restrict people's access to internet and will go against the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India. An MP of Odisha representing BJD backed Net Neutrality and said that service providers should treat all data on the internet equally and must not impose differential pricing or discretion among users, content sites, platforms and apps also known as over-the-top (OTT) services. The

movement for net neutrality gained further strength when Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi pitched for a debate on this issue in the Lok Sabha. Telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said "Telecom Commission will look into the recommendation of TRAI and will then take final decision."

Will the Concept Net Neutrality Survive

Now when internet is an integral part of the society and incredibly important, with monstrous multinational companies playing like sharks, it is difficult that the concept of Net Neutrality will survive. Without Net Neutrality, radical ideas and start-ups will have lesser chances of unseating old boring companies. Absence of net neutrality will result in the emergence of monopolies or oligopolies which will be unfair for small and budding entrepreneurs. Internet is still a growing phenomenon in India. All steps must be taken to ensure that commercial interests of a few do not come in the way of this digital revolution. It is important that we do not let different pricing and performance creep into the internet. So Net Neutrality should be fully supported. It is a social networking site and essential part of the open internet.

Subsidy and its Relevance



Subsidy is an economic benefit or financial aid provided by a government to remove some types of burden and is often considered to be in the interest of the public. The aim behind providing subsidy is to promote economic welfare. Subsidies come in various forms including direct (Cash grants, interest free loans) and indirect (tax breaks, low interest loans etc.) The most common forms of subsidies are those to the producer or the consumer. The former ensures that the producers are better off if minimum support price is ensured to them and the latter reduces the price of goods and services thus making the price of essential commodities within the reach of common people.

Politics play an important part in subsidization. Subsidy is the subject of discussion once again nowadays as now it seems to hit the debate of it being ethical or unethical. It is been assessed with respect to its challenges in view of India's commitment to world trade body.

Relevance and Importance

Subsidy is a tool not only for financial aid but is as important in the form of financial support to the people of a developing country like India. A country where 70% of the population is in mid income group, the importance of subsidy is further strengthened. Subsidy has many variables like fertilizers, cooking gas or Agricultural loan. There was a constant increase in the allocated funds for subsidy with every passing year of each

financial budget. In 2001 where it was 1,43,570 crore, it rose to 2,60,657 crore in 2014. It constituted 12% of the projected expenditure of the government. Generally it would be equal to 2.2% of GDP. Its relevance cannot be ignored in view of its major share being food subsidy at 41% contribution. Various countries across the world under the banner of commercial organisation/committee have been trying to advocate and convince for removal of subsidies. They see it as an opportunity to healthier competition in various sectors like insurance, banking, agro products and information technology. It has been reviewed and suggested that subsidy should be given at the final stage in form of credit to the account of the beneficiary. The same had been suggested by C. Rangarajan committee and has been a point of discussion and has been instrumental in supporting the government view to cut subsidy in a phased manner over number of years.

Subsidy, its current state and types

There is a sense of confusion and lack of clarity with regards to the continuation of subsidy. There is a

lack of transp-arency in how centre in distributing the subsidy or whether the states are utilising it judiciously or not. Though the highest subsidy is in the food sector yet the process being followed or its actual results or



the quality of food grains being received by the ultimate beneficiary had always been under question. The public distribution system has its limitation and there is a visible financial nexus across different levels. It thus defeats the basic purpose of providing the correct supply at a correct price to the ultimate targeted population. Time and again, it has come to our notice that inefficiency in public distribution system and the callousness shown by the Food Corporation of India have caused the rotting of lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains that have been left out in the open. In the last 68 years, no government has taken the pain to improve the situation.

The second highest subsidy is the fertilizer sector. In the 2014 budget the sum allocated was 72,970 crore and a revised target has been set to reduce it to 60,000 crore by the end of next financial year. The basic thought behind the plan to cut down fertilizer subsidy is because of the major contribution and benefits going to rich farmers instead of the smaller one who were the target beneficiary. Though it is true yet we should not forget that it is because of this subsidy that the price of foodgrains and vegetable has been under control to a large extent. Its withdrawal is likely to affect 70% of the population directly or indirectly. Inflation and rise in food prices have been cutting deep into the pockets of middle income group.

The third highest subsidy is on fuel sector. In this sector, petrol was available at market price but till 2014 diesel and cooking gas, kerosene and CNG were under price control regime of the government. Slowly the government has taken the initiative to deregulate the prices of diesel and other petroleum products. The number of subsidised cylinders has been restricted to 12 for each family and beyond that the consumer shall be liable to pay the extra

Cash Subsidy on LPG

The scheme to transfer cash subsidy directly to the bank account of the LPG user has been implemented

pan-India from 1st January, 2015. This scheme has been named 'Direct Benefit Transfer'. This scheme was



implemented in 54 districts of our country on 15th November, 2014. For the remaining 622 districts, the scheme came into effect from 1st January 2015. According to an official statement, around 15.3 crore consumers will be benefitted by this scheme in the 676 districts of our country. Around 6.5 crore i.e. 43% consumers have enrolled themselves for this scheme. They will henceforth get the subsidy amount directly transferred to their bank accounts. Any consumer who wants to get the benefit of this scheme will have to link his/her Aadhaar number to LPG consumer number and his/her bank account number. If he/she doesn't have an Aadhaar card, he/she will have to link his/her bank account with the 17 digit LPG ID number. Once the Consumer gets registered under this scheme, he/she will have to buy LPG cylinders on market price and the subsidy will be transferred to his bank account.

The Consumer will be intimated his/her status through SMS at every step. Every Consumer will have to register his mobile number with his/her respective gas agency. The consumers have also been suggested that they must accept LPG cylinders only when 'subsidy transfer' has been mentioned in the receipt. Those consumers who do not wish to avail subsidy can keep themselves out of the whole process.

cost. The next important area where subsidy has played a significant role is agriculture. In the Union budget of year 2013, the amount was 7 lakh crore whereas it was revised to 8 lakh crore in the budget plan of 2014.

Current policy on subsidy

Lot of games are being played and the role of subsidy has been under scrutiny both within the country and outside. It has been proposed that the subsidy be reduced to lower down the financial deficit of the budget. The idea is still not convincing since this very subsidy is an important tool and support in developed countries like USA too. In US, the agriculture subsidy stands at 120 billion dollar whereas in our country it is hardly 12 billion dollar. There are many countries across the world that extend subsidy support to their population and especially farmers either directly or indirectly to improve their life style. If we continue to take this idea forward, it would be hard to imagine how such large population of India would cope with sky-rocketing prices not only for daily needs but also for basic food products like vegetables or pulses. The RBI governor has assured that inflation would be under control in next two years. We have to see and feel what

exactly comes out in next two years. There is a high level of discontentment across various group of population. The government has tried to pacify the people by introducing the concept of cash subsidy to be directly transferred through bank account to the ultimate beneficiary of such schemes and projects.

Time has come to meet and face the challenges of continuing subsidy across different sectors. It needs to have a balanced approach whereas the principle objectives should not suffer. The ultimate population should not feel a high pinch being added to their daily needs. It has to be constantly reviewed and seen with the changing times. The approach has to be more dynamic and more practical so that it does not affect the larger population which is close to 60%. One should not extend unnecessary subsidy to profit making industries like airlines or bad debtors of the industry. We have to keep the flame of kitchen burning for 60% of the population who are affected and benefited by this very role of subsidy in a developing country like India. India would continue to support and extend this facility in the benefit of the nation in a balance and progressive manner.

Freedom of Speech



India Vis-a-Vis Freedom of Speech

India, the largest and one of the most mature nations of the world has incorporated the freedom of speech in its Constitution, soon after its independence, when our learned leaders sat down to write the rules, principles and the directives on which the country shall be served by its elected representatives. The Constitution of India provides the Right to Freedom, under Articles 19,20,21 and 22. The right to Freedom in Articles 19 guarantees the Freedom of Speech and Expression.

Articles 19 states that 'Every citizen has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers.

Why is freedom of Speech a burning issue today ?

Today the world is a global village. The incidents of violation of human rights have their repercussions throughout the world. Recently the freedom of speech saw an unprecedented reaction in France. On 7th January 2015, two assailants stormed the office of the satirical weekly magazine Charlie Hebdo and gunned down 12 people including the Editor-in-chief Stephane Charbonnier and four Cartoonists in retaliation to the Cartoons of Prophet Mohammed published in the weekly. Charlie Hebdo known infamously in the Muslim world for its audacity to publish cartoons of the most revered Prophet of the Muslims had been the target of a terrorist attack on 2nd November 2011 too. Since 2006 this weekly magazine has published a series of Cartoons that have offended the Muslim world. Recently the movie PK was opposed by certain sections of Hindu Society



Six of the Charlie Hebdo Staff (circled) killed in the attack

that termed it anti-hindu and certain cases were filed and demonstrations were staged but the High Court of Delhi dismissed the case sending a strong message of 'nipping the growing instances of religious intolerance in the bud'. Down the line few years back, M.F. Hussain controversial paintings of Hindu Goddesses created such an unfavourable situation for him that he had to leave India. Tasleema Naseen's fate too met the same result and she had to leave Bangladesh and then buckling under the minority's pressure, the West Bengal Government and later the Indian Government asked her to leave India bag and baggage. She moved to Sweden. Her fault was that she wrote essays and novels with feminist views and criticism of her religion Islam.

Freedom of Press

Freedom of Press is a cherished right in

most of the democratic countries of the world. The attack on Charlie Hebdo brought this issue again to the forefront. The magazine was sued in 2007 by two French Muslim associations which was rejected by the French Court. Freedom of Press has time and again caused great agitation among the masses of many countries growing into a full-blown revolution. In 2014, the countries at the top in the matter of free press were Finland, Netherlands and Norway while with the least free press were Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan and Syria. This 'Press Freedom Index' is published by 'Reporters Without Borders' every year.

Central Board of Film Certification

Central Board of film Certification- CBFC, commonly known as Censor Board, has been in news recently. On 16th January 2015, the Chairperson of the Censor Board, Leela Samson resigned from her post alleging the interference of the Government in the functioning of the Censor Board. After her resignation nine members of the board tendered their resignation jointly. After a few more resignations, only 17 members remained in the board. On 19th January 2015, the government appointed Mr. Penlaj Nihalani as the Chairperson of the board and also nine more members. Thus an almost entirely new Censor Board was put in place by the government.



Functioning of the Censor Board

The functions of the Board are-

- To regulate the public exhibitions of films.
- To assign certifications to films, television shows, television advertisement and publications for exhibitions, sale or hire in India.

The CBFC issues the following certificates presently:-

Theatrical Release Certificates

Certificate	Name	Definition / Notes
U	Universal	Unrestricted Public Exhibition throughout India, suitable for all age groups. Films under this category should not upset children over 4. Such films may contain educational, social comical or family-oriented themes. Films under this category may also contain fantasy violence, very mild sex scenes and/or mild bad language.
UA	Parental Guidance	All ages admitted but it is advised that children below 12 be accompanied by a parent as the theme or content may be considered intense or inappropriate for young children. Films under this category may contain mature themes, sexual references, mild sex scenes, violence with brief gory images and/or infrequent use of crude language.
A	Adults only	Only for adult audiences (18 years or over). Nobody below the

		age of 18 may buy/rent an A rated DVD, VHS, UMD or watch a film in the cinema with this rating. Films under this category may contain adult/disturbing themes, frequent crude language, brutal violence with blood and gore, strong sex scenes and/or scenes of drug abuse which is considered unsuitable for minors.
S	Restricted to any Special Class	This rating signifies that the film is meant for a specialised audience, person such as doctors.

Freedom of Press in India

The freedom of Press is nowhere mentioned in the Indian Constitution. The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression has been provided in Article 19 of the Constitution of India. It is understood that Freedom of Speech and Expression in Article 19 of the Indian Constitution includes the freedom of Press. Freedom of the Press includes Freedom of Communication and Expression through different mediums including various electronic media and published materials.

Media Vis-a-vis Freedom of Speech and their responsibility towards the Society

Media is the fourth pillar of the constitution. Amongst the remaining three, the Legislature enacts laws and statutes, the Executive implements them and the Judiciary ensures that all enactments and implementations are done under due process of law. The fourth pillar ensures that the citizens of the country stays enlightened and they perform their social and moral duty in the larger interest of the nation staying within the limitations of Indian constitutional and legal provisions.

Recently the media's impartial deliverance of news came under scanner. They allegedly failed to remain impartial during the 2014 Lok Sabha election. One news channel was termed pro-UPA and the other Pro-BJP. Every now and then we find some ridiculing one religion while the other intruding into the private life of someone in the garb of sensational sting operation. Every day certain advertisements amid news, serial etc. cause great discomfort due to their indecent contents and certain gossips are exaggerated to garner TRP (Television Ratio Point) leaving certain very important news of national and international importance uncovered. People related to electronic and print media must understand the gravity of their responsibilities towards the society. Social Media too is now playing a very crucial role in shaping the society and it is very interesting to note that this media is run by overzealous, gung-ho and impatient youths of the country.

Limitations on Right to Speech

Right to Freedom of Speech granted by the constitutions to we Indians is subject to certain restrictions. Under Indian Law, the freedom of speech and of the Press does not confer any absolute right upon us to express our thoughts absolutely freely. Clause (2) of Article 19 of the Indian Constitution enables the legislature to impose certain restrictions on free speech in the interest of public order, security of state, decency and morality. The following are the grounds on which this freedom is curtailed.

- (i) Security of the State.
- (ii) Friendly relations with foreign States.
- (iii) Public order
- (iv) Decency and morality
- (v) Contempt of court
- (vi) Defamations
- (vii) Incitement to an offence and
- (viii) Sovereignty and integrity of India.

It is crystal clear that the Freedom of Speech enshrined in our constitution does not grant us any absolute right. No person can exercise this right if the exercise of his right infringes the rights of any other person. The reasonableness of restrictions on freedom of speech is decided on case to case basis. Our Constitution guarantees the intervention of the state in case the right is over exercised or exercised in violation to the rights of our fellow countrymen. 'Our right end when the nose of other citizen starts'. It is said. This sentence itself explains everything.

Black Money



Black money refers to funds earned on which income and other taxes have not been paid. The total amount of black money deposited in foreign banks by Indians is unknown. Supreme Court, while hearing the petition on black money said that black money is not just simply tax evasion. Instead it is a plunder of the nation in real sense. Before independence Britishers plundered India by draining the wealth of India into their home country. Now it is the politics-business-babu nexus which is plundering the nation of its precious wealth since independence.

Black money has been a hot topic of discussion and it has led to the downfall of the UPA government up to some extent. Certain UPA government's minister and many politicians have been blamed by the opposition for stashing black money abroad and the BJP's commitment to bring it back to India within 100 days raised high hopes among the common people of our country but people with good knowledge on this subject have always been amused by such claims. According to the best of their knowledge, whatever India can do in relation to the banks of foreign countries is subject to the domestic laws of those countries and of international law. In addition, we are bound to secrecy clauses; releasing names (except for prosecution) would violate our undertakings and jeopardize future co-operation. Since 1934, breaking bank secrecy has been a criminal offence in Switzerland whereas tax evasion is not. This must be kept in mind while asking for favour from this country.

In 2010, US-based Global Financial Integrity estimated that 462 billion dollars went out of India between 1948 and 2008. This large amount of money which would have gone in eliminating poverty and strengthening Indian economy had gone out of India. According to recent data released by the Swiss Central bank in June 2014, the magnitude of black money held by Indians in Switzerland increased by 43 percent in 2013 to reach 14000 crore rupees from 9593 crore rupees in 2012.

Negotiations are going on between India and other tax haven countries to release the names of Indians having black money stashed in Switzerland and Government of India. What is worrying is the magnitude of increase when all the nations have witnessed a decline.



Recently, the Swiss government has shown its intention to share the names of Indians having unaccounted money with Government of India. This will go a long way in aiding the SIT on black money headed by Justice (retired.) M. B. Shah to unearth the black money.

On 27th October, 2014, the Indian Government submitted names of three people in an affidavit to the Supreme Court who have black money in foreign countries. They are Pradip Burman of the Dabur group, Rajkot based bullion trader Pankaj Chimanlal Lodhya and directors of Goa based mining company Timblo Pvt. Ltd. Radha Satish Timblo, Chetan S Timblo, Rohan S Timblo, Rohan S Timblo, Anna C Timblo and Mallika R Timblo. The very next day Supreme Court ordered to reveal all the names. Following the order the

Government of India submitted, the names of 627 people in the Supreme court of India in a sealed envelope on 29th October 2014.

However, whether the black money be brought back to India or not, will depend upon the efforts of Narendra Modi led government. In conclusion, black money stashed abroad is the wealth of India and must be brought back and the individuals responsible for this should be nabbed and brought to book. This will help in saving the wealth of the nation from getting plundered.

GST Bill



The greatest tax reform since independence finally got the approval of Parliament as the Lok Sabha on August 8, 2016, passed all the amendments to the landmark Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill. Two-third majority passed the bill with all the 443 members present in the Lok Sabha voting in favour of the Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014. Separate amendments to some of its clauses were proposed in the Upper House, which have now been ratified in the Lower House. The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 19, 2014. The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on May 6, 2015, and referred to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha which submitted its Report on the Bill on July 22, 2015. The Bill was passed with amendments in Rajya Sabha on August 3, 2016. The Bill required a special majority for its passage as it is a Constitutional Amendment Bill (that is at least 50% majority of the total membership in the House, and 2/3rds majority of all members present and voting). Thus, the Bill was approved by the Rajya Sabha with 203 votes in favour and none against. The Bill then went to States (15 out of total 29 states) for approval as per Article 368 of the Constitution as it is a Constitutional Amendment Bill dealing with changes in the features of Fiscal Federalism. The passage of the Bill will pave the way for the rollout of Goods and Services Tax (GST) i.e. uniform taxation regime across the country. The first

major milestone has successfully been crossed with the passing of a unified Goods and Services Tax Bill almost unanimously in the Upper House. **This is just the beginning of a big task that lies ahead in order to accomplish a significant goal of rolling out GST by April 1, 2017.**

Key amendments passed by Rajya Sabha

Additional tax up to 1% on inter-state trade

1. 2014 Bill (Clause 18): An additional tax of up to 1% on the supply of goods will be levied by the centre in the course of inter-state trade or commerce. The tax will be directly assigned to the States from where the supply originates. This will be for two years or more, as recommended by the GST Council.
2. 2016 amendments: Deletes the provision.
3. Select Committee, 2015: The Committee had noted that the provision for the 1% additional tax is likely to lead to cascading of taxes.

Compensation to States

1. 2014 Bill (Clause 19) : Parliament may, by law, provide for compensation to states for any loss of revenues, for a period which may extend to five years. This would be based on the recommendations of the GST Council. This implies that Parliament may decide.
 - (i) whether it wants to provide compensation;
 - (ii) the time period for which it can provide such compensation, up to five years.
2. 2016 Amendments: Parliament shall, by law, provides for compensation to States for any loss of revenues, for a period of five years. This would be based on the recommendations of the GST Council. This implies that compensation must be provided for a full five-year period.
3. Select Committee, 2015: Amendments are in line with the recommendations of the Select Committee.

Dispute resolution

1. 2014 Bill (Clause 12): The GST Council may decide upon the modalities to resolve disputes arising out of its recommendations.
2. 2016 Amendments: The GST Council shall establish a mechanism to adjudicate any

THE GST OF IT

Short to medium term effects

Costlier
Services like hotels, cellphone bills, air and train tickets set to cost more

Cheaper
Goods like cars, two-wheelers, SUVs, fans, lighting products, water heaters, air coolers set to become cheaper

Long term effects

Will eliminate multiple taxes on firms, help ease of doing business

Will reduce logistics costs for firms due to elimination of inter-State taxes

Capital goods prices could fall by 12-14%, boosting GDP growth by 0.5%

Will reduce black money; need for financial documentation will increase

18%
GST if set at 18% will be lower than current 24-26% tax on **goods**

20-70 bps
CPI inflation will go up by 20-70 bps in the year of implementation due to costlier services

15%
But it will be higher than the current 15% effective tax on **services**

60%
Services make up 60% of GDP; higher taxes will hit services, which will hurt growth

GST rates must come down, we'll strive for a reasonable rate – Arun Jaitley

The heart of this Bill is the tax rate, it should be low – P Chidambaram

dispute arising out of its recommendations. Disputes can be between:

- (a) the Centre vs. one or more States;
- (b) the Centre and States vs. one or more States;
- (c) State vs. State. This implies there will be a standing mechanism to resolve disputes.

3. Select Committee, 2015: No recommendation.

Other changes made by the 2016 Amendments:

Integrated GST

1. Replacement of the term IGST (Clause 12): Under the 2014 Bill, the GST Council would make recommendations on the apportionment of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST). However, the term IGST was not defined. The 2016 amendments replace this term with 'goods and services tax levied on supplies in the course of inter-state trade or commerce'.
2. Apportionment of Integrated GST (Clause 9): This is a technical change in relation to the apportionment of the IGST. It clarifies that the state's share of the IGST shall not form a part of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Inclusion of CGST and IGST in tax devolution to states

1. 2014 Bill (Clause 10): The GST collected and levied by the centre, other than the state's share of IGST, (CGST and centre's share of IGST) shall also be distributed between the centre and the states.
2. 2016 amendments: The amendments State that the CGST and the Centre's share of IGST will be distributed between the Centre and the States. This is just a restatement of the provisions in the 2014 Bill in clearer terms.
3. Select Committee, 2015: Not discussed.

The Goods and Services Tax:

Highlights of the Bill

The GST will have two components keeping in mind the federal structure of India: the Central GST (CGST) and the State GST (SGST). Parliament and State legislatures will have concurrent powers to make laws on GST. Only the Centre may levy an integrated GST (IGST) on the interstate supply of goods and services, and imports. For goods and services that pass through several States, or imports, the Centre will levy another tax, the Integrated GST (IGST). It empowers the centre to impose an additional tax of up to 1% on the inter-state supply of goods for two years or more. This tax will accrue to states from where the supply originates. Alcohol for human consumption has been exempted from the purview of GST. Initially, GST will not apply to (a) petroleum crude, (b) high-speed diesel, (c) motor spirit (petrol), (d) natural gas and (e) aviation turbine fuel. The GST Council will decide when GST will be

levied on them. Tobacco and tobacco products will be subject to GST. The centre may also impose excise duty on tobacco. Parliament may provide for compensation to States for revenue losses arising out of the implementation of GST for up to 5 years, based on the recommendations of the GST Council. The GST Council will recommend rates of tax, period of levy of an additional tax, the principles of supply, special provisions for certain States, etc. The GST Council will consist of the Union Finance Minister, Union Minister of State for Revenue, and State Finance Ministers. Parliament may, by law, provide compensation to states for any loss of revenue from the introduction of GST, up to a five-year period.

Following Central taxes are replaced by GST Bill

(a) Central Excise Duty (b) Additional Duties of Excise and Customs (c) Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD) (d) Service Tax (e) Cesses and Surcharges on Supply of goods and services

Following State taxes are replaced by GST Bill

(a) VAT (b) Central Sales Tax (c) Purchase Tax (d) Luxury Tax (e) Entry Tax (f) Entertainment Tax (g) Taxes on advertisements, lotteries, betting, gambling (h) State Cesses and Surcharges.

The **GST Council** will consist of (a) the Union Finance Minister (as Chairman), (b) the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance and (c) the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government. All decisions of the GST Council will be made by the three-fourth majority of the votes cast; the centre shall have one-third of the votes cast, and the states together shall have two-third of the votes cast. It will make recommendations on taxes; goods and services; threshold limit of turnover for application of GST; the principles of levy; rates of GST; special provisions with respect to the eight North-eastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

What will be expensive?

- (1) Eating Out (2) Phone Bills
- (3) Jewellery (4) On-line Shopping
- (5) Banking & Insurance
- (6) Travelling

What will be cheaper?

- (1) Buying a car (2) Televisions
- (3) Movie Tickets (5) Processed Foods
- (6) Cement

GST will curb black money and corruption:

Although it is said to be unified tax, but still, it will be applied twice as CGST (Central) and SGST (State) & also IGST (in a case of interstate). But its on-line system will surely track each and every step of the transaction that will minimise the chance of tax evasion. GST as a stand-alone legislation might

not curb black money, but would certainly compliment other anti-black money measures like Undisclosed Income Bill and Benami Transaction Bill. There is no doubt that it will help in closing loopholes which allow the generation of black money. Example: sometimes bills are not issued and hence doesn't get accounted for and hence it becomes black money. GST would ensure that such things do not happen as any departure would mean that the traders would not get incentives and the tax credit. Though it is not foolproof but it would certainly increase compliance. Furthermore, GST might be of some help in tackling any likely future generation of black money in India, but it won't be of much help when it comes to money stacked abroad. As far as the angle of corruption is concerned, I believe GST would eliminate discretion on the part of the officials involved as the citizen would no longer have to deal with different officials from different ministries. It will ensure a single interface. To curb black money and corruption, it requires implementing the following points.

1. A strong IT infrastructure which can support this system.
2. A strong determination for its implementation.

A critical review of the GST bill :

One of the biggest concern has been about the autonomy of states which is likely to be affected by GST. Financial autonomy of states would be affected, as states would no longer have the independence to introduce/modify taxes as per their wishes. Concurrence of GST council would be required. The advantageous position enjoyed by certain producing states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu would be eroded and thus the elbow room enjoyed by them earlier in framing state specific policies/schemes would be compromised. The revenue loss would be compensated for 5 years only. If states fail to adapt even after 5 years, then once again it would have to depend on Centre for Financial aid/Grants/Special category status, etc. Only those states that are well prepared will be able to absorb the advantages arising out of GST. Thus, regional disparity might increase as there is no mechanism that would help in trickling down from stronger to a weaker state. It is an indirect tax reform. Hence, poor and people in the unorganised sector likely to be affected the most. States would no longer be able to keep them out of the ambit based on BPL/SECC criteria. GST council may enjoy the supreme power. Smaller states will have a lesser say. Also, no precedence available for any such platform would make things difficult. Many political parties would no longer be able to frame policies after coming to power based on their political ideology (e.g. The left has tilted towards socialism and against privatisation). Since in GST council the GoI would have a 33% weightage hence it would

ultimately enjoy a veto power. Thus, chances of Union centralisation. Thus, the need of the hour is careful consideration and progress to encourage cooperative federalism.

Conclusion:

GST is without any doubt a significant reform. It will create more jobs, create a wider choice of products, and ensure less corruption and red tape. The benefits of creating a common market are well known. This year we mark the 25 years of economic liberalisation. It is our choice, where does our future lie? There is much work that needs to be done in reforming tax administration. We stand ready to take the first step in these reforms by bringing in GST. GST will significantly bring benefits to consumers and producers. With reduced taxes and costs, there will also be a wider tax base. This will increase revenue flow to the government ensuring that more money is available for spending on social welfare. Goods will become cheaper because their current tax rate is higher than what the GST is likely to be. In the short term, there will be a blip in inflation, but this will likely stabilise after a year. It is to harmonise the tax structure at Centre and state levels. It subsumes not just goods but also services. This is an attempt to create a standard indirect tax rate, although with exemptions. The ultimate aim is to standardise and harmonise the indirect tax market. This may explain one nation, one tax. One of the ways the middle class will benefit is from the removal of the multitude of taxes they have to pay. GST will hamper the financial autonomy of states, hence federalism due to following the reasons- Nationwide uniform rate of GST will erode the state's discretion to decide their taxes. And it is also called centralisation of the tax system. Even the central law will prescribe the method of sharing revenue from IGST. The uniform taxation system will adversely affect those states which are more inclined to welfare expenditure like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra etc., and it will also affect the revenue of prosperous states. However, GST has provision for centre and state GST. Moreover, the central law cannot override the state's law with regard to state GST as well. States would be compensated for five years for the loss of revenue and GST council will decide the matter concerning GST either rates, an exception of taxes etc. indicating toward cooperative federalism. Although GST will unify the tax structure of India to the maximum extent, the states will have sufficient financial autonomy in light of increased share for states in the central divisional pool recommended by the 14th Finance commission, and on contrary to an erosion of federalism, it may lead to cooperative federalism.

Letter Format



Rules:

1. Keep left. Now we do not write the Sender's address (the topmost part) or the signature (the last part) on the right.
2. Write the subject before starting a formal letter.
3. Do not write 'from' and 'to'. Simply write the sender's address followed by date and then the receiver's address. Leave one line in between the two.
4. After writing the sender's address, write the date.
5. The subject must be as short as possible. The outline of a formal letter is given below.

1. XYZ
Examination Hall
New Delhi- 110001
1st December, 2015

} **Sender's address with date**

2. The Marketing Manager
M/s ABC Publication
Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi - 110009

} **Receiver's address**

3. Sub : Order for books } **Subject**

4. Dear Sir } **Salutation/Greeting**

This is to
state

} **Body of the letter**

7. Yours Sincerely
XYZ

} **Subscription**

6. Thanking you } **Ending**

REMEMBER

The format fetches you solid marks if it is correct and in adherence to the modern style so always go through the latest CBSC format.

OPENING OF A LETTER

CASE-1

Letter to the Editor:

- Through this esteemed column of your prestigious newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authority towards.....
- I would like to bring to the notice of the civic authorities and public, the sorry state of(mention the problem that you want to state) through your prestigious newspaper.

CASE-2

General Complaint:

- I regret to bring to your notice
- I would like to draw your attention towards
- It's high time you paid attention towards
- I would like to lodge a complaint against
- It pains me greatly to write that

CASE-3

Letter Containing General Information:

- This is to state that
- It is stated that
- This is to bring to your notice that.....

CASE 4

If the letter is a reply :

- This is in reference to your letter no. 123/2016 dated 21/12/2016
- I came across the advertisement dated 21/12/2016 published in 'The Times of India' and learnt that the post of Manager has fallen vacant in your company.

Closing of A letter

CASE - 1

Letter to the editor of newspaper regarding a problem that has remained unresolved despite several complaints.

I hope this letter will prove to be an eye opener for the concerned authority and staff that have been sleeping over this matter for months.

CASE- 2

Letters to the concerned authority regarding a problem and its apathetic staff

I hope you will take prompt steps for the redressal of my grievances and will take stern actions against the erring staff.

CASE- 3

Letters including some kind of business proposal.

1. Looking forward to getting a positive response from you.
2. Looking forward to meeting you soon in response to my proposal.

CASE - 4

General complaint

Please look into the matter and do the needful.

LETTER- 1

Write a letter to the manager of your locality citing him the problems that you saw the people facing in that Branch post-demonetization and also mentioned the probable solutions.

XYZ
ABC Colony
New Delhi
28th December, 2016

The Manager
PQR Bank
ABC Colony
New Delhi

Subject: Chaos mounts and serpentine queue hounds at your branch

Sir,

This is to state that today I came for the new currency to your branch located in my colony and witnessed chaos and queues there accompanied by bitter altercation between your cashless staff and cash-starved people. People jostled to exchange and withdraw money and anger was soaring high at every nook and corner of the branch. The non-functional ATM of the branch added fuel to fire. Scuffle and heated exchanges were seen outside too as the crowd was growing impatient and there was no guard to man the crowd there. I was saddened by this mismanagement as the branches of other banks in the adjoining buildings had much better arrangements. Now as several days have passed you need to ensure smooth functioning at your branch.

Sir, I do understand how helpless the bankers are today. You have to bear the ire of your seniors, the tax departments and the infuriated public. The problem cannot be resolved overnight but can be mitigated by making some small facilities available. To start with, a cashful of functional ATM with a guard to manage the queue will solve half of the problems. People are facing psychological and physical problems due to the sudden decision on demonetization so they tend to lose their cool at the drop of a hat. Sufficient number of polite staff, a water dispenser and a couple of benches for old and feeble will surely mollify their anger. Why not be safe than sorry? It's high time you took immediate steps to control the situation.

I hope you take this letter and the suggestions positively and implement them.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

XYZ

LETTER- 2

Write a letter to the speaker of the Lok Sabha citing how chaos and uproar in the functioning of the Lok Sabha are affecting the people's belief in our democratic setup.

XYZ
ABC Colony
New Delhi
1st Jan, 2017

Hon'ble Speaker
Lok Sabha 17, Parliament House,
New Delhi-110001

Subject : Impact of hullabaloo and frequent disruption in the Lok Sabha proceedings

Dear Mam,

I would like to state that being a humble citizen of India, I am extremely saddened to see how the proceedings in the Lok Sabha are disrupted everyday on one pretext or the other. Since the day demonetization took place in the country, the opposition continues raising slogans and rushing into the well demanding discussion on this as the present government too did the same with the UPA government but this tit-for-tat policy is eating into the hard-earned money of the common people.

Madam, I do understand that amidst continued din, you try to initiate the functioning but the ruckus refuse to die. Such unproductive session is sheer wastage of people's money as we know that every minute of Parliament in session costs approximately ₹ 2.5 lakhs. We, the people of India send our representatives to Parliament with high expectations but our expectations as well as our money are flushed down into drain amid the aggressive attacks and counter attacks between the Government and the opposition. The complete session of Parliament is washed out over a single controversial issue and this causes incalculable damage to the institutional pillars of democracy disabling Parliament and inflicting long-lasting wounds on the expectations of the people and the future of the nation.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

XYZ

LETTER- 3

XYZ
Examination Hall
New Delhi- 110001
1st December, 2016

The Editor
Times of India
12 A, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi- 1

Subject: Chaotic State of Traffic on Delhi Roads

Sir,

Through this prestigious column of your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the kind attention of the concerned authorities towards the chaotic conditions of traffic on the city roads that has worsened in the recent past and hence it is an obvious cause of concern. This has resulted in total confusion and anarchy on roads. Massive traffic jams and incidents of road rage have become routine affairs. Commuters get hassled due to heavy traffic jams since it takes a lot of time for them to reach their respective destinations. Most of them get late for their work and others miss their trains or flights and some sick and ailing ones fail to reach hospital in time. Children going to school have their woeful tales to narrate.

Of course, these chaotic conditions are due to the increase in number of vehicles. Some stringent measures have to be adopted by the traffic police and civic authorities to improve the situation on the roads. Constructing more flyovers is only one of the possible steps that can be taken to lessen the pressure of traffic on roads. Efficient policing at the cross-road especially at peak hours has to be observed as well. More of us should use public transport than individual vehicles. Car pools should be encouraged and unnecessary travelling should be avoided during the peak hours.

Commuters as a civic community and the police need to come together to deal with this problem of traffic jams and overcrowding on the roads. Before the situation goes out of control, let's wake up to the need of minimizing jams on the roads and get down to doing something constructive to solve the problem.

Yours truly

XYZ

LETTER- 4

Vikas Kunj
Pragati Colony
New Delhi-11
25th November, 2016

The Editor
Times of India
Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi- 14

Subject : Suggestions for making school curriculum more flexible and interesting

Sir,

It is through the medium of your newspaper that I wish to bring to your notice, the stagnation and dullness of our educative system that seems to have an adverse effect on the students.

The education system has become totally mechanical and routine based on rote-learning and it has robbed the students of the joy of learning. It has only become a memory-game and students are supposed to be just robots memorizing facts and figures to empty out during the three-hour examination. The curriculum should integrate practical learning that is understood and learnt. A flexible and activity-based curriculum is the need of the present day environment and only this will lead to homogeneous growth of body and mind. There should be equal emphasis on personality development programme and academics. Talk shows, debates, games, quiz programme etc are the need of the hour. The future citizens of our country need to be independent, confident and take the world in their stride. The school is an ideal platform for the training of faculties of mind and body and the child's formative years can be moulded ideally in school.

I am sure my views will be shared by many other students, across the globe. The Education Department should take note of the sentiments of students while framing the curriculum.

Yours faithfully

Savita

LETTER- 5

A-8 Kalkaji Extension
New Delhi
5th August, 2016

The Editor,
The Indian Express
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi- 110002

Subject : Computers — Wonders and Hazards

Sir,

Through this column of your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to the role of 'Computers- wonders and hazards'. Computers are sophisticated electronic devices which can perform many of the functions of the human brain. A computer is a wonderful and unique machine that excites and fascinates children and adult alike. Undoubtedly, the use of computers covers a range of areas. Indeed, advantages of the use of computers are many. They make calculations much faster and more accurately than any human brain would do. If data is correctly fed into a computer, it can even check and evaluate many books at much faster rate. No wonder, the use of computers in the banks and offices assures efficiency, accuracy and rapidity. These awesome electronic devices can predict the weather worldwide. We can see it being used at railway stations, libraries, shops, restaurants, hotels, etc. apart from various banks and offices. Media for all types of communications are also greatly influenced by the use of computers. Even young boys and girls are found to be computer savvy and computers are a part of curriculum in many schools. There is, however, a negative side to the computers as well. Workers and their organizations feel that computerization is likely to lead to unemployment as computers, being faster, leave slower humans behind. At a functional day-to-day level, too, computers have proved to be an obsession with our youth who tend to get distracted from their more essential task and studies. What is required of us is to avail ourselves of all the benefits of computers with a sense of discrimination. The excess of it is of course hazardous and so we have to limit its use intelligently.

It is high time that the concerned authorities and the government did something to channelise the impact of computerization in the modern world. Excess of everything is not good. Availability of pornography and addictive games derail the otherwise target-oriented youths and students. Self-imposed censorship is the only solution to this necessary evil.

Thanking you

Yours truly

Amitabh

LETTER- 6

18, Mall Road,
Delhi- 9
30th October, 2016

The Editor
The Hindustan Times
12, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi-1

Subject : Protect Nature, Protect Life

Sir,

Through this prestigious column of your esteemed daily, I would like to create awareness among the general public on the topic 'Protect nature, Protect life'. Nature and human life are connected in more than one way. 'Nature is also the most vivid expression of God.' It was in the lap of nature that life developed; so it's not wrong to address nature as 'Mother Nature.' But as soon as human beings evolved they declared their supremacy on the earth. In their urge for power, progress and materialism, they tried to exploit nature in many ways. Deforestation led to multiple problems like floods, lack of rainfall, soil erosion etc. It has resulted in overall environmental degradation. Cutting down trees – is it any less than murder? yes, it is a type of murder but which harms the killer too. Afforestation is the only solution to mend the damage already caused. We should treat plants as our children and each of us must plant more and more trees. Trees which have lessened considerably in number are the givers of oxygen and also absorb harmful gases like carbon dioxide.

The consequences are going to be drastic as usual with pollution also on the increase. With the increase in the number of vehicles, gases like Carbon Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide have increased. But there are not many trees to absorb such gases. 'Chipko' movement which was started by nature lovers to protect trees should become today's trend setter. By saving our forests and planting more trees, we can solve the problem of pollution. This will also help us in finding a solution for global warming. I hope the general public will take appropriate steps to prevent further erosion of our natural wealth.

Thanking you

Yours truly

Naina

LETTER- 7

Lodhi Road
Delhi-3
10th October, 2016

The Editor
The Hindustan Times
New Delhi

Subject : Tiger in Trouble

Sir,

Through this column of your esteemed daily, I would like to highlight the plight of one of the most beautiful creations of God, the tiger. India, once upon a time, was a land of tigers. But where are they now? Today there are only about a few hundred tigers alive in our country and the number is dwindling.

'Massive poaching in the past two years has wiped out the entire tiger population at one of the tiger reserves in India,' says one of the investigation reports. Poaching has been in force inspite of laws made to protect tigers. Currently, the demand for tiger parts is centred in several parts of Asia, where there is a strong market for traditional medicines made from items like tiger bones and body parts. There has been little enforcement action against poachers and traders. Even though it is illegal to kill a tiger, wild tigers are still being poached today because their bones, whiskers and other body parts can be sold in the black market for a lot of money. Forestry and wild life departments are too under-staffed and under-budgeted to be effective against the onslaught of poachers.

To add to the tiger's troubles, deforestations has also resulted in the acute loss of habitat. Due to conversion of forests into agricultural lands, only small islands of forest are left. As forest space is reduced, the number of animals left in the forest is also reduced and tigers cannot find their space to survive. The situation seems almost helpless. A U.N. team of wildlife experts said that India is failing to protect its tigers through inefficiency and indifference, allowing well-organised poaching gangs to hunt down the majestic animals. This is definitely a matter of grave concern. If this is allowed to go on, man will have to suffer the effects of ecological imbalance born of non-stop poaching of the tigers.

Yours Sincerely

Kavi

LETTER- 8

18A, East Patel Nagar
New Delhi-8
15th October, 2016

To,
The Editor
The Times of India
New Delhi – I

Subject : Prevent Road Accidents

Sir,

Serious accidents occurring on road is a matter of great concern for all of us. Not a day passes when we do not read reports about any serious road accidents. Almost everyone has been affected by such accidents at one time or the other, because a relative or friend is somehow connected to such accidents. The number of deaths per year per 10000 motor vehicles in India is 10 to 15 times more than that in developed countries. The number of motor vehicles is increasing day by day. Though it is a sign of improving economy of the country, it is a bitter truth that it also adds to accidents on roads. Our inability to provide enough funds to widen the roads or to construct new roads in proportion to rise in vehicle population also results in perpetuating this state of affairs. Statistics for the last few years show that there is a large increase in the number of accidents year by year. Several persons are maimed for life. The productivity of several others is reduced due to temporary incapacity. Broadly 30 percent of people dying in road accidents are below the age of 30 years. This means that the proportion of those dying in the prime of their life is quite large. It is clear that unless urgent remedial measures are taken, the occurrence of these accidents and resultant casualties will go on rising.

Yours Sincerely

Neena

Seeking Votes on Caste & Religion, Unconstitutional

India is a multicultural & multi-linguistic country with multiple religions and castes living by their own customs and traditions in a harmonious environment. Unity in diversity is the essence of our culture and the thread of nationalism binds the beads of separate identities of different castes, religions and languages. We have all the reasons to boast of a rich and multi-faceted culture yet the difference in status, place of worship, customs and languages often create frictions among the different castes and religions in India. Division on the ground of castes and religions makes India weak but the unity found among the people of a particular caste and religion usually makes that caste/ religion more powerful and their hold becomes stronger not only in day-to-day affairs of the trades but also on the politics of the country.

In India there are many religions and the religions are again divided into castes and sects. Usually development takes a back seat and castes/religions motivate the people to vote for the candidate who is of the same caste/religion. Caste and religion have started playing such a prominent role in the politics of the country that now the political parties distribute tickets on the basis of caste/religions of the candidate and not based on their performance. Even the religious leaders on loudspeakers issue orders or fatwas to the common masses belonging to the same religion/caste to vote for a particular candidate/party and the only criterion that party/candidate qualify for the votes of such a large number of people is not performance but religion/caste. Large states like Uttar Pradesh & Bihar witness this caste and religion ridden politics in every election but recently this abhorrent form of politics faced a setback when on January 2, 2017 the Supreme Court ruled that religion, race, caste, community or language will not be allowed to play any role in the electoral process of India.

Seeking votes on the ground of caste, religion, race etc is unconstitutional, unethical and unwarranted. Section 123(3) of the Representation of The People Act clearly lays down that appeal based on sectarian, linguistic or caste consideration is prohibited. This means that any appeal made by a candidate or his agents to vote or refrain from voting on the grounds of religion, race, caste and community is a corrupt practice.

The Supreme Court held that India being a Secular State cannot and will not identify itself with any one of the religions and that election of a candidate will be declared null and void if an appeal is made to seek votes on these grounds. It further held that the constitutional ethos of the country forbids mixing of religions with the secular functioning of the State and religions must remain a matter personal to an individual and neither the State nor any other person has anything to do with it. In one sentence, it can be summed up that religion cannot & will not play any role in the governance of the country.

A landmark judgment came while the court was revisiting its earlier judgement including one from 1995 that termed 'Hindutva' as a way of life and stated that a candidate was not necessarily violating the law when he sought votes on this ground. Several petitions filed over the years challenged the consequences of this verdict. On 2nd Jan, 2017 a seven-Judge constitutional bench ruled that the relationship between man and god is an individual choice and that State cannot interfere in it. It added that an election is a secular exercise and this secularism must reflect in the way and process and hence religion should not interfere in it.

Religion is a personal choice, a faith and belief that connects man with the Supreme power. It is something very personal and close to heart and hence must stay closed in heart. If politics spreads its fangs into the domain of religions, the very sanctity of religion is polluted and religion may become opium. Religion looks and feels best if it is kept as a way of life and not a way in which the secular framework of country is governed.

Use and Misuse of Social Media

(Most of the points of this essay can be included for the topic
'Use and Misuse of Internet' too)

Communication is the essence of life. It is not the distance that keeps us apart but the absence of communication kills a relationship. Communication is the salt of life and adds spice to one's life. By character, man is a social animal and hence the worst kind of punishment for heinous crimes given to the most brutal kind of offenders is solitary confinement where his communication with the whole world is severed. The absence of communication causes the greatest of mental agony and communication can be rightly termed as the soul of all relationships. Communication saw a new height with the advent of internet followed by the boom in a new virtual world of communication via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp etc.

Social media is a newly coined term which means different media and platforms for interactions, sharing and exchanging ideas, releasing new information, exchanging moments of joys and sorrows on a virtual platform among people, family, friends, groups and like-minded people. This new and virtual world of communication has taken the real world by storm. Social media has carved its niche in the world of communication. In a very short span of time, it has connected people closely and effectively and has transformed the world into a global village. It has made communication very easy even with the person living on the other side of the globe. Social media spreads every piece of information like a wild fire and like-minded people get connected with a social cause immediately and whole-heartedly. Any person can create one's personal profile and start communicating. The whole process is so easy, interesting and addictive that in no time an individual becomes friend with unknown people sharing pictures, videos and personal things. It helps us stay connected with family and friends in today's fast world when no one has time for anyone. It helps us rekindle old friendship, find lost acquaintances and share information. It helps us connect with people of same interest and build new relationships. Businessmen find it very helpful in promoting and marketing their business, products and brands. New brands soon become a household name. Thanks to social media.

Social media has revolutionized the Police and Security Departments too. Criminals get nabbed in no time if their mugshot is circulated online. Social media has helped the Police Department in solving many cases. Earlier the most wanted criminals of one police station roamed about freely in the jurisdiction of other police station but now they cannot hide even in the other side of the world. Other information too like those related to security threats, missing children, agitations and even traffic congestions are shared, averted and solved through social media.

Social media like any other invention of science is not free from abuses and misuses. It has serious drawbacks too. The first and foremost problem with social media is the social media itself. It is highly addictive. This web of lies catches on the imaginative world of the youths who go crazy about anything and everything. They get carried away by the attention they draw and risk their life by going for blind dates and spending time with a completely unknown person who has walked from the virtual world into his/her real world. Cyber bullying has also wreaked havoc in the life of many people who one fine morning finds slanderous and malicious pieces of information about their personal life on social media. Social media has been the root cause of many broken relationships too. People get so much absorbed in their virtual world that they reduce and almost stop interacting with the real world face to face. The quality of conversation via social media is awful because one cannot sense the emotion of other person. Misconstrued emotions cut deep into the relationship between two individuals when one feel deep for the other while the other is just flirting with one and the other profile. Such misunderstood emotions lead to either heart breaks and depressions or the perpetration of heinous crime in revenge. This web of lies has ruined the life of many people.

Social media has its own pros and cons. Its advantages are so many that we cannot do without it but its disadvantages are so serious that we cannot turn blind eye towards them. There is no general rule book on the dos and don'ts when we use the social media, hence self-imposed restrictions and censorship are wise and advisable. Unbridled power breeds despotism, abuse of power and anarchy. Better to be safe than sorry, with this powerful medium of communication too.

CYBER CRIME

With every rose, comes a thorn; with every invention of science, comes its misuse and abuses. With hordes of advantages that follow every product of science, many things spin out of control too. Cyber crimes are no exception; a newly coined term, an unwanted side effect of computer and internet.

Cyber-crime is defined as a crime in which computer is used as an object of crime to commit an offence that may range from hate speeches, child pornography, accessing personal information or business trade secrets, bank frauds, identity thefts, credit and debit card information thefts to spreading different kinds of viruses and worms throughout the world. In cyber-crime a computer is used as a weapon of crime by an individual, an organized group or even a country and their crime committed is often surprising, horrendous and of alarming and unprecedented scale.

Cyber-crimes unlike normal crimes are unique, unusual and unparallel. In it the victim and the perpetrator of crime may never come in direct contact with each other. Usually the offenders are based in countries with weak or non-existent cyber laws. A person gets victimized even when he is thousands of miles away. Hence, we can say that cyber-crimes are universal and omnipresent.

The most common types of cyber-crimes are hacking, spanning and infecting computers with virus and worms. Hackers access a person's personal information over the internet such as his credit card and bank account numbers. A person may lose his whole bank balance in a second and may fall into heavy debt instantly. Even email and facebook accounts are hacked and messages are sent to terrorist groups and police department, landing the ignorant and obvious victim in the soup while he is clueless about everything. The victim is then subjected to hour-long interrogation by such level of government departments, the names of which are sufficient to send shivers down his spine. Trojan, virus and worm attack make one's teeth itch because they spread in seconds and infect computers through web. Similarly receiving unwanted mails and sometimes malicious codes via these mails are irritating and excruciating.

Another type of cyber-crimes is theft. Artistic works like books, music and movies are downloaded and circulated thereby infringing upon a person's copyright materials. The pirated copies cause great loss to the owners both psychologically and monetarily. The most serious theft is identity theft when one portrays to be Mr. X, accessing all the online accounts and information of Mr. X, without Mr. X's getting even a wind of what is going around.

Today our young generation is too sensitive and touchy. Cyber bullying has become a common practice causing serious repercussions, insanity and even deaths.

Another typed of serious crime is defamation. It takes a whole life to earn respect but a dirty mind and an internet connection to wipe it away in a second. A person with his family and friends bear great mental agony because some criminal with malicious intention was hell bent on tarnishing the reputation he earned in years.

Stalking, though seems nothing more than some sort of annoying behaviour, many times lead to serious crimes. Cyber stalking is continually peeping into the profile of a person of one's interest, flooding him/her with message, calls and threats thereby causing great concern to his/her safety and life.

Child pornography and trafficking to find their way much easily through internet. Children are tempted towards online chatrooms and fall prey to organized dangerous groups. Parental control software and eye on the sites frequented by our children may help avert potential threats.

Cyber Crimes against Government is called cyber terrorism. Such crimes wreak havoc when crucial and sensitive information of national importance and security are accessed by some egoist hacker, terrorist organisation or unfriendly neighbouring country. Cyber criminals earn the desired notoriety by posting outrageous videos of merciless killing while sitting in a banana republic with no law at all. what to say about cyber laws.

Protecting oneself from cyber crimes is not a cake walk but not that uphill task. Some precautions help us keep many such crimes at bay. We must keep our computer configured securely and choose complicated and strong passwords. Security softwares too protect our information upto a large extent and we must never respond to any call, E-mail or message asking for personal information and must steer clear off fraudulent websites promising gifts and huge amount of money for the lottery ticket that we have never bought in life.

In this great world, virtues and vices march hand in hand. With every boon comes a bane. the numerous advantage of every inventions shouldn't be marred by its abuses and misuses. Why not be a little vigilant both in the world and web? "Prevention is better than Cure" they say, not without a reason.

Letter Format

You are Rahul Singh living in Park Street, Kolkata. You have been facing the menace caused by stray cattle in your locality. Write a letter to the concerned authorities drawing their attention towards problem.

Park Street
Kolkata
14th February, 2017

The Municipality
North-West Zone
Kolkata

Sir,

Subject: Menace of Stray cattle

This is to draw your attention towards the menace caused by the stray cattle roaming about in our locality and as far as I think over the whole of Kolkata. These cattle disrupt smooth traffic flow and even sit on the middle of the roads causing traffic jams on the roads. These stray cattle themselves even get injured many a time by speeding vehicles and at times they attack and injure the passersby and children. Old and feeble people have sustained serious injuries in our locality by these horned huge animals.

The stray cattle feed on the garbage thrown in the bins placed at different corners of our area thereby littering the surrounding areas and feeding on all the wastes, even the non-biodegradable and toxic things including the polythene bags. The polythene bags choke their intestinal system and their life is cut short without any fault of these docile animals.

It is high time the authority took strict action against the owners of these poor cattle who milk them, earn fortune and then leave them on roads for the whole day. The cattle must be seized and transported to the nearest cow shelter and heavy penalty be imposed on their masters.

I hope, stringent action will be taken by the authority in this regard and steps will be initiated to safeguard and secure the residents of Park Street from this ever-increasing menace faced by us.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Rahul Singh

Write a letter to the election commission lodging a complaint against Mr. XYZ of ABC party who has flouted not only the directions of the election commission but also the Supreme Court's ruling prohibiting candidates from seeking votes on the ground of castes and religions.

Examination Hall
New Delhi
16th February, 2017

The Chief Election Commissioner
The Election Commission of India
New Delhi

Sir,

Subject: Violation of model code of conduct

It pains me greatly while drawing your attention towards the brazen violation of the model code of conduct and ruling of Supreme Court by Mr. ABC of XYZ party. The harangues of Mr. ABC dampen the sanctity of this secular exercise and are spreading hatred and conflict in our town. His hate speech and diatribes against one particular religion is of late creating disharmony and loss of trust. A representative has great responsibilities towards the nation and he must be secular in his outlook and practice but Mr. ABC is raising unwanted concerns in the mind of one religious group which in turn is disturbing the peace and harmony of our town.

The Supreme Court of India has strictly ruled that no candidate must seek votes in the name of religion, caste or community. Disobeying the Supreme Court's ruling is synchronous to challenging the Apex Court's of India. Sir, I feel if his anti-constitutional activities continue unchecked, disharmony, difference and dissatisfaction will soon find fertile breeding ground in otherwise conducive and peaceful town.

I shall be grateful to you if you urgently look into this blatant and willful violation of law and take stern actions against this erring candidate.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

PQR

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SURGICAL STRIKE

“Offence is the best defence”, they say not without a reason. Kudos to our army that doesn’t act as sitting duck anymore. Taking the bull by the horn, is now the attitude of our gung ho army that has got green signal from the government to revenge each drop of pious blood that flows from the body of our jawans. It is said attack your enemy when they are defenceless, weak and vulnerable. What better timing should be than the mid of cold, dark and moonless night, the night when India broke the rule ten days after the Uri attack that killed our 19 brave soldiers and entered into the land of our enemy to have tryst with a new term ‘Surgical strike’.

Surgical strike though new for the people of India is not exactly that new for the Army as well as the world. It is defined as methodically, planned, co-ordinated and targeted attack on someone or something ensuring no harm to surroundings, buildings, vehicles and civilians. The world came to know about the most awaited surgical strike on the most wanted terrorist on 2nd May, 2011. In this meticulously planned surgical strike, on the city of Abbottabad only Osama Bin-Laden was targeted who was killed instantly while his family was left unharmed. There have been many surgical strikes by the developed countries on developing or underdeveloped countries on one pretext or the other but two surgical strikes by India recently put India on an offending position rather than defending one. On June 9, 2015, India carried out the first of its kind of surgical attack in Myanmar and conveying its message to all militant groups that it will not hesitate in going beyond its borders and limits to eliminate terrorists. Militants of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khangland) killed 18 soldiers after which Indian Special Forces conducted a surgical strike across Myanmar border and inflicted heavy casualties on the group behind the attack. The political decisiveness of our PM Mr. Narendra Modi sanctioned the hot pursuit and marked a shift in the security doctrine of India. This surgical strike didn’t create waves as there is a treaty between the two countries on operations across the border.

India witnessed a remarkable surgical attack only when it was carried against an enemy neighbour Pakistan in response to Uri attack that killed 18 soldiers. Ten days later on 29th September 2016, India conducted a surgical strike areas LOC on terror

breeding grounds of POK on a dark cold night killing around 40-50 terrorist. In an operation that was meticulously planned, managed and executed, a total of six terror camps were demolished without any casualties in the Indian Army. The next morning, in a joint press conference with MEA, Lt. General Ranveer Singh claimed that the operation was extremely successfully and this statement marked a paradigm shift in approach against terrorism. The aim of surgical strike is to send a message to the Pakistani establishment that India that had been taking the bull by the horn will be the bull itself now. Red-faced Pakistani government is insisting that no surgical strike took place. Face saving option was all that Pakistan was left with as except China, no developed country is ready to give ear to this chest thumping. Modi, on the other hand, has an added advantage. His strong popularity post surgical strike gives him much elbow room to act.

ONE RANK, ONE PENSION

Mother feeds and father protects. So do the farmers and the soldiers. Sadly both these classes of our society are deprived, impoverished and denied even the bare necessities of life. Soldiers are daring but bereft of every caring, equally by the government and the society. A soldier spends the prime of his life in hardship and in adverse condition guarding our borders so that we can live and sleep peacefully but in return their contribution is neither recognized nor appreciated by us. This stark reality finds its evidence in OROP issue that triggered emotional countrywide protests by the ex-service men and their families across the nation.

OROP means that every pension-eligible soldier retiring from a particular rank get the same pension irrespective of his date of retirement. This long time demand finds its roots in the dissatisfaction arising out of the fact that the soldier retiring recently receive more pension than those who retired early. Pension earned by the person depends on the last drawn salary and successive pay commissions have raised the salary drastically. This has led to wierd abnormalities and now an Army Personnel of high rank (say a Major General retiring in 1996) draws low pension than his junior (say Lt. Colonel retiring later).

Army needs fit and young people. Most of them retire between 35-40 years and even before that on account of minor physical disability. Post-retirement employment options are so few that OROP demand is gaining momentum day by day because the retired soldiers and army personnel have no other source of income to fall back on. This situation is graver due to Indira Gandhi Government's decision in 1973 wherein just after 2 years of historic victory in 1971 Bangladesh war, instead of rewarding the army, the government decreased their pension by 20-40 percent. Further Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 while trying to contain the uneasiness that erupted after 3rd pay commission implemented Rank Pay which reduced the basic pay of Captain, Major etc. to basic pay scale of civilians and police affecting thousands of military personnal and creating asymmetries between police-army ranks.

The Supreme Court ordered the implementation of OROP a long time back but in spite of the NDA's promise to implement OROP before the election and the attempt to do it in 2015, this issues remains far from getting solved in near future. OROP terminology is itself ambiguous and undefined. Ex-servicemen association have been demanding changes in methodology of taxation of pension, periodicity of its revision,

coverage of future cases etc. PM Modi announced the implementation of OROP scheme on 5th Sept, 2015 but the veterans welcomed only one out of 7 points announced by the government. The demand is for equalization of pension every two years while the government wants it every 5 years. The demand is for the pension to be pegged to the maximum of the scale while the government wants it to be the average of maximum and minimum and complex calculations in fixation will be humongous task and an amount of 8300 crores seems almost impossible to be allotted for this scheme. Besides this it must be kept in mind that discipline, order and punishment are essential parts of defence services and this scheme brings all at the same benefit level at time of retirement so the utility of fear of punishment will be highly dampened by this scheme. The government has however set up a one member judicial committee to look into the anomalies.

Pension is not a bounty, nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer. It is the reward that a man deserves after giving the prime time of his life to the service of the organization and the reward must be bigger and better if the service is for the nation. A happy and contented retired army personnel enjoying the leisure without any scarcity and tension prompts the youth to join the Army. After all the proud jawans would like to live in a country where the mind is without fear and the head is held high after retirement too.

INDIA'S FEAT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

India, a land of vedas galloped into the land of scientific achievements, a territory ruled by world powers and space giants, a real feat indeed. Our country's march towards technological prowess has catapulted our country to new heights in the realm spanning from space science to nuclear power. Today, India stands among the top 5 nations in the field of science exploration and among top 10 in the number of scientific publication. A country that remained slave for 200 years and crawled into a starving independent country 68 years ago has amazingly proved its mettle standing tall among the developed powers of the world.

India drew the attention of the world when ISRO launched Mangalyan' or in other words known as 'Mars Orbiter' which was indigenously built. The Mars orbital mission (MOM) was giant leap by India that placed our nation on the highest rung occupied by super powers and this triumph was achieved amazingly in its first attempt when the orbiter that was launched on 5th November, 2013 entered Mars' orbit on September 24, 2014.

ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization), a space agency of the Government of India with its headquarters at Bengaluru, was established in 1969 with a vision to harness space and technology for national development. ISRO proved its mettle, time and again, right from launching 'Aryabhata' in 1975 to its stupendous recent achievement is launching 104 satellites in one go. In 1980, ISRO launched 'Rohini' by its indigenously launching vehicle SLV-III. Since then ISRO has not seen any major debacle in its attempts.

India scripted a new history and carved a niche for itself when on 15th February, 2017 ISRO launched a record 104 satellites in a single mission by its PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sri Harikota. Within 17 minutes, the rocket started placing the satellites into orbit making India a world record holder of placing 104 satellites in one go. The team of ISRO was overwhelmed by this remarkable achievement sending waves of joy and pride across the nation.

Some break in adversity and some break records. Salute to the Indian Scientists who in spite of being resource and support starved transformed the word 'Impossible' into 'I'm possible'. Their clear mission of playing a meaningful role to serve mankind see no hurdle insurmountable. Cowards need excuses, warriors but reasons. Our scientists, warriors of peace, have made our country proud. India salutes the scientist, pride of our nation.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES VERSUS LEGAL SYSTEM OF INDIA

India is a land of customs and traditions with diverse and oldest practices of the world flourishing in the rich breeding ground of 4500 years old supreme civilization of our country. The customs and traditions brought in by the invaders and travellers made our culture rich and varied. Unity in diversity of culture-rich India provides enough room for different regions and religions to practice their own customs and festivals. People observe various practices that are guided by the climate and crops of their region, their language and their religion, some of which in due course of time were felt to perpetuate gender based violence or inequality and even violating human and animal rights. Recently Supreme Court has tamed the bull of social and religious practices by passing verdicts against some of very old customs and practices which created waves of fury and restlessness across the nation.

A social practice that had been in the eye of the storm for long is the issue of Triple Talaq. This issue is more controversial as it relates to muslims, a minority religious group, on which many political parties harp for votes. This vexed problem became more debatable when on 8th December, 2016, the Allahabad High Court, in the strongest of words, termed this practice unethical and unconstitutional violating the rights of Muslim women who are left emotionally, socially and financially stranded without any shelter once her husband utters 'Talaq-Talaq-Talaq'. Astonishingly this practice of instant talaq is not common even in the Islamic countries ruled by the Islamic laws. But sadly this demeaning form of divorce practice thrives on the fertile land of India where political parties strive to thrive on Muslims' votes. In this matter, the centre adopted an initiative role where by in its affidavit to the Supreme Court, it advocated the abolition of Triple Talaq and polygamy terming them unconstitutional customs that hurt gender parity and women's dignity. The centre even quoted that the Muslim countries where Islam is the religion of the state have undergone extensive reforms and hence the practice in question can't be regarded as integral to the practice of Islam. Triple Talaq will soon see its doom's-day when in Supreme Court the matter will be finally argued. The Supreme court has clearly mentioned that it will keep this issue separated from the issue of Uniform Civil Code and hence political parties will not get much mileage from this verdict.

Another issue of gender disparity that raised a lot of hue and cry was the century old tradition of denying entry to women in temples like the famous Sabarimala Temple of Kerala and the Shani Temple, Shignapur, Maharashtra. In Sabarimala Temple, women of a particular age group (menstrual age) were not allowed thus banning all women till they grow old and this was considered derogatory towards women and detrimental to their dignity. The 400-year old tradition disallowed women to enter

the Shani Temple too. But after the mass awareness campaign of 2011, they were allowed but not up to the Sanctum Sanctorum of the temple. In the famous judgement of Sabrimala temple case, the Supreme Court held that women can't be restricted from entering holy places. This landmark judgement paved their way into every temple located in India but the Shani Temple still had its doors closed for women. Trupati Desai, a member of Bhumata Brigade, a women's rights group, led a march to the Sanctum sanctorum of this temple, where she was arrested and later released. This case too reached Mumbai High Court whereby it was held that such a restriction was in violation of the fundamental rights of women. Women across the nation are vocal today and the courts across the country are up in arms against such gender disparity.

A show of gallantry versus cruelty against animal was brought to the court and this traditional spectacular 2000 year-old event is called Jallikattu. This animal sport is an integral part of Pongal, a festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu. In this sport, a natively-reared bull is set free inside an arena or even on roads, filled with young people, who try to grab the bull by its horns, hump or tail while the poor animal tries to escape. This whole merry-making came to a sudden halt when the Supreme Court passed a landmark judgement against this 2000 year-old celebration terming it against animal rights. It is well known and apparent that the bull is subjected to extreme physical and mental torture, tail twisted and horn broken subjecting it to excruciating physical and mental trauma during the whole event. In June 2009, the Tamil Nadu government came up with Tamil Nadu Regulation Jallikattu Act, 2009 to regulate this sport as mandated by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Following this, in 2014, Jallikattu was banned by the Supreme court and Centre. In January, 2016, Tamil Nadu government issued a notification, permitting the use of bull for sports, which was in direct contravention with the Apex Court's order and was subsequently challenged by PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals). Subsequently a stay order was issued by the Supreme Court that stayed firm over its 2014 ban on Jallikattu. A fresh debate erupted when the Tamil Nadu CM wrote to the PM requesting him to overturn the existing ban on this bull-taming sport. On January 2017, the Tamil Nadu assembly passed a law legalizing Jallikattu. This whole storm in a tea cup is felt as an attempt to appease Tamil voters with an eye on the upcoming assembly election. The tussle between the State, Centre and Supreme Court has led the bull in china shop.

Social and religious practices are here to stay. Some of them are entertaining, thought-provoking and some highly disturbing. We must keep in mind that had it not been a reform accepted whole-heartedly, our widow women-folk wouldn't have been alive. Sati Pratha, too was a stark reality of past but now a nightmare forgotten. Change is the way of life. We all need to change, so do our personal laws and practices. No law, no matter how old or personal, can never be above human rights. Don't forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal. We need to step out of our cocoon of narrow-mindedness and biased perception.

CHINA-POTENTIAL THREAT TO INDIA

The land of wealth, the land of prosperity, the land of opportunities, India, seems to be the most looked at nation of tomorrow. Today, India has strengthened its ties with globally the most powerful nations such as America and Russia. With the advent of various promising schemes and strong international relationships, India is hell bent on defining what tomorrow should be like. All this has bagged a lot of appreciations and laurels for our nation. But this Charisma has irked one of our neighbours, China.

Today, China, one of the most economically developed countries, that has a lot of say in the international arena, is vexed at India's growing reputation at international level. China, having acquired its independence pre India's independence raises many questions on our sovereignty. China claims that it doesn't recognize Arunachal Pradesh. Moreover, China has intruded on over 90000 sq. km land in Arunachal Pradesh and further eyes Aksai Chin. China has waged war on India in 1962, having disputes over the Mc. Mohan line. Not only this, China also intends to divert the course of Brahmaputra river to meet the water demands in its Northern region. With the ongoing Lhalo Project, China has blocked Xiabuqu river, one of the tributaries of Brahmaputra, exacerbating the ties between both the nations.

India has always tried to harbour healthy relations with China but the counterpart has always broken the trust. China has developed ports in all the neighbouring countries of India in the Indian Ocean thereby circum-navigating the Indian Peninsula. This very act of China is hailed as a critical threat to India's security. Moreover China's colluding with Pakistan has rubbed salt on the wounds of our motherland. China is currently working on CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) trying to strengthen its ties with Pakistan, our bête noire. China has also incurred international ignominy due to its incessant incursions in the South China Sea. The intentions of China doesn't seem benign. It is crystal clear that China is an impending danger on India's sovereignty.

India, being spiritually and resourcefully a rich country can withstand any threat or danger. We are well aware of the hold of China in our market. There are many Chinese goods selling like hot cakes in India which directly boost Chinese economy. India needs to boycott Chinese items and bring reasonable indigenous alternatives to such items. It is appreciable that we invest a healthy sum on our defence budget which China knows very well. Amiable ties with China however seem far-fetched but all possible initiatives should be taken by our country to rekindle and harvest harmony between both the nations so that they live with peace and promote fraternity is the quintessence of our culture. "Love thy neighbours", it is said. If we can't love them, we need to tolerate them at least. We can change our friends but not our neighbours. Both the countries need to understand this stark reality.

CASHLESS INDIA

Indian intellectuals, preaching the idea of casteless India, were taken by surprise when our visionary Prime Minister announced to go cashless. It is indeed an out of the box idea for a country that houses 276 million people living below the poverty line that toil day and night but don't have enough pennies to fill their pockets. Our Prime Minister, with his far sighted flagship programme, Digital India, announced to go faceless, paperless and cashless. This revolutionary mission is aimed at transforming India into a corruption free country with major monetary transactions to be done digitally. This idea will reduce the dependence of Indian economy on cash and the government by launching this programme has attacked black money funding illegal activities, terror nets and parallel economy.

On 8th November 2016, Our Prime Minister took the whole country by storm when he announced that Rs.500 and Rs.1000 notes could no longer be the legal tender since that night. India suddenly became cashless with people standing in serpentine queues for the whole day and this hour of acute cash crunch pushed India to go digital. E-wallets like Paytm, PayU, Mobikwik etc. gained a foothold and paved the way for a cashless economy. The whole process of monetary transaction seemed suddenly easier, transparent and convenient without the fear of being robbed or losing one's own hard-earned money. The Indian Government then soon launched Bhim App for convenient online transactions that doesn't need even a net connection. The Government knows that the digital transactions are traceable and therefore easily taxable leaving no room for the circulation of black money.

The idea of cashless India has invited both bricks and bouquets. Cash crunch after demonetisation brought all the business to a sudden halt and since the Indians by and large aren't that tech-savvy, the idea to go cashless had several acrimonious repercussions too. However, the e-wallet companies, by providing discounts and cash back offers on every purchase mollified the anger and unrest breeding among the common masses and encouraged them to go cashless. After the initial difficulties problems have subsided and people have now realised that E-wallets are the safest and most convenient mode of payment.

Rome wasn't built in a day and so won't India be. Success needs perseverance as there is no shortcut to it. This revolutionary idea is targeted to bring a sea change into the economy of India by the whole of India going cashless suddenly to going cashless digitally. India will rise as a phoenix from its own ashes.

SKILL INDIA

Dhriubhai Ambani once said, “The success of the young entrepreneurs will be the key to India’s transformation in the new millennium”. He was absolutely right. The youths of our nation are young, strong and energetic who can shoulder the burden of the nation’s growth and they are brimming with ideas to catapult India to the developed and self-sufficient strata of the world. Our visionary Prime Minister Mr. Nareder Modi, to tap the potential of young India, launched Skill India Mission on 15 July, 2015 With an objective to train 40 crore Indians in different fields by 2022 and create opportunities, space and scope for the development of the talents of the Indian youths, covering urban and rural India equally.

Skill India is a multi-skill dream project of the NDA government with the main objective of creating opportunities to develop the talents and hone the skills of the young employable class of India. The youth will be provided proper training and guidance of international standard so that budding entrepreneurs are able to meet the national as well as overseas demands and expectations. The course methodology has been developed in such a way that it meets the needs of both urban and rural India. Training in traditional fields like those of Carpenters, Cobbles, Blacksmith, Nurses, Tailors etc. is provided besides exploring the untouched fields like textile, real estate, construction, tourism etc. where the skill development is inadequate or nil.

Skill development programmes had been in existence for long as creating employable opportunities is one of the priorities of all the governments across the world. However Skill India Mission is different from other such programmes of the previous governments. Earlier, the responsibility was divided among various Ministeries but this time they have been clubbed together. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will be the principal Ministry which will co-ordinate with all other Ministeries and organization. The New Ministry will be the certifying agency and the certificates issued after the successful completion of the training will be recognized by national and overseas entities. Skill India Mission is a revolutionary programme that would channelize the energy of the youths and help them build a secured future and earn a decent living. With a clenched hand holding a spanner and pencil, the logo of Skill India Mission, emphasis the importance and parity of both skill and education. The Tagline “Kaushal Bharat, Kushal Bharat” complements the logo by emphasizing the importance of skilling India in order to achieve prosperous India.

Unemployment breeds frustration, poverty and crimes in the society. The energies of young people must be channelized in the proper direction to curb crime, terror, suicides and anti-social activities in the society. The government through this programme has joined hands with the people to train the hands and minds of the Nation and together we will bring all the difference for it is said,

“Coming together is a beginning,

Keeping together is progress,

Working together is success.”

MOST SUITABLE STARTING/ENDING OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LETTERS

(1) INFORMAL LETTERS

Sender's address

Date

Dear.....

Hope you are fine there. I too am in pink of health. I am writing this letters to you to inform you that/to share my experience with you/wanted to let you know.....

} Starting

Convey my regards to your parents & love to your little sister/brother.

Yours loving / Yours affectionately

XYZ

} Ending

(2) APPLICATION TO PRINCIPAL/TEACHER

With due respect this is to state that....

Yours obediently

XYZ

(3) RESPONSE TO AN ADVERTISEMENT

In response to your advertisement number 1234/2017, I would like to state that I am a suitable candidate for the position of lying vacant in your company.

(4) **REPLY TO AN INFORMAL LETTER**

I am pleased to receive your letter....

(5) **REPLY TO A FORMAL LETTER**

In reference to your letter number 1234/2017 dated, I would like to put forward my replies as follows:

(6) **TO INCLUDE DOCUMENTS/ANNEX DOCUMENT**

I am annexing/enclosing my previous complaints/relevant document for your kind perusal. I hope you will look into the matter and do the needful.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE DEFENCE MINISTER RAISING THE ISSUE OF POOR QUALITY OF FOOD SERVED TO THE ARMY.

Examination Hall
New Delhi,
7th March, 2017

The Defence Minister
Ministry of Defence
South Block
New Delhi
Sir,

Sub: Poor quality of food served to army.

This is to draw your attention towards the deplorable quality of food served to the army. In fact, this issue surfaced when a video was uploaded by a BSF Jawan 'Tej Bahdur Yadav' on Social Media that jolted the nation out of its slumber and pained all the Indians equally. The Jawan in the video claimed that the officers sell them off. And ultimately the jawans are left with poor quality food. The food they intake is highly deficient in nutritional value and after slogging for twelve hours continuously every day, these jawans do have high calorific demands to remain fit, active and energetic.

Sir, soldiers are the guarding angels of our country. They must remain fit, happy and contented. This serious allegation on the high-ranked officers of Paramilitary Forces has sent waves of fury and unrest across the nation which might transform into a gigantic row if the Ministry fails to douse the fire of dissatisfaction and hunger amongst the soldiers.

To add fury to fire, the BSF ordered an enquiry against Mr. Yadav and even questioned his past acts and all his past violations of order and discipline have surfaced. We wonder why acrimonious treatment is meted out to him when his demand is fair and reasonable. A statement by our Hon'ble Minister Mr. Manohar Parrikar, that he personally monitors quality of food served to the army, has bought some respite to the disgruntled soldiers. Even the PMO has sought a report about the quality of food served to the Paramilitary Forces as they come under Home Ministry and these are welcome steps.

Sir, I am afraid that when high level officers are hand in gloves in this scam and every one who complains is hounded and tortured, the outcome of every enquiry will be an eye wash. Our soldiers deserve decent food and basic necessities to be vigilant and on guard. I hope you will personally look into the actions of revengeful and erring seniors who just try to throttle every throat that raises voice against them.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely
XYZ

WRITE A LETTER TO THE RAILWAY MINISTRY EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERN ABOUT SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS ON THE RAILWAY TRACKS.

Examination Hall
XYZ City

11th March, 2017

The Railway Minister,
Ministry of Railway,
New Delhi

Sir,

Subject : Sabotage attempts on railway tracks.

I am highly pained to see that recently the cases of sabotage and tampering with the railway tracks are on rise and around 45 cases of attempted sabotage were reported in 2016. Several terror groups are posing serious threats to rail security causing loss of priceless life and freight worth crores.

In November, 2016, 150 people lost their lives in such a sabotage by the ISI that caused the derailment of Indore Patna train. In another such attempt on Hirakund express, 39 people were killed when the train derailed near Junero station in Andhra Pradesh in January this year. Several such attempts have been foiled by the vigilant staff of the railway but the fear continues to haunt the travellers and plague the railway minister. I understand that your ministry is taking this issue seriously and has ordered an NIA probe into this unusual way of spreading terror but the Railway Ministry must understand that the security of India by and large is at stake and hence various intelligence agencies must be requested to join hands with one another and the alert Railway staff in order to stop this unusual way of spreading the net of terrorism without taking any risk. The anti India terror groups working hand in glove with one another must be dealt with heavy hands and a lesson must be taught to them so that they don't misconstrue us as sitting ducks.

I hope you will look into the matter seriously and do the needful as this is an urgent matter of nation's security.

Thanking you
Yours truly
ABC

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR FRIEND ABOUT YOUR RECENT TRIP TO GOA WITH YOUR FAMILY.

New Delhi
Examination Hall

14th March, 2017

Dear ABC,

Hope you are fine there. I too am in pink of health. I am writing this letter to you to share my wonderful experience of a trip to Goa with family . We started from here in the morning by flight and reached there within two hours. After resting for an hour in the hotel, we decided to leave for the famous beaches of Goa. The climate was pleasant and the beach was full of people from across the world brimming with energy, joy and enthusiasm. The ecstasy there was so infectious that in no time my family and I were on the beach playing with sea water, laughing and enjoying the beauty of nature and sea. There are several water sports these that are extremely adventurous and enjoyable. I took the ride of each one of them and then we went for boating and parachute gliding. Time flew by but we didn't forget to see the famous Agauda Fort and St. Cathedral Church.

The trip was extremely satisfying and enjoyable. I got time to spend with my family and I will always cherish those moments of my life. The only annoying experience was the sunburns that I am still trying to get rid off. Convey my regards to your parents and love to your little sister.

Yours affectionately
ABC

YOU ARE ANURAG THAKUR, MANAGER, OF INFO EDGE PVT. LTD. WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR EMPLOYEES INFORMING THEM ABOUT A WORKSHOP.

The Manager
Info Edge Pvt. Ltd
Noida
5th March 2017

Human Resource Department
Info Edge Pvt. Ltd
Noida

Sub: Information Regarding Work-shop

Dear employees

This letter is to inform you about a training session to be conducted on 15th March 2017 in our office, to train you all in handling documents online. This session will help you to cope with the upcoming digitalized way of working, soon to be launched across all the branches of our company.

The session will be primarily focused on connectivity and communication between departments, and effective utilization of data and data security. The training hours will be well within the office hours so you all do not have to worry about toiling for extra hours. Kindly do not remain absent during this period. I hope your session will be fruitful and after learning the new methods and technology, you will be able to apply those effectively for the betterment of the company.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely
Anurag Thakur

RULES

A Precis is strictly for administrative purpose hence

- (1) Do not include any idiom or phrase in it.
- (2) Examples should be skipped as we need not explain things with examples. Write only the gist that comes out of those examples without repeating the illustrations.
- (3) Skip the questions and quotations. Questions cannot be asked in précis as you need to write Précis to the given Paragraph either to your senior or junior in real life. So there is no reason to ask questions or to beautify your Precis. You need to be precise; straight to the point .
- (4) Skip the 'Direct speech' or change them into Indirect speech. This means we should not use inverted comma (" ") in précis.
- (5) Do not express your own ideas, suggestions or conclusions in précis writing. Your own suggestions are not the part of the paragraph given. Suppose you are writing the précis of the detail given by your department on Domestic Violence Act. You cannot change any Legislations, if you don't like any of them. You cannot give your suggestions.
- (6) No matter whatever wrong information, the passage carries, they must not be changed as Precis is of the Paragraph given, that has nothing to do with your education or information that tells you what is right or wrong. Precis must be based on the facts given in the passage no matter they are historically, morally or scientifically wrong.
- (7) The central ideas of the passage is the most important thing in the précis hence the précis must be based on it.
- (8) Give a Title to your Precis that must be based on the central idea of the passage. The Title must be short, without a verb, and must be written as the centre before you start writing a précis.
- (9) Precis is usually one-third of the given passage or stick to the word limit given in the direction.
- (10) Don't use first person in précis writing. Many a time, the passage has 1st person in it because the author shares his experience. We must replace it by the author/he.
- (11) Change paragraphs depending on the ideas and issues that each of the paragraphs carries. Change your paragraph once the issue or the idea changes.
- (12) Leave one line when you change the paragraph. This gives clear demarcation to each paragraph.
- (13) After completing the précis, write number of words in a bracket.
- (14) Use your own language in your précis. You don't get marks for copying and pasting. Read the Paragraph and understand what the writer wants to convey. Then use your own language to convey the essence of the Paragraph.

AN EXAMPLE

PASSAGE

It has been estimated that the human population of 600 B.C. was about five million people taking perhaps one million years to get there from two and a half million. The population did not reach 500 million until almost 8000 years later about 1650 A.D. This means it doubled roughly once every thousand years or so. It reached a billion people around 1850, doubling in some 200 years. It took only 80 years or so for the next doubling, as the population reached two billion around 1930. We have not completed the next doubling to four billion yet, but we now have well over three billion people. The doubling time at present seems to be about 37 years. Quite a reduction in doubling times : 1,000,000 years, 1,000 years, 200 years 80 years, 37 years.
(135 WORDS)

PRECIS TO THE GIVEN PASSAGE

POPULATION EXPLOSION

The Author expresses his concern about the ever-growing population of the world that has seen the doubling period decreasing drastically from 1,000,000 years to 1000 years that further dropped to 100 years and then to 80 years. The population is doubling again and this time in just 37 years. (49 words)