RNI No. DELENG/2014/55799 Delhi Postal Regd. No. DL(ND)-11/6168/2018-19-20

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Designer: kanhaiya illustration: Circle Creation **Executive Circulation:** Vinod Kumar

#### Patron: Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidik

Chartered Accountant: Prabhat Sukhija

#### Publishers & Printer: Nandan Jha

Head Office: B-4/14, Safdarjung Enclave,

New Delhi-110029

Nandan Jha is the publisher and owner of the monthly news magazine Power Corridors

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Printed, Published and Edited by Nandan Jha on the behalf of Interactive forum on Indian Economy Printed at MP Printers (A unit of D. B. Corp. Ltd.) B-220, Industrial Area, Phase-2, Noida, 201305 (UP) Published at B-4/14, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029.

#### Distributed By

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., Gole Market, New Delhi





**ECONOMY** 

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NANDAN JHA
Editor & Chairman



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he onset of winter normally makes weather in Delhi, indeed in the entire north India, pleasant. The temperature is low, but not so low as to freeze the body. One can keep oneself warm with light woolens. In the last few years, however, early winter pleasantness has been replaced with a deadly smog, the dusty environs, farm fires in northern states, vehicular emissions, and low wind speed. Typically, the Centre and governments of northern states make a lot of promises and announce a lot of measures to check air pollution—to little effect. This year, the Central government announced a new law to clean the air. "The new law will be only for Delhi and NCR. It will come out soon. I cannot comment on what penalties it will entail. It is a new law to curb pollution in Delhi NCR region only. Air Act is for the nation and it will be as it is," Union Environment Secretary R.P. Gupta told PTI on October 27. This was the Union government's response to the Supreme Court, which had expressed concern over the toxic air in the national capital and the surrounding areas. On October 16, the apex court had gone to the extent of ordering the deployment of National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts and Guides for assisting in the monitoring of stubble burning in the agricultural fields of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, saying all it wants is that "people of Delhi-NCR can breathe fresh air without any pollution." This, however, appeared to be a big ask, for November saw further worsening of the air quality.

Delhi Environment Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Gopal Rai said on November 2 that the share of farm fires in Delhi's pollution had reached 40 per cent. He also slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress over the issue, for the governments in the states concerned are run by these two parties. "We have been saying it again and again that stubble burning is a major reason behind severe levels of pollution in Delhi around Diwali, but the BJP and the Congress say the share of farm fires in Delhi's pollution was just 4 to 6 percent, whereas statistics show it has increased to 40 per cent," Rai told the media. A few weeks before Rai remarks, the BJP had accused the AAP of "manipulation of words." It is unfortunate that at a time of a major crisis that adversely affects the lives and health of tens of millions of people, politicians are settling their scores. It is time leaders across party lines sat together and sorted out the issue by working together rather than trading allegations and counter-allegations.

Air pollution in Delhi is a big issue; as a Delhiite, I feel strongly for the city. There are several other important issues which have been discussed in detail in this edition. Singing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) between India and the US is a milestone in the relationship between the two countries. This brings the world's two biggest democracies closer, especially against the menace of China. That the Donald Trump administration sent Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper to India in its last days of the first term speaks volumes about the US President's emphasis on India-America relations. Pompeo's support to India and his disdain for China was unambiguous: "The US and India are taking steps to strengthen our cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party." We hope that Indo-US ties become stronger. \*

(Nandan Jha)



#### Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel passes away at 92



ormer Gujarat Chief Minister and a stalwart who played a key role in building the BJP in Gujarat, Keshubhai Patel, died of cardiac arrest recently. He was 92.

Patel was rushed to a private hospital in Ahmedabad after he fell unconscious at his residence in Gandhinagar. The nonagenarian had recently tested positive for COVID-19 but had recovered.

The BJP veteran was Gujarat's chief minister in 1995 when the party came to power for the first time and again during 1998-2001. Prime Minister Narendra Modi succeeded him as Gujarat chief minister in October 2001.

An RSS karyakarta, Patel was among the founder members of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), and was its

president from 1972-75. He began his journey in electoral politics with the Rajkot municipality, said Kirit Pathak, BJP leader and former deputy registrar of Saurashtra University.

Among those jailed during the Emergency, Patel was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Bharatiya Lok Dal, a front formed by parties opposed to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in 1977.

In the BJP, Patel, popularly known as Keshubapa (father) in Gujarat, is credited with mentoring several party leaders. "Keshubhai mentored and groomed many younger karyakartas including me. Everyone loved his affable nature. His demise is an irreparable loss," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted. \*\*

# TV actor Preetika Chauhan released on bail in drugs case

elevision actress Preetika Chauhan, 30, who was recently arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on charges of possession of drugs, was granted bail by a Mumbai court.

Besides Preetika, drug peddler Faisal, who was nabbed along with the actress for supplying drugs to her, was also granted bail.

Following a tip-off about a deal for the contraband, the NCB-Mumbai Zonal Unit officials had nabbed the duo from Fishermen's Village at Versova and seized 99 gm 'ganja' from them. That day, five people were arrested from Versova, Mumbai. Two officials from the NCB were deployed in plainclothes when they arrested Preetika and the drug supplier Faisal.

The court order read, "Accused prayed for grant of

bail on the ground that she is innocent and possession is of small quantity. She is a resident of Mumbai and will not abscond." Chauhan has worked in several TV serials,

like Maa Vaishnodevi.

The prosecution argued that the accused could tamper with evidence and repeat the offence so she should not be granted bail.

"It transpires that offences against the accused are regarding small quantity of drugs...the accused is a resident of Mumbai so there is no possibility of absconding. The investigation is almost complete...the accused need not be kept behind bars for so long," the court observed.

Chauhan was released on provisional cash bail of Rs 15,000 and asked to appear

before an NCB officer for four Saturdays after her release to aid investigation. •





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ools rush in where angels fear to tread, Alexander Pope wrote in the eighteenth century. Evidently, economic policy and decision makers in the Narendra Modi government are not angelic, otherwise they would have silently accepted the international court's verdict over the Vodafone tax case.

It seems they are not content with the economic pain the coronavirus-induced slowdown has caused. Still clinging to the discredited socialist-statist ideas, now they are leading the country to the most dangerous part of the quagmire the Vodafone case has created. Their view is that India should extract Rs 22,000 crore from the company despite an adverse ruling from the international court and an earlier one from our own Supreme Court. If the government accepts this view, the ramifications would be calamitous and far-reaching for India's attractiveness as an investment destination and its gross domestic product (GDP).

The socialists entrenched in the system sound nationalistic but their decisions are invariably against the best interests of the nation. The Times Of India quoted unnamed Central government officials on October 15 who claimed that the order from the international court "impinges on its sovereign right to tax."

An official source, on condition of anonymity, told TOI: "While we have said that India is against retrospective taxation, a bilateral investment agreement is for protection and facilitation of investment. It has nothing to do with tax policy... A tax claim cannot be used to invoke BIPA [the India-Netherlands Bilateral Investment]



# Time to honor international court's ruling on Vodafone case

Many economic policy and decision makers are socialistic whose perverse views on the case should be ignored Protection Agreement]."

Another official, again unnamed, sounded positively jingoistic, "These tribunals acting like super states and decide on what's in the exclusive domain of Parliament or courts."

This is a mix of lies and chicanery, for a nation doesn't compromise its sovereignty by respecting international laws and rulings by international courts. "A United Nations tribunal ruled in favor of Bangladesh and against India regarding a sea boundary dispute between the two countries. Both countries welcomed the decision of the UN tribunal which puts an end to a decades-long dispute between the two South Asian neighbors. The decision was taken by the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and concerned a disputed area in the Bay of Bengal," The Diplomat reported on July 10, 2014.

The tribunal awarded Bangladesh nearly 80 per cent "of an area sprawling over 25,000 sq km (9,700 sq miles)," a Reuters report said.

"The settlement of the maritime boundary will further enhance mutual understanding and goodwill between India and Bangladesh by bringing to closure a long-pending issue," our External Affairs Ministry had said in a statement at that time.

"This paves the way for the economic development of this part of the Bay of Bengal, which will be beneficial to both countries," the statement further said added.

If ceding territory doesn't compromise sovereignty, how does foregoing a fraudulent claim do? It is a well-known fact that territory is more important for a nation than money: money is ephemeral, territory is not.

The sordid saga began in May 2007 with Vodafone buying a 67 per cent stake in Hutchison Whampoa for a consideration of \$11 billion. Vodafone bought Hutchison's mobile telephony business and other assets in India. Four months later, the Indian government demanded Rs 7,990 crore in capital gains and withholding tax from Vodafone,

arguing that it should have charged the same from Hutchison as tax deducted at source before making a payment.

Vodafone legally challenged the demand notice, and the case went up to the Supreme Court. In 2012, the apex court decided in favor of Vodafone. The matter should have ended there, but taxmen managed to convince the then finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee, to disregard the highest court of the land and undo its ruling by bringing in an ordinance—which he did.

"Mukherjee remained stubborn regarding the retrospective tax demand. He thundered in Parliament: 'I would







It seems economic policy makers are not content with the pain the coronavirus-induced slowdown has caused. They are leading the country to the most treacherous part of the quagmire the Vodafone case has created







like to be guided either by a double tax avoidance agreement or domestic tax law. There cannot be a situation where somebody will make money on an asset located in India and will not pay tax either in India or to the country of its origin.' Unfortunately, Parliament let the government override the Supreme Court, and the ordinance became law."

It is unfortunate that the Modi regime accepted the spurious and fallacious logic proffered by Pranab Mukherjee. The late statesman had many virtues but international taxation was not one of them.

It would be even more unfortunate if

the pseudo-nationalistic logic is allowed to prevail after the international court verdict. Even if we accept that this verdict undermines our sovereignty, how could India convince the world about its own Supreme Court's stance? Did that too want to undermine the nation's sovereignty? And are the true nationalists found only in the Finance Ministry?

Non-acceptance of the verdict by the international court will have calamitous consequences for India for a variety of reasons. First, it would be perhaps the first time that India would be indulging in such insolence. We respected an adverse verdict in our territorial conflict with Bangladesh six years ago; there is no reason why we shouldn't do it now.

Second, after months of efforts—including export of HCQ and personal protection equipment—India has been able to improve its image which was dented because of the hugely-reported agitation against the new citizenship law and, later, the February riots this year. The government should do nothing to hurt the country's reputation.

Thirdly, refusal to accept the verdict will make the selling of India as an investment destination will become extremely difficult. How would we explain the illegality and immorality of the refusal? Investors will tell us that the government in India is arbitrary; it doesn't listen to its own courts. How would we answer them? Investment is important for brisker GDP growth.

And, finally, the government doesn't lose anything by foregoing the demand, for it will not have to pay anything to Vodafone in that event. And if it insists on the demand, the company may just shut shop, as its promoters have said in the past. This will be bad not just for the company, its employers, stakeholders, and creditors but also for the entire telecom sector where a monopoly situation is emerging.

In short, the Modi government should ignore the perilous counsel offered by socialist decision makers and honor the international court's judgment. \*\*







The world's two biggest democracies are cooperating militarily to check China's aggression



s India signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) with the US, China got jittery and responded with spite.

Beijing is terrified that see the world's two biggest democracies are joining hands to counter its aggression. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his US counterpart Mark Esper signed Beca during the third India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi on October 26 (details in the second part of the Cover Story by Prashant Bhardwaj). On his part, US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo castigated the Chinese Communist Party's bellicosity and chicanery.

Pompeo said: "The US and India are taking steps to strengthen our cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party. Last year, we expanded our cooperation on cyber issues, our navies have held joint exercises in the Indian Ocean."

He also condemned China for "instigating" a clash with India in eastern Ladakh: "The recent clashes initiated by the PLA [People's Liberation Army] are just the latest examples of the Chinese Communist Party's unacceptable behavior. It is important that democracies like ours work together, especially as we see more clearer than ever the true scope of the challenge posed by the Chinese Communist Party."

The next Malabar naval exercise by the navies of four major democracies—the US, Japan, India, and Australia—has also hugely distressed the CCP thugs.

So, in response to BECA and the Malabar exercise, Beijing is trying to resurrect the Cold War era of Third-worldism. Its Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, "These are groundless accusations which reflect that he is clinging to the Cold War mentality and ideological biases. We urge him to abandon the Cold War and the zero-sum game mentality and stop sowing discord between China and regional countries as well as undermining

the regional peace and stability."

These are lies and white lies, for it is Beijing that believes in the zero-sum game: it believes that it can become economically and militarily strong only by making other nations poor and weak. It sees India as a rival. Accordingly, it abets Pakistan's bellicosity against India, tries to strategically encircle India, dumps its goods in India, and checks by means fair and foul India's economic development



China sees India as a rival. Accordingly, it abets Pakistan's bellicosity against India, tries to strategically encircle India, dumps its goods in India, and checks by means fair and foul India's economic development



(e.g., funding anti-national NGOs).

It is China which is a threat to Asia, and yet it has the cheek to blame Pompeo for "sowing discord between China and regional countries as well as undermining the regional peace and stability." Its mendacity and sanctimony are breathtaking.

To be sure, Beijing has always been mendacious and sanctimonious—telling lies to Jawaharlal Nehru and his successors, while pretending to champion the cause of the victims of imperialism. This worked for a long time, even after Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government signed the Indo-US civil nuclear agreement in 2008, much to the annoyance of the coalition's Left allies who left the alliance following the deal.

"The UPA returned to power without the Left, but with little political enthusiasm for deepening ties with the US. The focus was on keeping visible distance from the US in the name of non-alignment, strategic autonomy, and the quest for a multipolar world. The relationship survived those years, thanks to the US's perseverance," wrote C. Raja Mohan, director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, in The Indian Express on October 26.





It needs to be mentioned here that the Leftist doctrines of "non-alignment, strategic autonomy, and the quest for a multipolar world" have been the bane of our foreign policy. In fact, for the Left-liberal establishment these abominations are still an article of faith. Defence expert Pravin Sawhney wrote in the Left-leaning news portal The Wire that by signing Beca "India has potentially mortgaged the digitised military capability of its three services—army, air force and navy—to the United States. If this sounds startling, it is."







It would be sanguine to believe that the leading democracies will continue to come together to promote the ideals and values of liberty, human rights, and international peace in the face of aggression by roguish regimes like those of China and Pakistan





A couple of points need to be made here. First, it was not some imaginative and facts-based thinking that has brought India and the US closer; it is the force of events—China's military aggression, its role in the spread of the novel coronavirus, its support for Pakistan, and other anti-India activities—that has brought India close to the US and other Western democracies.

Second, there are still many elements, many of them entrenched in the system,

that are doctrinally and temperamentally opposed to the West in general and the US in particular.

Therefore, it would be sanguine to believe that the leading democracies will continue to come together to promote the ideals and values of liberty, human rights, and international peace in the face of aggression by illiberal, barbarous, and roguish regimes like those of China and Pakistan. The path towards a coalition of democracies remains long and arduous, despite the achievements like BECA.

But is a coalition of democracies possible? To find the answer, we have to understand a curious fact: the chasm between the thoughts and aspirations of Indians on the one hand and the beliefs (dogmas actually) of the foreign office, a most-important organ of the deep pink state. While the people of India love America and what it stands for-free speech, liberty, capitalism-Ministry of External Affairs mandarins still seem to be fighting the phoney war against imperialism and 'neo-imperialism.' A global survey released in September by French research group Ipsos showed that Indians love America more than anybody else does-more than even the Americans do!

Ipsos contacted about 20,000 respondents from 29 countries to seek their views over a variety of subjects such as the strength of the US economy, standard of living, rule of law, democratic values and institutions, commitment to arts and culture, and respect for human rights. India rated the US the highest with a score of 34, which was 12 more than the Americans themselves rated their country. The US' global score was -5 per cent.

This is not a new phenomenon. There are over 4.5 million persons of Indian origin and non-resident Indians who are settled in America—the nation that believes in capitalism. How many Indians settled in the erstwhile Soviet Union, which our intellectuals told was the paradise of equality and prosperity? Or in communist China, another garden



of Eden that Marxists had planned and planted? Or in Cuba whose public health system liberals never tire of lauding? And yet, India's relations with the United States were frosty for almost half a century after Independence.

The question is: why? India is a democracy, so its political class is supposed to reflect the views, feelings, and aspirations of the people. But why was it that while the people of India felt, and feel, at home in Washington, New York, and other US cities (and in the West in general), our leaders found friends in Moscow and Jakarta? (But, typically, even as Indian rulers got friends in Moscow and Jakarta, they preferred the West for medical treatment, their children's career, etc. Another instance of hypocrisy). India and the US have had strong economic ties (the US is the second biggest trade partner), social and cultural relations, but the political ties have often lacked warmth; at times, there was pronounced hostility between the world's two biggest democracies.

All this happened because of socialism, the ideology that delineated our economic and foreign policies during much of the second half of the 20th century. It can be called the most overrated ideology the world has ever witnessed; all over the world, intellectuals generally favor it as much as common people detest



Even as India got rid of some of the worst features of socialism by liberalizing the economy in 1991, its cognate doctrine, non-alignment, was never discarded. Such thinking is still dominant in the foreign policy establishment



it. Socialism means controls which lead to shortages; anybody who has lived in pre-liberalization India knows it very well because they have suffered it. Socialism means licences, even for radio and television. It means that even if you build your own house with your own hard-earned money, you have to run from pillar to post for cement. It means that when you have a marriage in your family, you have to go to a babu with the invitation card for the release of sugar. It means that you have to wait

for years to buy a scooter. It means that essential amenities like gas cylinder and telephone connection, you have either to wait indefinitely or seek favor from a politician or a 'well-connected' person. It means that for good things in life, you look askance at imported stuff. Yet, intellectuals love socialism. And, despite the failure of socialism all over the world, they preach its virtues.

Even as India got rid of some of the worst features of socialism by liberalizing the economy in 1991, its cognate doctrine, non-alignment, was never discarded. Its basic premise is Marxian: imperialism or neo-imperialism is an offshoot of capitalism; ergo, capitalist nations should never become our allies. This thinking is still dominant in the foreign policy establishment, thus precluding any alliance with the West in general and the US in particular.

This is despite the fact an alliance with Western nations like the US and Australia is the need of the hour. For China, along with its vassal state Pakistan, is increasingly becoming bellicose against us. It is unfortunate that even as Indians have grasped this fact, the foreign policy establishment has not.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi must ensure that the Nehruvian fossils don't block the path to an alliance with the US and a global coalition of democracies? \*\*

# **Predictions**

#### FOR NOVEMBER 2020

BY DR. SOHINI SASTRI



#### M ARIES

Health stavs impeccable. You will earn substantial sums of money from traditional investment. Avoid spending an excess of cash on others. Your inward quality will bolster you in making the month magnificent at work. Your attempt of entering into politics may create some disturbance within family. Explain your situation as truthfully as possible; this will help in building trust.



#### TAURUS

Land investment would be rewarding. Spend time with business and political companions. as it would complete a great deal of good. You will discover another motivation to live as you understands how enchanting and amazing love can be. Joint endeavors in real estate, coaching center etc. would be gainful in the long run.



Invest your energy with your offspring to reduce work stress, as kids are the most dominant otherworldly and passionate character on earth. This is time you bring the fruit of your labor; your diligent work of the earlier days will give you fame and strengthen your position in society. It's time to recharge your bonds and ties with relatives and old friends.



#### REANCER .

Take a balanced diet to improve your physical health. Investment is suggested. Visit to a religious spot or companionship with a principled man will bring comfort and significant serenity. Your spouse may get somewhat injured of knowing a mystery from your past. Try to make alliance with those whom you might think as your competitors.



Cash position improves as deferred installments are recuperated. A chance of political promotion is very high; visitors swarm your home to congratulate you; give them a charming and great time. Holidays will strengthen sentimental association. Positive planets will bring you a lot of motivations to feel satisfied. Your married life is about fun. delight, and euphoria; spend them well as you need them to survive a long fight ahead.



You should stay away from sleek and hot diet to stay healthy. Money-related problems may appear; you will get support from your family to get over the situation. Go out with companions who are certain and steady. Be straightforward and to the point in your methodology. There is a possibility of a genuine contention with your spouse.



Accomplishment from past endeavors lifts your certainty. Try not to be sporadic in your conduct, particularly with your spouse, else it might damage harmony at home. Adapt to new methods to increase your work productivity. Those who are in politics should apply new theories to earn more followers. Your marriage life is no fun due to your hectic schedule; converse with your spouse and plan something cool.



This is time for new alliances, new investment and new development. This is your time to lead; showcase your abilities and share them with others. Quality time with companions or shopping will be exceptionally pleasurable and energizing. You are probably going to be misjudged by your loved one. To avoid medical complication, spend a little time in exercise or yoga to stay fit.



Remember, people respect you, they follow you; try to control your indiscreet and obstinate nature as it might ruin the temperament in the crowd. Dig deeper before investing in a new venture. Philanthropy and social work will make you more popular. You will know how it feels to be with your perfect partner.

#### CAPRICORN

You should restrict uncontrolled outrage as it squanders vitality and clouded personal judgments. You appear to know what people need from you, use this wisely; this will guide you to victory. Visiting your relatives would be great. Love life is going to improve as you build up a decent version of yourself. Trust your instinct.

#### AQUARIUS

Recognize the emotions which inspire you. You should leave your negative sides like outrage and insatiability as these are capable of creating impact opposite to what you need. Masterful and imaginative capacity will bring you startling prizes. Marriage is a gift, and you are going to encounter it very soon. Know your enemy before you act.

Realize your true potentials. Instead of just sitting around, why not get involved in something which will improve your earning? You will hear good news from a distant relative. Your manager will applaud your work. Your marriage will see a superb stage during this time. A strike without a clear agenda will not help your cause. Confessing about your past mistakes will increase your popularity.



## With eye on China, India and US ink crucial defence pact

In the last days of the Trump administration, its top two officials ensured that the US made strategic arrangements to counter Chinese aggression



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with the US Defence Secretary Mark T. Esper, in New Delhi on October 26 (PIB)

day after US Secretary of
State Mike Pompeo and
Secretary of Defense
Mark Esper arrived
in India, both the countries signed
the crucial Indo-US Basic Exchange
and Cooperation Agreement (BECA),
which pertains to geo-spatial intelligence,
sharing information on maps and
satellite images for defence purposes.
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar
and Defence Minister Rajnth Singh held
the third edition of the 2+2 talks with
Pompeo and Esper.

After inking the pact on October 26, Singh talked about protecting territorial integrity and sovereignty. "We held a comprehensive discussion on a range of key issues. Inking of BECA with US is a significant move. Our military to military cooperation with the US is moving forward very well. We identified projects for joint development of defence equipment. We reaffirmed our commitment to peace and security in Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Esper, on the other hand, talked about the increasing aggression by and destabilizing activities of China. Pompeo referred to the Galwan incident where 20 Indian soldiers were killed: "We visited National War Memorial to honor brave men and women of Indian armed forces who sacrificed for the world's largest democracy, including 20 killed by PLA in Galwan Valley. The US will stand with India as they confront threats to their sovereignty and liberty."

The call between Pompeo and Jaishankar in June—after the June 15 Galwan incident—set the stage for this meeting. It also gave a political impetus to the already existing security cooperation apparatus in place. Also, Esper had called up Singh in the second week of July.

The signing of BECA allows India to use US geospatial intelligence and enhance accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. It gives access to topographical and aeronautical data and advanced products which will aid navigation and targeting. This could be key for air force-to-air force

cooperation between India and the US.

Pompeo and Esper also held talks with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, covering key aspects of growing strategic ties between the two countries. Issues of strategic importance were discussed at the meeting, PTI quoted sources as saying. The meeting took place ahead of the third edition of 2+2 ministerial dialogue. Both the top US administration officials also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Apart from BECA, India and the US also sealed an MoU on Technical Cooperation in Earth Observations and Earth Sciences, and an agreement to extend duration of the MoU regarding the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership. The two sides also signed an agreement on electronic exchange







The signing of BECA allows India to use US geospatial intelligence and enhance accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones







of customs data and a letter of intent regarding cooperation in traditional Indian medicines.

A joint statement issued following the conclusion of the visit of the American dignitaries highlighted shared Indo-US goals in the Asia-Pacific region and "emphasized that the Code of Conduct in the South China sea should not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of any nation in accordance with international law."

The two sides also decided to expand the joint capacity building activities with partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region. "The United States will stand with the people of India as they face threats to their sovereignty and their liberty," said Pompeo hinting at the ongoing tense scenario in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese forces in a standoff since May. Pompeo also referred to the greater threats posed by China in the Asia-Pacific region and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Responding to Pompeo's visit to India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said THAT Pompeo's comments were groundless. "These are groundless accusations which reflect he is clinging to Cold War mentality and ideological biases. We urge him to abandon the Cold War and zero sum game mentality, stop sowing discord between China and regional countries as well as undermining regional peace and stability."

Terming the signing of BECA a "significant achievement," Singh said the US accepted an Indian request for "cooperation in the advanced field of maritime domain awareness." As part of measures to enhance military to military cooperation, Singh said now liaison officers at each other's establishments could be leveraged to enhance "information sharing architecture" while in the joint statement both sides "reiterated their intent to assign additional liaison officers."

After asserting that the US and India can jointly deter China's "tyranny," Pompeo took the Trump administration's anti-China campaign to two Indian Ocean island nations—Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The two nations are vulnerable to Chinese exploitation. Even before Pompeo arrived in Sri Lanka, Beijing had accused Washington of bullying smaller nations.

In his meeting with Srilankan President Rajapaska, Pompeo "stressed the importance of strengthening democratic governance, human rights protections, and of fundamental freedoms to ensure long-term stability and prosperity," the State Department said in a statement.

In the last days of the Trump administration, its top two officials ensured that the US made strategic arrangements with Asian nations, especially India, to counter Chinese belligerence and aggression. \*\*





Joe Biden has helped improved bilateral relations and is likely to continue to do that despite his reservations about our Kashmir policy

#### COVER STORY-I



emocratic candidate Joe Biden seems to have won the election and will be the 46th President of the United States, beating incumbent US President Donald Trump. He has secured more than the 270 of 538 Electoral College votes that are needed to enter the White House. Biden, 77, is the oldest candidate ever elected to the White House. Trump, 74, has made as yet unsubstantiated claims of massive voter fraud, and his campaign has launched legal challenges in several states.

Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, a US Senator from California, will become the Vice-President, the first woman and person of Indian and African-American origins. Biden will inherit, from President Trump, a deeply divided country, battered by the Covid-19, facing high levels of unemployment and fraying race relations.

Biden, born on November 20, 1942—grew up in the blue-collar city of Scranton in northeast Pennsylvania. His father, Joseph Biden Sr., worked cleaning furnaces and as a used car salesman. His mother was Catherine Eugenia "Jean" Finnegan. Biden, who was raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and New Castle county, Delaware, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in 1965 and a law degree from Syracuse University in New York in 1968. During this time, he married (1966)





Biden will inherit, from President Trump, a deeply divided country, battered by the Covid-19, facing high levels of unemployment and fraying race relations

Neilia Hunter, and the couple later had three children.

The million dollar question that arises now is: what will the Biden-Harris combo mean for India and the world? This is something every Indian wants to know. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first leaders to congratulate Biden on his spectacular victory. "Congratulations @JoeBiden on your spectacular victory! As the VP, your contribution to strengthening Indo-US relations was critical and invaluable. I look forward to working closely together once again to take India-US relations to greater heights," PM Narendra Modi tweeted to Joe Biden.



#### 'India, US 2 closest nations'

Much before he became Vice-President in the Barack Obama administration, Biden had advocated a stronger relationship with India. Biden played an important role, both as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and later as Vice-President, in systematically deepening strategic engagement with India. Biden is also seen as more of a restorer than a reformer or transformer. In fact, in 2006, three years before he became the Vice-President of the US, Biden announced his vision for the future of US-India relations: "My dream is







In 2006, Biden announced his vision for the future of US-India relations: "My dream is that in 2020, the two closest nations in the world will be India and the United States"



that in 2020, the two closest nations in the world will be India and the United States," he had said.

Over the years, India-US relations have evolved and only grown irrespective of which party is in the office. With a Biden-Harris win in the elections, the relations could certainly continue to grow on a pleasant note one would expect. During the Obama administration also, Biden played a critical role in the US-South Asia strategy. During that time, the US officially declared its support for India's membership in a reformed and expanded United Nations Security Council. This had been a key demand of successive Indian governments, which

was fulfilled by Washington during Biden's term as V-P.

The Obama-Biden Administration also named India a "Major Defense Partner"—a status approved by the US Congress—which made it easier to share advanced and critical technology to India to strengthen defence ties. This was crucial since it was for the first time that any country was given this status, outside of the US' traditional alliance system. In fact, in August 2016, at the fag-end of the Obama administration, the two sides signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), the first of the three "foundational pacts" for deeper military cooperation.

During his campaign, Biden said that one of the first things he would do if elected President is "get on the



Donald Trump's erratic behavior on trade and currencies has weighed on foreign companies and governments while doing little to fulfill his domestic objectives



phone with the heads of state and say, 'America's back, you can count on us'." In his speeches, he has talked of a return to the liberal multilateralism of the Obama administration, with a focus on rebuilding alliances, especially with Europe and in East Asia as he feels that longstanding traditional allies in these regions have had to bear the brunt of Trump's abrasiveness.

In choosing Biden over Trump, the American voters have most likely changed the course of the global economy. This is why everyone has been so keenly following the twists and turns of the presidential elections in the US. Apart from the likely reduced uncertainties in global trade, what may be of immense importance is the fact that Biden understands the need to



control the Covid pandemic before any sustainable economic recovery can take place—either in the US or elsewhere.

#### A different approach

Biden's approach—in stark contrast to Trump's—could have a salutary impact on how the US leads the rest out of this tricky phase for the world economy when so many countries are witnessing a strong surge in Covid infections. Beyond trade, over the past two decades, the US is the fifth-biggest source for foreign direct investment (FDI) into India. Of the total \$476 billion FDI that has come in since April 2000, the US accounted for \$30.4 billion—roughly 6.5 per cent directly. Only Mauritius, Singapore, Netherlands, and Japan have invested



The victory of the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris team in 2020 came as a relief to the entire world because Trump's unconventional style and his image of a bull in a china shop













more FDI since 2000.

Apart from FDI, which is investment in the physical assets inside India, the US also accounts for one-third of all foreign portfolio investments (FPI)—that is, investment in financial assets into India. FPI data show that, as more often than not, trade is mutually beneficial—while it may be true that it may not be "equally" beneficial to all countries.

Under the Biden administration, India's trade with the US could recover from the dip since 2017-18. A Biden presidency may also see a renewed push towards a rules-based trading system across the world-instead of outright ad-hocism as was the case under Trump-as well as a move away from the protectionist approach that has been getting strong across the world. Combined with the control of Covid infections and the economic recovery, the US could yet again provide a growth impulse to the global economy that countries such as India need to boost their exports and grow.

Donald Trump's erratic behavior on trade and currencies has weighed on foreign companies and governments while doing little to fulfill his domestic objectives. Even though it's hard to say precisely how damaging the US President's economic agenda has been, especially with the recent Covid crisis, it's caused enough uncertainty to undermine key global relationships and institutions. A challenge for Biden will be strengthening a multilateral framework that's badly in need.

The victory of the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris team in 2020 came as a relief to the entire world because Trump's unconventional style and his image of a bull in a china shop, with a method in his madness, had bewildered the world as he turned the world upside down by dismantling the post-Cold War architecture of the world, walking away from global commitments, antagonizing allies, and confronting China and Russia.

Biden has not assumed the office and it is still more than two months away before he could officially act on, against or for China. But going by his description of China and its President Xi Jinping in the recent past, China is not going to have a "soft" US president in Joe Biden. Nearly a week after Trump Jr targeted Biden junior, Biden slammed Donald Trump calling his "weak and chaotic with China" while promising to "lead an effective strategy to mobilize a truly international effort to pressure, isolate and punish China."

#### **Kashmir** an irritant

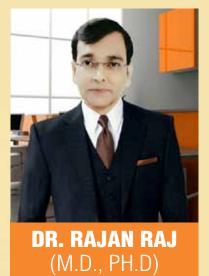
Biden has been critical of the Narendra Modi government's Kashmir policy measures and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Many in India too, including all the Opposition parties,



are critical of policy decisions on these and several other issues. The Opposition can force a say in India's internal policy matters but a US president may not have that leverage on an Indian government.

Experts maintain that human rights issues will definitely remain among top priorities of the Biden administration. This is not good news for Pakistan as it is known for suppressing human rights, especially in Sindh, Balochistan and PoK. It is expected that Biden administration will take Pakistan to task for failing to protect human rights of its citizens. Biden is likely to reach out to Indian-Americans while addressing the issue of terrorism. Experts opine that Biden will definitely work closely with India in order to address the issue of terrorism. \*\*

# Lakshmi's message on Diwali



#### Hello, India! I am Jakshmi.

verybody wishes to get me in the form of wealth and riches, and can go to any extent to get me, but with whom I wish to stay with or in which country, its known to very few people.

On the occasion of every Diwali, I visit this planet in both the two forms: Righteous (Satwik Lakshmi) and Vindictive (Tamsik Lakshmi). However, I have eight more forms in my character. It's up to you, which form attracts you.

In every part of the world, people are crazy for me in any form, rightly or wrongly; but I am always elusive and unstable. I am the centre point of all your

activities. You can get me righteously and wrongly. In a righteous way, I give long lasting growth and contentment, while in a wrong way I can be disastrous, both for a country and for a person.

I never stay permanently with anyone on this pltanet. I stay permanently only with Vishnu. If you have the quality of Lord Vishnu—he is calm and composed, he nurtures people, he supports selfless service to others—I will certainly like you. I want you to light the world not only with lamp and Diyas but also with the light of your inner good self through the medium of knowledge and wisdom. So you must also worship Lord Ganesha with me and acquire his attributes because without wisdom I may come but may not stay in a house or in a country for a long time.

I am quick to visit some cunning yet myopic people, the people who harm others, squander public wealth, but I return from them as fast as I can, destroying their whole regime through their false pride and wrong deeds.

I stay in the form of sweat of those who work hard, people of action. I am in grains, metals, herbs, etc., which are also available in the form of money. But when you start adulteration, corruption or fraud in your products or services, my energy form is changed from Satwik to Tamsik. It waits for planet transit in your chart to destroy you completely, whether you are a king, politician, minister or some other powerful person; it makes no difference to me.

I could punish you by sending you to jail, by the way of diseases or even a sad death. It's up to you in which form you want to adopt me—Satwik or Tamsik, constructive or destructive.

I am present in the constructive form, love of people, growth of country, economic development and happiness all around. I am also present in the form of humiliation, insult, and neglect of public.

Now, it's up to you to decide in what form you want to embrace me on this Diwali. \*\*
God bless, my child! I am Lakshmi.





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in times of crisis

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the remote areas as well as raising the level of awareness among the community towards healthy and hygienic living.

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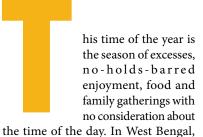
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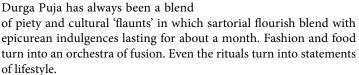
The author is Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Village Financial Services



# Festive season should be a balancing act

We can enjoy festivities while following the norms prescribed to check the spread of the coronavirus





So, each year, along with what is known as the 'Puja Numbers' brought out by different publication houses providing a literary feast, the media kept flagging the importance of a balanced lifestyle. Dieticians held forth on right food, cardiologists warned us about the implications of excessive frolics, health trainers cued us into why we should keep to the exercise regime, and the health industry warned us about the shortage of healthcare staff.

This year too we have the same warnings. We are getting the same advisories about moderate living but with a twist. The advisories have lost the festive lustre and, instead, are now dire. With the Covid throwing a pall of gloom across the globe, the festivities need to be looked at from a different prism.

Covid is an affliction, yet this season in India is about crowd and mass contact. And this is where the worries are. The entire structure and the ethos of the Sharodutsav stand questioned for this year. All that the Pujas are known for contradict the requirements of corona avoidance. Staying home, safe distancing, mask, regulated eating—one doesn't do these during the Pujas. They are contrary to what this festival stands for.

For those who do not have any idea about what we are talking about here, let's take a look at statistics. In 2013, the business chamber Assocham tried to make an estimate about what this festival means from the business point of view.

The chamber of commerce pegged it at Rs 25,000 crore, growing at the rate of 13 per cent CAGR. It is estimated to contribute about 10





per cent of West Bengal's GDP! In 2019, taking the growth rate into account, it may have had crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore!

Artisans, fashion industry, businesses—you name it and what you have is an economy looking forward to this season for making the most for the year. The puja organizers get into the one-upmanship game of drawing the greatest number of visitors. The crowd is so thick that during the busiest hour of the evenings it may take an hour to plod through the crowd while negotiating a distance of less than two kilometres. Last year all newspapers carried headlines saying how long it took the West Bengal Governor to negotiate a stretch of five kilometres despite the hooters and the police trying their best to clear the road for the first citizen of the state.

How many throng the pandals at any single point of time? It may cross 25,000 at the more popular pandal! One can, therefore, well imagine why the administration is worried in these days of pandemic. The honorable High Court in Kolkata therefore swung into the act and has laid down clear rules

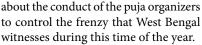




A compromise would be in order. We need to balance between the needs of today and surviving to enjoy next year's pujas







But the corona surge continues. This by itself points to the worry factor. People had thronged the markets for festival buying. The popular markets have been chock-a-bloc with the buyers throwing all cautions to the wind.

So the point here is what Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently reminded the nation about. Till the vaccine comes, we cannot afford to slacken the precautions.

#### Power Corridors Initiative

That doesn't mean that we wouldn't enjoy the pujas. We would. But a compromise would be in order. We need to balance between the needs of today and surviving to enjoy next year's pujas. The case fatality numbers are down, but what is the guarantee that we will not spread the affliction and make a near one part of that statistics?

The point here is to go for a balancing act. A little sacrifice here, a little compromise there might take us a long way to winning the battle against the pandemic. We did manage to lower the numbers in the last six months by following certain rules. A little balancing act here would make us do the nation proud. So let us follow the rules of

- a) avoiding crowded places
- b) maintaining safe distance
- c) wearing masks
- d) sanitization with soaps and sanitizers
- e) avoiding crowded rooms
- f) family gatherings should be in open spaces
- g) avoiding hugs and handshakes
- h) going for namastes
- i) eating healthy

We also need to keep in mind the small businesses and artisans who perhaps would be most impacted. Many of them, like the performing artists and handcraft sellers, will not be able to make as much sales as they normally do. If we following the basic norms, we can still carry on with the festivals, maybe stretch them even beyond the days of the rituals, use digital technology, or use other methods to ensure that all of us win to some extent. While health and life takes precedence, economics also needs to be kept in mind to have food on the table.

A balanced outlook at this time of the year will go a long way in giving us dividends in the long run. If our controlled celebrations help us have a win-win situation, isn't that what festivals are all about?

Please stay safe and keep welfare of others in mind. \*



ot long ago, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were tolerant, enlightened rulers of Europe, heroically fighting the alt-Right, far-Right groups. Academics and the mainstream media generally approved of them for this, but Macron seems to be falling from grace. His 'crime'? He has decided to combat the violent Islamists.

The result is that he is accused of racism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, etc. When on October 16 a Muslim refugee beheaded a teacher Samuel Paty near a school in Paris, the French President minced no words in condemning the vile act; he called it an "Islamist terrorist attack." The 47-year-old Paty had held a class on free speech in which he showed cartoons of the Muslim prophet Mohammed.

# Macron is reviled for upholding free speech

The French President is fighting not only jihadists but also the Muslim leaders Erdogan and Imran Khan who support them



Macron's reaction to the murder of three persons on October 29 was equally firm. But his reaction—and not the barbaric acts—has angered the Muslim world. Jihadist violence continues, as evident from the shooting of a Greek orthodox priest on October 31, but Muslims and many of their leaders all over are harshly slamming Macron while almost ignoring the Islamic terrorists.

But what Macron is doing is laudable: he is upholding free speech, a founding principle of the French Republic. The Islamic world is vilifying and criticizing him no end for being true to the values of his own nation. Major Muslims leaders like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan want Macron to stop supporting Charlie Hebdo and start imposing curbs on the freedom of expression.

Responding to the murder of Paty, Macron had said, "One of our fellow citizens was assassinated today because he was teaching, he was teaching pupils about freedom of expression."

Macron also said, "He [Paty] was killed because the Islamists want our future. They know that with quiet heroes like him, they will never have it."

This incensed Imran Khan. He tweeted, "This is a time when Pres Macron could have put healing touch & denied space to extremists rather than creating further polarization & marginalization that inevitably leads to radicalization."

Healing touch to what? The sensibilities of Islamists who want any criticism of their faith to be proscribed and penalized? Or to France's belief system which is under threat of Islamist intimidation? Obviously, the French President would uphold the values of his own nation, the ideals which were cultivated and curated by great philosophers and authors like Voltaire, Sartre, and Camus.

"It is unfortunate that he [Macron] has chosen to encourage Islamophobia by attacking Islam rather than the terrorists who carry out violence, be it Muslims, White Supremacists or Nazi ideologists,"

Khan wrote in another tweet.

In the world Khan and Erdogan live, any criticism of Islam is Islamophobia—a phony doctrine birthed and nurtured by postmodern or New Left ideologues. Such leaders are unwilling or incapable to come to terms with the imperatives of modernity, the imperatives that banish the very idea of blasphemy from public discourse. This is the essence of French—indeed Western—ethos.

Just because Macron is abiding by the ethos of his own nation, Khan is alluding that the former is in league with White Supremacists or Nazi ideologists.

Erdogan questioned Macron's sanity. The Turkish President's men are angry







Major Muslims leaders like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan want Macron to stop supporting Charlie Hebdo and start imposing curbs on the freedom of expression





with Macron for something even less offensive: caricaturing the Turkish President. Charlie Hebdo's front-page caricature of Wednesday's online edition shows Erdogan in a casual attire with a can of beer and lifting up the burqa of a woman from behind, thus baring her posterior. "Ooh, the prophet!" he says in a speech bubble. The title says, "Erdogan: in private, he's very funny."

Fahrettin Altun, Erdogan's top press aide, tweeted: "We condemn this most disgusting effort by this publication to spread its cultural racism and hatred."

Also, "French President Macron's anti-Muslim agenda is bearing fruit!

Charlie Hebdo just published a series of so-called cartoons full of despicable images purportedly of our President."

In other words, Erdogan's henchmen believe that Macron should make France a Xerox copy of Turkey, which neither individual liberty nor free speech nor press freedom has any meaning. Macron has refused to do that, and he is being maligned for his principled stand.

Former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad's reaction to the issue has been worse than that of Erdogan and Imran Khan. He gave a call for the massacre of the French people. He tweeted, "Muslims have the right to be angry and kill millions of French for the massacres of the past. The French should teach their people to respect other people's feelings."

Muslims political leaders are inflaming passions. Consider the retired mixed martial arts champion Khabib Nurmagomedov's statement on Macron. He wants to stamp the French President's face with his boot. Khabib posted a photograph of Macron with a boot print on his face. The caption said, "May the Almighty disfigure the face of this creature and all its followers, who, under the slogan of freedom of speech, offend the feelings of more than one and a half billion Muslim believers. May the Almighty humiliate them in this life, and in the next. Allah is quick in calculation and you will see it."

Worse, prominent intellectuals and journalists are spewing the erroneous, hazardous, and misleading ideas of multiculturalism and political correctness, thus helping Islamists earn legitimacy in the public domain. The result is that a large number of Muslims, including many in India, are abusing Macron and glorifying the killers of innocent people.

Against this backdrop, the French President has emerged as a heroic figure, facing the slings and arrows of jihad-compliant politicians like Erdogan and Imran Khan, battling Islamists, and taking on intellectuals. All for the sake of free speech \*\*

# A series of jihadist attacks rock France

As French President Emmanuel Macron bravely battles the menace of Islamist terror, India gives him moral support



spectre is haunting France, the spectre of Islamic terror. On October 16, a Muslim Chechen refugee murdered a teacher Samuel Paty near a school in Paris. On October 29, three persons were slaughtered by another jihadist at the French town of Nice. A couple of days later, another Muslim terrorist shot at a Greek orthodox priest and seriously him at Lyon.

In the aftermath of the barbaric incident, French Police arrested nine people as suspects. President Emmanuel Macron labeled the incident as an "Islamist terrorist attack." The murderer was an 18-year-old Chechen, who was shot and killed by police near the scene in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, North-West of Paris. Paty, who was 47-year-old, had shown his pupils some cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed as part of a class discussion on freedom of expression—a lesson that had prompted complaints from parents. The attacker shouted "Allahu Akbar" as police confronted him, a cry often heard in jihadist attacks, a police source said.

The attack came as a trial was in progress over the January 2015 massacre at the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine, which had published caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed that unleashed a wave of anger across the Islamic



A French police officer stands next to a portrait of slain French teacher Samuel Paty in the city of Montpellier on 21 October 2020 (AFP)

world. France has seen a wave of Islamist violence since the 2015 attacks on the satirical magazine. The magazine republished the cartoons in the run-up to the trial in September and last month a young Pakistani man wounded two people with a meat cleaver outside its former offices. The attack also comes just days after a follower of the Islamic State group who attacked a Police Officer with a hammer outside the Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris was sentenced to 28 years in jail.

Visibly moved as he visited the scene, President Macron said, "The entire nation" stood ready to defend teachers and that "obscurantism will not win." Prime Minister Jean Castex tweeted that teachers would continue to "awaken the critical spirit of the citizens of the republic, to emancipate them from all totalitarianism." Education



Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer later said Paty would be posthumously granted France's highest award, the Légion d'Honneur.

Macron urged the nation to stand united against extremism. He said the teacher "was killed because Islamists want our future." He further added, "One of our compatriots was murdered today because he taught—the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe." He said the attack shouldn't divide France because that's what the extremists want. "We must stand all together as citizens," he said.

The comments of Macron sparked a debate first across France and then



The comments of Macron sparked a debate first across France and then in the Muslim world, particularly Pakistan. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan accused Macron of "attacking Islam"



in the Muslim world, particularly Pakistan, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan accused Macron of "attacking Islam," after the European leader criticized Islamists and defended the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. In a series of tweets, Imran said the remark would sow division. "This is a time when President Macron could have put healing touch & denied space to extremists rather than creating further polarisation & marginalisation that inevitably leads to radicalisation," Imran wrote. "It is unfortunate that he has chosen to encourage Islamophobia

by attacking Islam rather than the terrorists who carry out violence, be it Muslims, White Supremacists or Nazi ideologists", he added.

"By attacking Islam, clearly without having any understanding of it, President Macron has attacked and hurt the sentiments of millions of Muslims in Europe and across the world," Imran said.

Several Muslim countries have called for a boycott of French goods. Marwan Muhammed, activist and co-founder of Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF) said on Twitter, "Fundamental freedoms are at stake, as the government is focused on stigmatizing and criminalizing Muslim communities."

Top leaders from Muslim world criticized President Macron; often the language used against him was crude. India strongly deplored the personal attacks on President Macron, calling it a violation of the most basic standards of international discourse. In a strongly-worded statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemned the vilification of Macron. In a statement, the MEA said, "We strongly deplore the personal attacks in unacceptable language on President Emmanuel Macron in violation of the most basic standards of international discourse. We also condemn the brutal terrorist attack that took the life of a French teacher in a gruesome manner that has shocked the world. We offer our condolences to his family and the people of France."

It further said, "There is no justification for terrorism for any reason or under any circumstance."

Following the MEA statement, French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain thanked India saying both countries can count on each other in the fight against terrorism. "Thank you @MEAIndia. France and India can always count on each other in the fight against terrorism," he tweeted.

France, like India, continues to fight Islamic terror. ₩



# Ajay Harinath Singh: Devoted to work and charity

The Chairman and Managing Director of Darwin Group of Companies continues to strive for excellence

he Chairman and Managing Director of Darwin Group of Companies, Ajay Harinath Singh's life story is one we have been covering in the last few editions of our magazine but there's still lot more to be learnt about the man. A successful entrepreneur, Ajay grew up in a family that specialized in mining, shipping, agriculture and finance. Today his business has expanded variably across the continents and it gives him immense pleasure to boast of such an eminent profile in a short span of time. A zeal to achieve

#### Power Corridors Initiative

something big since a very young age has kept him working hard for the success and he deserves every bit of what he has achieved.

Ajay's family heritage served as a great source of inspiration to him during his childhood and even now. The legendary Kshatriya Clan, from where Ajay comes, has always inspired him to develop new out of the box ideas and to always keep working for the betterment of the society. He is the first heir to the throne of Singh's family which is also known as the Rajkumar Thakurs, descended from Mr. Jubraj Singh. He is a man who has a great vision and his in-depth

knowledge regarding his field has helped him reach the peak of success.

Ajay has provided a new dimension to the firm through his dedication towards work and incredible business skills. He firmly believes that the employees can be the greatest assets for any organization if they are given ample chances and opportunities.

A descendant of Lord Rama, Ajay Harinath Singh has mastered the trade of finance and successfully established a finance house and expanded his empire by involving his brothers and their sons in the primary European financial centres in order to pursue the business

goals and objectives. He is considered as one of the leading business personalities related to the finance sector.

With a philosophy of identifying the customer's needs and offering solutions backed with the first-class service, Singh methodically founded other companies including Arms and Darwin Platform Avitronics Inc., which retails Sukhoi 30 and MIG aircraft. Singh also established a national banking company that was later transferred to his two sons. Darwin Platform has also invested in international banking industry by buying stakes in India's

private banking sector's financial institutions, including selected globally operating banks of India. All the 19 public limited companies under Darwin Platform have operated debt-free in their organization since its inception. Darwin Platform has an asset-based turnover of over Rs 41,000 crore and has its presence in Bollywood, Hollywood and the Russian film industry.

Ajay, being a business magnate, rarely has enough amount of time for other social activities but carrying a huge legacy behind him keeps him aware about his social responsibilities and his charitable activities expand across

continents. His charities include providing food & health facilities and quality education to the needy. He has pledged to a donate part of his wealth to charity. He has also made school systems in India and the United States primary beneficiaries for his charitable contributions. One of the major initiatives in this direction has been The AHS Food Charity, which was started by him in India, to provide food to homeless and needy and has now opened food kitchens in London (UK) and Philadelphia (US), providing vegetarian meals to the needy. Another great initiative by him includes providing advance education among various fields including

business, science, information technology, communications, intellectual property law and wildlife preservation through his foundation. Singh also donated \$1 million to establish a women's polytechnic institution in his native Mumbai.

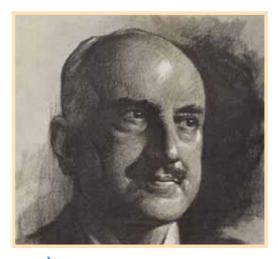
Ajay continues to be admired for his major accomplishments and charities globally. Despite having achieved so much in life, he still believes in the basic principles of life i.e. hard work and smart work are the keys to success. "Work keeps me happy," says Singh. "My dad said, 'Never stop working." \*\*



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# Flux and constancy of human nature



**》**Byline: George Santayana

George Santayana (1863–1952), an American–Spanish, wrote Life of Reason in 1905–06. He himself described it as "a presumptive biography of the human intellect." It contains a most famous aphorism, 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' Here we produce a chapter, 'Flux and constancy of human nature,' from the book:

conception of something called human nature arises not unnaturally on observing the passions of men, passions which under various disguises seem to reappear in all ages and countries. The tendency of Greek philosophy, with its insistence on general concepts, was to define this idea of human nature still further and to encourage the belief that a single and identical essence, present in all men, determined their powers and ideal destiny. Christianity, while it transposed the human ideal and dwelt on the superhuman affinities of man, did not abandon the notion of a specific humanity. On the contrary, such a notion was implied in the Fall and Redemption, in the Sacraments, and in the universal validity of Christian doctrine and precept. For if human nature were not one, there would be no propriety in requiring all men to preserve unanimity in faith or conformity in conduct. Human nature was likewise the entity which the English psychologists set themselves to describe; and Kant was so entirely dominated by the notion of a fixed and universal human nature that its constancy, in his opinion, was the source of all natural as well as moral laws. Had he doubted for a moment the stability of human nature, the foundations



of his system would have fallen out; the forms of perception and thought would at once have lost their boasted necessity, since to-morrow might dawn upon new categories and a modified a priori intuition of space or time; and the avenue would also have been closed by which man was led, through his unalterable moral sentiments, to assumptions about metaphysical truths.

#### Contrary currents of opinion

The force of this long tradition has been broken, however, by two influences of great weight in recent times, the theory of evolution and the revival of pantheism. The first has reintroduced flux into the conception of existence and the second into the conception of values. If natural species are fluid and pass into one another, human nature is merely a name for a group of qualities found by chance in certain tribes of animals, a group to which new qualities are constantly tending to attach themselves while other faculties become extinct, now in whole races, now in sporadic individuals. Human nature is therefore a variable, and its ideal cannot have a greater constancy than the demands to which it gives expression. Nor can the ideal of one man or one age have any authority over another, since the harmony existing in their nature and interests is accidental and each is a transitional phase in an indefinite evolution. The crystallization of moral forces at any moment is consequently to be explained by universal, not by human, laws; the philosopher's interest cannot be to trace the implications of present and unstable desires, but rather to discover the mechanical law by which these desires have been generated and will be transformed, so that they will change irrevocably both their basis and their objects.

#### **Pantheism**

To this picture of physical instability furnished by popular science are to be added the mystical self-denials involved in pantheism. These come to reinforce the doctrine that human nature is a shifting thing with the sentiment that it is a finite and unworthy one: for every determination of being, it is said, has its significance as well as its origin in the infinite continuum of which it is a part. Forms are limitations, and limitations, according to this philosophy, would be defects, so that man's only goal would be to escape humanity and lose himself in the divine nebula that has produced







Reason is a human function. Though the name of reason has been applied to various alleged principles of cosmic life, vital or dialectical, these principles all lack the essence of rationality, in that they are not conscious movements toward satisfaction, not, in other words, moral and beneficent principles at all





and must invalidate each of his thoughts and ideals. As there would be but one spirit in the world, and that infinite, so there would be but one ideal and that indiscriminate. The despair which the naturalist's view of human instability might tend to produce is turned by this mystical initiation into a sort of ecstasy; and the deluge of conformity suddenly submerges that Life of Reason which science seemed to condemn to gradual extinction.

### Instability in existences does not dethrone their ideals

Reason is a human function. Though the name of reason has been applied to various alleged principles of cosmic life, vital or dialectical, these principles all lack the essence of rationality, in that they are not conscious movements toward satisfaction, not, in other words, moral and beneficent principles at all. Be the instability of human nature what it may, therefore, the instability of reason is not less, since reason is but a function of human nature. However relative and subordinate, in a physical sense, human ideals may be, these ideals remain the only possible moral standards for man, the only tests which he can apply for value or authority, in any other quarter. And among unstable and relative ideals none is more relative and unstable than that which transports all value to a universal law, itself indifferent to good and evil, and worships it as a deity. Such an idolatry would indeed be impossible if it were not partial and veiled, arrived at in following out some human interest and clung to by force of moral inertia and the ambiguity of words. In truth mystics do not practice so entire a renunciation of reason as they preach: eternal validity and the capacity to deal with absolute reality are still assumed by them to belong to thought or at least to feeling. Only they overlook in their description of human nature just that faculty which they exercise in their speculation; their map leaves out the ground on which they stand. The rest, which they are not identified with for the moment, they proceed to regard de haut en bas and to discredit as a momentary manifestation of universal laws, physical or divine. They forget that this faith in law, this absorption in the blank reality, this enthusiasm for the ultimate thought, are mere human passions like the rest; that they endure them as they might a fever and that the animal instincts are patent on which those spiritual yearnings repose.

#### Absolutist philosophy human and halting

This last fact would be nothing against the feelings in question, if they were not made vehicles for absolute revelations. On the contrary, such a relativity in instincts is the source of their importance. In virtue of this relativity they have some basis and function in the world; for did they not repose on human nature they could never express or transform it. Religion and philosophy are not always beneficent or important, but when they are it is precisely because they help to develop human faculty and to enrich human life. To imagine that by means of them we can escape from human nature and survey it from without is an ostrich-like illusion obvious to all but to the victim of it. Such a pretension may cause admiration in the schools, where selfhypnotization is easy, but in the world it makes its professors ridiculous. For in their eagerness to empty their mind of human prejudices they reduce its rational burden to a minimum, and if they still continue to dogmatize, it is sport for the satirist to observe what forgotten accident of language or training has survived the crash of the universe and made the one demonstrable path to Absolute Truth.

## All science a deliverance of momentary thought

Neither the path of abstraction followed by the mystics, nor that of direct and, as it avers, unbiased observation followed by the naturalists, can lead beyond that region of common experience, traditional feeling, and conventional thought which all minds enter at birth and can elude only at the risk of inward collapse and extinction. The fact that observation involves the senses, and the senses their organs, is one which a naturalist can hardly overlook; and when we add that logical habits, sanctioned by utility, are needed to interpret the data of sense, the humanity of science and all its constructions becomes clearer than day. Superstition itself could not be more human. The path of unbiased observation is not a path away from conventional life; it is a progress in conventions. It improves human belief by increasing the proportion of two of its ingredients, attentive perception and practical calculus. The whole resulting vision, as it is sustained from moment to moment by present experience and instinct, has no value apart from actual ideals. And if it proves human nature to be unstable, it can build that proof on nothing more stable than human faculty as at the moment it happens to be.



However relative and subordinate, in a physical sense, human ideals may be, these ideals remain the only possible moral standards for man, the only tests which he can apply for value or authority, in any other quarter



#### **All criticism likewise**

Nor is abstraction a less human process, as if by becoming very abstruse indeed we could hope to become divine. Is it not a commonplace of the schools that to form abstract ideas is the prerogative of man's reason? Is not abstraction a method by which mortal intelligence makes haste? Is it not the makeshift of a mind overloaded with its experience, the trick of an eye that cannot master a profuse and everchanging world? Shall these diagrams drawn in fancy, this system of signals in thought, be the Absolute Truth dwelling within us? Do we attain reality by making a silhouette of our dreams? If the





scientific world be a product of human faculties, the metaphysical world must be doubly so; for the material there given to human understanding is here worked over again by human art. This constitutes the dignity and value of dialectic, that in spite of appearances it is so human; it bears to experience a relation similar to that which the arts bear to the same, where sensible images, selected by the artist's genius and already colored by his esthetic bias, are re-dyed in the process of reproduction whenever he has a great style, and saturated anew with his mind.

There can be no question, then, of

Among unstable and relative ideals none is more relative and unstable than that which transports all value to a universal law, itself indifferent to good and evil, and worships it as a deity. Such an idolatry would indeed be impossible if it were not partial and veiled

eluding human nature or of conceiving it and its environment in such a way as to stop its operation. We may take up our position in one region of experience or in another, we may, in unconsciousness of the interests and assumptions that support us, criticize the truth or value of results obtained elsewhere. Our criticism will be solid in proportion to the solidity of the unnamed convictions that inspire it, that is, in proportion to the deep roots and fruitful ramifications which those convictions may have in human life. Ultimate truth and ultimate value will be reasonably attributed to those ideas

and possessions which can give human nature, as it is, the highest satisfaction. We may admit that human nature is variable; but that admission, if justified, will be justified by the satisfaction which it gives human nature to make it. We might even admit that human ideals are vain but only if they were nothing worth for the attainment of the veritable human ideal.

#### **Origins inessential**

The given constitution of reason, with whatever a dialectical philosophy might elicit from it, obviously determines nothing about the causes that may have brought reason to its present pass or the phases that may have preceded its appearance. Certain notions about physics might no doubt suggest themselves to the moralist, who never can be the whole man; he might suspect. for instance, that the transitive intent of intellect and will pointed to their vital basis. Transcendence in operation might seem appropriate only to a being with a history and with an organism subject to external influences, whose mind should thus come to represent not merely its momentary state but also its constitutive past and its eventual fortunes. Such suggestions, however, would be extraneous to dialectical selfknowledge. They would be tentative only, and human nature would be freely admitted to be as variable, as relative, and as transitory as the natural history of the universe might make it.

#### **Ideals functional**

The error, however, would be profound and the contradiction hopeless if we should deny the ideal authority of human nature because we had discovered its origin and conditions. Nature and evolution, let us say, have brought life to the present form; but this life lives, these organs have determinate functions, and human nature, here and now, in relation to the ideal energies it unfolds, is a fundamental essence, a collection

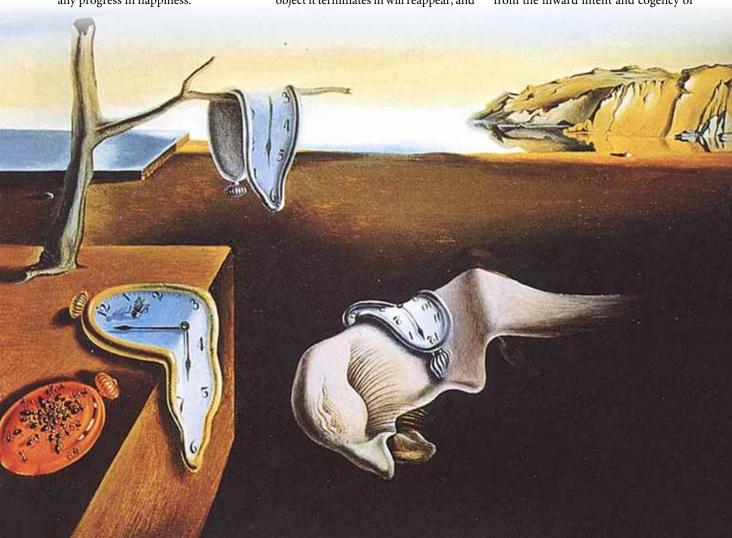
of activities with determinate limits, relations, and ideals. The integration and determinateness of these faculties is the condition for any synthetic operation of reason. As the structure of the steamengine has varied greatly since its first invention, and its attributions have increased, so the structure of human nature has undoubtedly varied since man first appeared upon the earth; but as in each steam-engine at each moment there must be a limit of mobility, a unity of function and a clear determination of parts and tensions, so in human nature, as found at any time in any man, there is a definite scope by virtue of which alone he can have a reliable memory, a recognizable character, a faculty of connected thought and speech, a social utility, and a moral ideal. On man's given structure, on his activity hovering about fixed objects, depends the possibility of conceiving or testing any truth or making any progress in happiness.

## They are transferable to similar beings

Thinkers of different experience and organization have pro tanto different logics and different moral laws. There are limits to communication even among beings of the same race, and the faculties and ideals of one intelligence are not transferable without change to any other. If this historic diversity in minds were complete, so that each lived in its own moral world, a science of each of these moral worlds would still be possible provided some inner fixity or constancy existed in its meanings. In every human thought together with an immortal intent there is a mortal and irrecoverable perception: something in it perishes instantly, the part that can be materially preserved being proportionate to the stability or fertility of the organ that produced it. If the function is imitable, the object it terminates in will reappear, and two or more moments, having the same ideal, will utter comparable messages and may perhaps be unanimous. Unanimity in thought involves identity of functions and similarity in organs. These conditions mark off the sphere of rational communication and society; where they fail altogether there is no mutual intelligence, no conversation, no moral solidarity.

#### **Authority internal**

The inner authority of reason, however, is no more destroyed because it has limits in physical expression or because irrational things exist, than the grammar of a given language is invalidated because other languages do not share it, or because some people break its rules and others are dumb altogether. Innumerable madmen make no difference to the laws of thought, which borrow their authority from the inward intent and cogency of





each rational mind. Reason, like beauty, is its own excuse for being. It is useful, indeed, for living well, when to give reason satisfaction is made the measure of good.

The true philosopher, who is not one chiefly by profession, must be prepared to tread the winepress alone. He may indeed flourish like the bay-tree in a grateful environment, but more often he will rather resemble a reed shaken by the wind. Whether starved or fed by the accidents of fortune, he must find his essential life in his own ideal. In spiritual life, heteronomy is suicide. That universal soul sometimes spoken of, which is to harmonize and correct individual demands, if it were a will and an intelligence in act, would itself be an individual like the others; while if it possessed no will and no intelligence, such as individuals may have, it would be a physical force or law, a dynamic system without moral authority and with a merely potential or represented existence. For to be actual and selfexistent is to be individual. The living mind cannot surrender its rights to any physical power or subordinate itself to any figment of its own art without falling into manifest idolatry.

#### **Reason autonomous**

Human nature, in the sense in which it is the transcendental foundation of all science and morals, is a functional unity in each man; it is no general or abstract essence, the average of all men's characters, nor even the complex of the qualities common to all men. It is the entelechy of the living individual, be he typical or singular. That his type should be odd or common is merely a physical accident. If he can know himself by expressing the entelechy of his own nature in the form of a consistent ideal, he is a rational creature after his own kind, even if, like the angels of Saint Thomas, he be the only individual of his species. What the majority of human animals may tend to, or what the past or future variations of a race may be, has

nothing to do with determining the ideal of human nature in a living man, or in an ideal society of men bound together by spiritual kinship. Otherwise Plato could not have reasoned well about the republic without adjusting himself to the politics of Buddha or Rousseau, and we should not be able to determine our own morality without making concessions to the cannibals or giving a vote to the ants. Within the field of an anthropology that tests humanity by the skull's shape, there might be room for any number of independent moralities, and although, as we shall see, there is actually a similar foundation in all human and even in







When change is absolute there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement: and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it







all animal natures, which supports a rudimentary morality common to all, yet a perfect morality is not really common to any two men nor to any two phases of the same man's life.

#### lts distribution

The distribution of reason, though a subject irrelevant to pure logic or morals, is one naturally interesting to a rational man, for he is concerned to know how far beings exist with a congenial structure and an ideal akin to his own. That circumstance will largely influence his happiness if, being a man, he is a gregarious and sympathetic animal. His moral idealism itself will crave support from others, if not to give it direction, at least to give it warmth and courage. The best part of wealth is to have worthy heirs, and mind can be transmitted only to a kindred mind. Hostile natures cannot be brought together by mutual invective nor harmonized by the brute destruction and disappearance of either party. But when one or both parties have actually disappeared, and the combat has ceased for lack of combatants, natures not hostile to one another can fill the vacant place. In proportion to their inbred unanimity these will cultivate a similar ideal and rejoice together in its embodiment.

#### **Natural selection of ehnim**

This has happened to some extent in the whole world, on account of natural conditions which limit the forms of life possible in one region; for nature is intolerant in her laxity and punishes too great originality and heresy with death. Such moral integration has occurred very markedly in every good race and society whose members, by adapting themselves to the same external forces, have created and discovered their common soul. Spiritual unity is a natural product. There are those who see a great mystery in the presence of eternal values and impersonal ideals in a moving and animal world, and think to solve that dualism, as they call it, by denying that nature can have spiritual functions or spirit a natural cause; but nothing can be simpler if we make, as we should, existence the test of possibility. Ab esse ad posse valet illation (From the fact that something exists, it follows that it is possible). Nature is a perfect garden of ideals, and passion is the perpetual and fertile soil for poetry, myth, and speculation. Nor is this origin merely imputed to ideals by a late and cynical observer: it is manifest in the ideals themselves, by their subject matter and intent. For what are ideals about, what do they idealize, except natural existence and natural passions? That would be a miserable and superfluous ideal indeed that was nobody's ideal of nothing. The pertinence of ideals binds them to nature, and it is only the worst and flimsiest ideals, the ideals of a sick soul, that elude nature's limits and belie her potentialities. Ideals are forerunners or heralds of nature's successes, not always followed, indeed, by their fulfillment, for nature is but nature and has to feel her way; but they are an earnest, at least, of an achieved organization, an incipient accomplishment, that tends to maintain and root itself in the world.

To speak of nature's successes is, of course, to impute success retroactively; but the expression may be allowed when we consider that the same functional equilibrium which is looked back upon as a good by the soul it serves, first creates individual being and with it creates the possibility of preference and the whole moral world; and it is more than a metaphor to call that achievement a success which has made a sense of success possible and actual. That nature cannot intend or previously esteem those formations which are the condition of value or intention existing at all, is a truth too obvious to demand repetition; but when those formations arise they determine estimation, and fix the direction of preference, so that the evolution which produced them, when looked back upon from the vantageground thus gained, cannot help seeming to have been directed toward the good now distinguished and partly attained. For this reason creation is regarded as a work of love, and the power that brought order out of chaos is called intelligence.

#### **Living stability**

These natural formations, tending to generate and realize each its ideal, are, as it were, eddies in the universal flux, produced no less mechanically, doubtless, than the onward current, yet seeming to arrest or to reverse it. Inheritance arrests the flux by repeating a series of phases

with a recognizable rhythm; memory reverses it by modifying this rhythm itself by the integration of earlier phases into those that supervene. Inheritance and memory make human stability. This stability is relative, being still a mode of flux, and consists fundamentally in repetition. Repetition marks some progress on mere continuity, since it preserves form and disregards time and matter. Inheritance is repetition on a larger scale, not excluding spontaneous variations; while habit and memory are

Human nature survives amid a continual fluctuation of its embodiments. At every step twigs and leaves are thrown out that last but one season; but the underlying stem may have meantime grown stronger and more luxuriant. Whole branches sometimes wither, but others may continue to bloom



a sort of heredity within the individual, since here an old perception reappears, by way of atavism, in the midst of a forward march. Life is thus enriched and reaction adapted to a wider field; much as a note is enriched by its overtones, and by the tensions, inherited from the preceding notes, which give it a new setting.

## **Continuity necessary to progress**

Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. When

change is absolute there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement: and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. In the first stage of life the mind is frivolous and easily distracted; it misses progress by failing in consecutiveness and persistence. This is the condition of children and barbarians, in whom instinct has learned nothing from experience. In a second stage men are docile to events, plastic to new habits and suggestions, yet able to graft them on original instincts, which they thus bring to fuller satisfaction. This is the plane of manhood and true progress. Last comes a stage when retentiveness is exhausted and all that happens is at once forgotten; a vain, because unpractical, repetition of the past takes the place of plasticity and fertile re-adaptation. In a moving world re-adaptation is the price of longevity. The hard shell, far from protecting the vital principle, condemns it to die down slowly and be gradually chilled; immortality in such a case must have been secured earlier, by giving birth to a generation plastic to the contemporary world and able to retain its lessons. Thus old age is as forgetful as youth, and more incorrigible; it displays



the same inattentiveness to conditions; its memory becomes self-repeating and degenerates into an instinctive reaction, like a bird's chirp.

#### **Limits of variation**

Not all re-adaptation, however, is progress, for ideal identity must not be lost. The Latin language did not progress when it passed into Italian. It died. Its amiable heirs may console us for its departure, but do not remove the fact that their parent is extinct. So every individual, nation, and religion has its limit of adaptation; so long as the increment it receives is digestible, so long as the organization already attained is extended and elaborated without being surrendered, growth goes on; but when the foundation itself shifts, when what is gained at the periphery is lost at the centre, the flux appears again and progress is not real. Thus a succession of generations or languages or religions constitutes no progress unless some ideal present at the beginning is transmitted to the end and reaches a better expression there; without this stability at the core no common standard exists and all comparison of value with value must be external and arbitrary. Retentiveness, we must repeat, is the condition of progress.

The variation human nature is open like that of man, who can never repudiate of the species. Such extinction may take



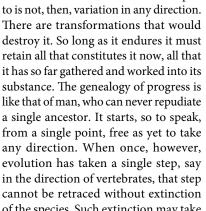


Spiritual unity runs, like sap, from the common root to every uttermost flower; but at each forking in the growth the branches part company, and what happens in one is no direct concern of the others









place while progress in other lines is continued. All that preceded the forking of the dead and the living branch will be as well represented and as legitimately continued by the surviving radiates as it could have been by the vertebrates that are no more; but the vertebrate ideal is lost forever, and no more progress is possible along that line.

#### **Perfectibility**

The future of moral evolution is accordingly infinite, but its character is more and more determinate at every step. Mankind can never, without perishing, surrender its animal nature, its need to eat and drink, its sexual method of reproduction, its vision of nature, its faculty of speech, its arts of music, poetry, and building. Particular races cannot subsist if they renounce their savage instincts, but die, like wild animals, in captivity; and particular individuals die when not suffered any longer to retain their memories, their bodies, or even their master passions. Thus human nature survives amid a continual fluctuation of its embodiments. At every step twigs and leaves are thrown out that last but one season; but the underlying stem may have meantime grown stronger and more luxuriant. Whole branches sometimes wither, but others may continue to bloom. Spiritual unity runs, like sap, from the common root to every uttermost flower; but at each forking in the growth the branches part company, and what happens in one is no direct concern of the others. The products of one age and nation may well be unintelligible to another; the elements of humanity common to both may lie lower down. So that the highest things are communicable to the fewest persons, and yet, among these few, are the most perfectly communicable. The more elaborate and determinate a man's heritage and genius are, the more he has in common with his next of kin, and the more he can transmit and implant in his posterity forever. Civilization is cumulative. The farther



it goes the intenser it is, substituting articulate interests for animal fumes and for enigmatic passions. Such articulate interests can be shared; and the infinite vistas they open up can be pursued forever with the knowledge that a work long ago begun is being perfected and that an ideal is being embodied which need never be outworn.

#### **Nature and human nature**

So long as external conditions remain constant it is obvious that the greater organization a being possesses, the greater strength he will have. If indeed primary conditions varied, the finer creatures would die first; for their adaptation is more exquisite and the irreversible core of their being much larger relatively; but in a constant environment their equipment makes them irresistible and secures their permanence and multiplication. Now man is a part of nature and her organization may be regarded as the foundation of his own: the word nature is therefore less equivocal than it seems, for every nature is Nature herself in one of her more specific and better articulated forms. Man therefore represents the universe that sustains him; his existence is a proof that the cosmic equilibrium that fostered his life is a natural equilibrium, capable of being long maintained. Some of the ancients thought it eternal; physics now suggests a different opinion. But even if this equilibrium, by which the stars are kept in their courses and human progress is allowed to proceed, is fundamentally unstable, it shows what relative stability nature may attain. Could this balance be preserved indefinitely, no one knows what wonderful adaptations might occur within it, and to what excellence human nature in particular might arrive. Nor is it unlikely that before the cataclysm comes time will be afforded for more improvement than moral philosophy has ever dreamed of. For it is remarkable how inane and unimaginative Utopias have generally been. This possibility is not uninspiring and may help to console

those who think the natural conditions of life are not conditions that a good life can be lived in. The possibility of essential progress is bound up with the tragic possibility that progress and human life should some day end together. If the present equilibrium of forces were eternal all adaptations to it would have already taken place and, while no essential catastrophe would need to be dreaded, no essential improvement could be hoped for in all eternity. I am not sure that a humanity such as we know, were it destined to exist for ever, would

Civilization is cumulative. The farther it goes the intenser it is, substituting articulate interests for animal fumes and for enigmatic passions. Such articulate interests can be shared; and the infinite vistas they open up can be pursued forever

offer a more exhilarating prospect than a humanity having indefinite elasticity together with a precarious tenure of life. Mortality has its compensations: one is that all evils are transitory, another that better times may come.

## Human nature formulated

Human nature, then, has for its core the substance of nature at large, and is one of its more complex formations. Its determination is progressive. It varies indefinitely in its historic manifestations and fades into what, as a matter of natural history, might no longer be termed human. At each moment it has its fixed and determinate entelechy, the ideal of that being's life, based on his instincts, summed up in his character, brought to a focus in his reflection, and shared by all who have attained or may inherit his organization. His perceptive and reasoning faculties are parts of human nature, as embodied in him; all objects of belief or desire, with all standards of justice and duty which he can possibly acknowledge, are transcripts of it, conditioned by it, and justifiable only as expressions of its inherent tendencies.

## Its concrete description reserved for the sequel

This definition of human nature, clear as it may be in itself and true to the facts, will perhaps hardly make sufficiently plain how the Life of Reason, having a natural basis, has in the ideal world a creative and absolute authority. A more concrete description of human nature may accordingly not come amiss, especially as the important practical question touching the extension of a given moral authority over times and places depends on the degree of kinship found among the creatures inhabiting those regions. To give a general picture of human nature and its rational functions will be the task of the following books. The truth of a description which must be largely historical may not be indifferent to the reader, and I shall study to avoid bias in the presentation, in so far as is compatible with frankness and brevity; yet even if some bias should manifest itself and if the picture were historically false, the rational principles we shall be trying to illustrate will not thereby be invalidated. Illustrations might have been sought in some fictitious world, if imagination had not seemed so much less interesting than reality, which besides enforces with unapproachable eloquence the main principle in view, namely, that nature carries its ideal with it and that the progressive organization of irrational impulses makes a rational life. \*

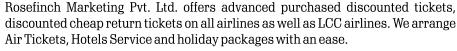








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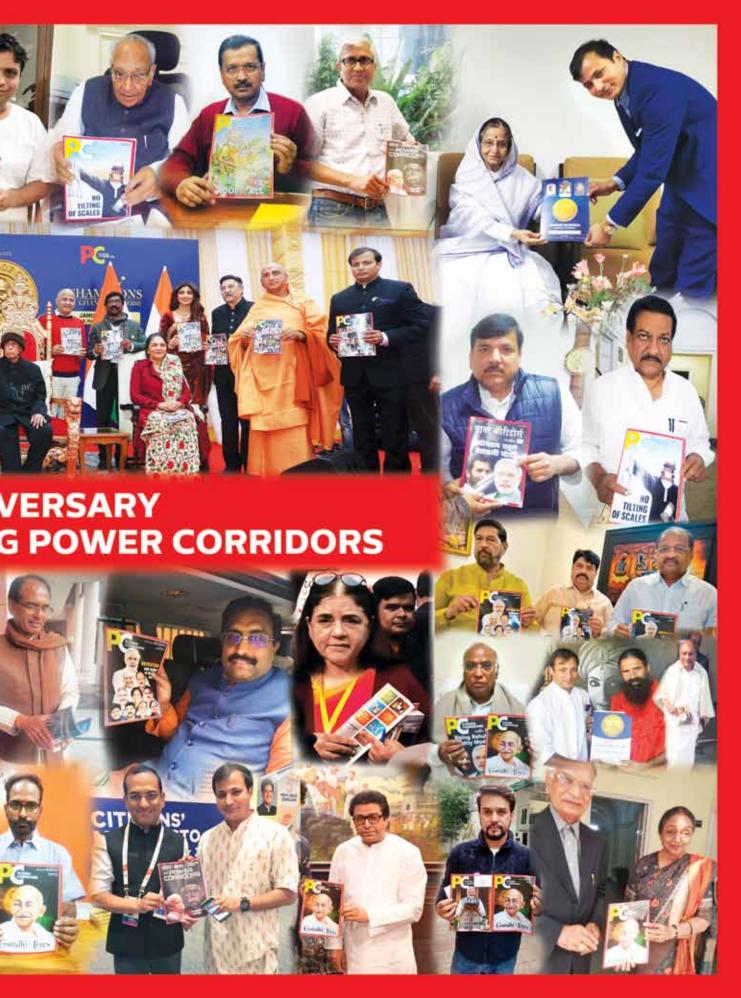


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Pooja Nagarrsheth

## More skin care means less make-up

In winter, we must try to keep your skin hydrated and moisturized using the following tips

he harsh winter weather can be damaging, uncomfortable and painful to your skin. So let's talk about some tips on skin hydration, natural products for skin care, and other home remedies that can help you keep your skin healthy and glowing throughout the winter.

#### Short showers

A long and hot shower sounds like a perfect thing to do on a winter morning. However, it may not be that perfect for your skin. Long hot baths tend to dehydrate our bodies and sweep away the necessary oils which result in an itchy irritating skin condition.

## Natural moisturizer right after the bath

Skin becomes dry due to lack of moisture in the winter weather. A nice way to tackle this is to use a moisturizer, body butter or a simple lotion immediately after a bath. This will lock the moisture on the skin and prevent it from becoming dry. I would recommend using an oil-based moisturizer for cold winters which will also help in locking the essential hydrating oils in your skin.

#### Choose the right cleanser

Cleansers containing ingredients like alcohol or other odd fragrances will take away the natural oils, leaving a dry and cracked skin condition. I would recommend a creambased cleanser which will not only keep the moisture intact to your skin but also wash away the dirt and make-up effectively.

#### Exfoliation

We may not think of exfoliation, especially when we have dry, itchy skin. But it is very essential during winters as it replaces dry and dead cells with new healthy ones.

#### Stay hydrated

Water is life and it plays a major role in skin care. The more hydrated you are, the less will be the efforts required to keep your skin healthy. In case you are a forgetful person like me, then try keeping an alarm every hour or just make a silly but beneficial habit of drinking half a glass of water every time you visit the restroom.

#### Munch on veggies

Vegetables like cucumber and celery have high water content which will help you in skin hydration. Orange and yellow vegetables are rich in antioxidants and beta carotene which again plays a vital role in skin care. Add dark leafy vegetables in your daily food intake for a boost in vitamin A, B and E along with iron and Omega3.

To summarize, I would say: try to keep your skin hydrated and moisturized using the different tips I mentioned above. I am a make-up artist by profession, yet I would say that if you take good skincare measures and your need for make-up will diminish to a great extent. \*\*

# Selection controversy starts before Aussie tour

The wisdom of including K.L. Rahul in the team going down under has been questioned





t seems the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) has made up their mind to go at Mumbai Indians and their patrons, and show them their place. India limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma, who missed defending champion Mumbai Indians' last two games in the Indian Premier League (IPL) after sustaining an injury, has been omitted from the squad for India's three-month-long tour to Australia, while K.L. Rahul makes a return to the Test team after being dropped following the 2019 series in the West Indies. The BCCI did not to pressure tactics of the big family. The Australia tour is set to begin with the first ODI in Sydney on November 27 and culminate with the fourth Test in Brisbane from January 15 next year. Rohit Sharma isn't part of any of the three squads.

## Is the hitman's ouster inviting confrontation?

Rohit's omission from all the three formats on the Australia tour has raised questions over his participation in the remainder of this IPL season too but the very next day after announcement of tour team, Mumbai Indians purposely tweeted Rohit Sharma's net practice photos.

Rohit Sharma got injured during a game against Kings XI Punjab on October 18. At the same time though BCCI has indicated that it does not imply the door is shut on his playing at some stage of the tour. The BCCI's media release said its medical team would "continue to monitor Rohit's progress." There was no word about any possible injury. Neither has there been any official statement from Mumbai Indians, of which he is captain, on whether or not he will play the rest of this season.

## **Cricketers keep their fitness status secret**

In last many foreign tours, uncertainty over the fitness status of many players continuously dogged the Indian cricket team. Speaking on television, the legend Sunil Gavaskar supported "transparency and openness," while pointing out that Sharma wouldn't be batting in the nets if the injury was serious. "A bit of transparency and openness about what kind of injury he has will help everybody, because the Indian cricket fans deserve to know," he said. Franchises don't want to give much information because they don't want the opposition to gain any psychological advantage.

#### Manjrekar fires a salvo

After tiff with the BCCI for utterances on TV and his subsequent removal from the commentators' panel, Sanjay Manjrekar attacked the selection committee for showing undue favor to K.L. Rahul. On team selection, Manjrekar took to Twitter and wrote, "You set a bad precedent when you recall a player for Tests on IPL performance. Especially if the player has been an abject failure in his last few Tests."

The BCCI medical team's caution is understandable because this is the second time Sharma has injured his left leg. In February Sharma was forced to return home from New Zealand after tearing his left calf muscle during the T20 leg of that series. Manjrekar said "K.L. Rahul in his last 5 Test series – v SA – Avg 7.1 – v Eng – Avg 29 – v WI at home – Avg 18 – v Aus – Avg 10.7 – v WI – Avg 25.4. I say very lucky to get a recall based on IPL & white ball performance."

#### Hardik returns for white ball

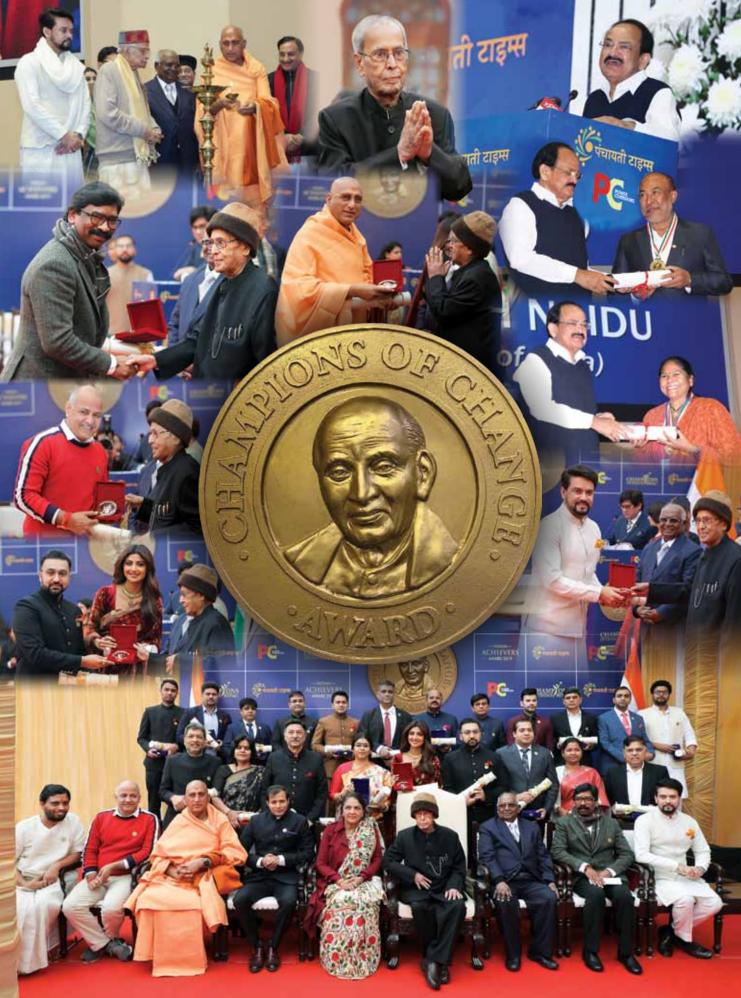
Hardik Pandya, who hasn't played for India since September 22 last year, has been picked for the ODIs and T20Is. The selection panel, led by former India spinner Sunil Joshi, also picked Varun Chakravarthy for the ODIs. The leg-spinner has had a strong showing in Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates and captured his first five-wicket haul of the tournament on Saturday. In fact, he is the only uncapped cricketer to have been selected across three squads. Besides 28 cricketers who will feature in the three squads combined, the selection committee has named pacers Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Kartik Tyagi, Ishan Porel and T. Natarajan who will travel as back-ups. \*\*

**TEST SQUAD:** Virat Kohli (Capt), Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, K.L. Rahul, Cheteshwar, Ajinkya (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Shubman Gill, Saha (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Umesh Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Mohd. Siraj

**ODI SQUAD:** Virat Kohli (Capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, K.L. Rahul (vc & wk), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Mayank Agarwal, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur

**T201 SQUAD:** Virat Kohli (Capt), Shikhar, Mayank Agarwal, K.L. Rahul (vc & wk), Shreyas Iyer, Manish, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, Varun Chakravarthy.





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