HARD WORK BEATS TALENT WHEN TALENT DOESN'T WORK HARD.

STUDY IQ
American carnage: Trump’s road to ruin

The Trump presidency in the US is about to end, but it is a church that it repudiates an unyielding force rooted in race, political, and moral order.

Cricket's new order

The new order in cricket has brought a new perspective to the game, with players from around the world competing for glory.

Demonstrations: long shadow

The demonstrations continue to cast a long shadow over the political landscape, with protests demanding change and justice.

Letters to the Editor

Simple remembrance

Letters to the Editor provide a platform for readers to express their thoughts and opinions on various topics.

Violations in India, penalties elsewhere

In this section, we explore the violations that occur in India and the penalties imposed elsewhere for similar offenses.

Drawing up a diet plan

The process of drawing up a diet plan is crucial for maintaining a healthy lifestyle, with attention to both quantity and quality of food intake.

This land is their land

Despite the move to acquisition by the government of certain land parcels, the incredible resilience of these communities is undeniable.

From the Archives

The 1984 anti-Sikh riots: The untold story.
Cricket’s New order

- Supreme Court has named a four-member Committee of Administrators to run the affairs of the Board of Control for Cricket in India as part of a continuing judicial exercise to reform the way the body is administering the game.
- The court could have asked the Board to come up with suggestions to draw up a committee of interim administrators from among former players and administrators with an established connect with the game.
- Also, by appointing a panel of its own, the court has rendered itself vulnerable to the charge of massive judicial overreach.
- There is an undoubted element of public interest in the manner in which the highest court has engaged itself with the game’s administration in recent years.

- The objectives were laudable:
  1) Cleansing the administration;
  2) Bridging the credibility deficit built by reform-resistant administrators;
  3) Revamping a system fraught with conflicts of interest
  4) And unchecked commercialisation.

- Last year, the court declared that running cricket in India is a public function.
- Many felt the intervention was needed to keep the exploitation of cricket’s commercial potential honest, and run the game in accordance with its tradition and values.

- Then came the panel headed by former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha - The Supreme Court accepted most of the recommendations and made them binding on the BCCI.
- Thereafter, the reluctance shown by the BCCI to accept the Lodha panel reforms led to its president Anurag Thakur being held prima facie guilty of contempt of court.

- The situation is ripe for a new set of administrators and the next election, which will be overseen by the four-member committee, will throw them up.
- The big question, of course, is whether this will amount to a mere replacement of one set of office-bearers with another, or bring about a real and systemic change in the way cricket in this country is run. (GG-VC-1857)
Economic Survey presented on the eve of the Union Budget has been dominated by a singular action of the Government.

Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian stated, “To deify or demonise demonetisation that is the difficult question the world is asking, to which the survey tries to respond.”

Describing the November 8 decision to withdraw high-value currency notes as a “radical governance-cum-social engineering measure”

The Survey, however, emphatically asserts that while there have been short-term costs to the economy, which would need to be expeditiously addressed, there will be long-term benefits.

Real GDP growth in the current fiscal, the Survey projects, will see a likely reduction by one quarter to half a percentage point relative to the baseline of about 7% as a result of the demand shock triggered by demonetisation.

The Survey argues that any comparison with last fiscal’s 7.6% pace would be “inappropriate” as among the other factors that influenced growth this year was that

1) Global oil prices stopped declining,
2) Lessening the updraught that soft energy prices lend to the economy.

It contends that the latest growth estimates of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund — the bank trimmed its forecast to 7% from 7.6% and the IMF by 1 percentage point to 6.6%, both citing demonetisation as reason
Devoting a whole chapter to demonetisation, the Survey recommends
1) Demand-driven remonetisation,
2) Further tax reforms, including bringing land and real estate [Q-List-?] under the ambit of the Goods and Services Tax,
3) And reducing tax rates and stamp duties.

It flags the risks that Brexit and the U.S. election result pose to the world economic order, and to India’s economy.
The prospect of “shifts in the direction of isolationism and nativism” could threaten the global market for goods, services and labour.
The Survey conservatively projects growth for the coming fiscal at 6.75%-7.5%, with a caveat that lingering effects from
1) demonetisation,
2) oil prices and
3) the possible rise of trade protectionism could jeopardise the forecast
Drawing up a diet plan

- Kerala government’s decision to implement the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from April, the whole country will be covered by the legislation.
- However, if we expect the NFSA to improve India’s malnutrition statistics, we may well be disappointed.
- According to a study -even before the NFSA is fully implemented- proportion of households getting PDS subsidy rising from about 25% in 2004-05 to 50% in 2011-12.
- However, decline in child malnutrition has been far more modest.
- While we still do not have nationwide data on malnutrition, State-wise data from Annual Health Survey/District Level Health Survey
- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh - Why do we see this disconnect - PDS subsidies vs underweight
- Critiques of the PDS may point to leakages and suggest that perhaps these subsidies are not reaching the target beneficiaries
- However, a large number of studies have recorded improving performance of the PDS and suggest this may be an overly cynical assumption.
A recently released report based on India Human Development Survey of 2004-05 and 2011-12 suggests that the relationship between the PDS and nutrition may be more complex.

The results suggest that access to PDS subsidies changes the way people allocate their household resources. When rice, wheat and other cereals are available cheaply, households try to get more of their required calories from cereals and less from milk, fruits and vegetables.

Results show that households with BPL/AAY- (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) cards consume a monthly per capita average of 11.87 kg of cereals, but only 2.77 litres of milk.

In contrast, households without BPL/AAY cards but at the same income level, consume somewhat less cereals (11.22 kg) but more milk (3.21 litres).

One would normally expect that the savings from cereal purchase due to price subsidies would be used to buy milk, fruit and nuts, but in an era where school and medical costs are rising and households face many other demands on their purse, these savings seem to be spent on non-food items.

Found that households with a BPL/AAY card were no better than households without PDS subsidies when it came to child nutrition.

This may well be because access to cheap calories reduces consumption of different foods and dietary diversity is very important for balanced nutrition.

This does not mean that we should do away with food subsidies.

The challenge lies in providing assistance to needy households to ensure adequate diets without creating conditions in which they opt for inferior diets that are heavy on cereals.

Solution- Cash transfers may be one way of dealing with this challenge.
This land is their land

- Despite the new land acquisition law, questions of resettlement and rehabilitation persist
- 2013 law was enacted to comprehensively address opposition to land acquisition, why do governments still get land acquisition wrong?
- Infrastructure projects are initiated for the “greater common good”, but the people dispossessed by them of their land, livelihood, and environment rarely benefit from all their goodness.
- The scale of the projects keeps growing - There are no clear procedures for establishing consent in the case of private sector involvement and there is complete exemption for state-led projects.
- Compensation is often the proverbial fish bone — the inadequateness of compensating security of land, livelihoods, socio-cultural life worlds, not to mention the loss of environment and biodiversity, have been discussed ad nauseam.

The insider and the outsider

- Agitators are portrayed by ruling governments as being under the influence of “outsiders” when, in fact, infrastructure paradigms, investors and beneficiaries are always the outsiders- agitations against land acquisition.
- Dating from the struggles of the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) in the 1980s against the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) [Q-Number of States-Narmada river]
- The agitations over Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are other recent reminders
- POSCO’s [Q-Company Country] inability to set up a plant in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, as it had not yet obtained forest and other clearances is a case in point
- Similar agitations have unfolded in Nandigram, Mangaluru, Maharashtra and Goa, stalling projects or eventually pushing out SEZS developed by corporate giants and backed by state forces- The Bhangar story –West Bengal
They demand an environmental impact assessment to ascertain the adverse impacts of the high-transmission lines on the local population, agriculture and ecology.

Who pays for the losses of life, livelihood, peace and well-being of the local residents during months and years, sometimes decades, of agitation?

What of the loss to the exchequer, and ultimately the Indian public, for all the effort made to suppress agitations and democratic principles by the state’s sovereign assertions over the greater common good?

Where does the state source its sovereign power over citizens in a democracy?

Eminent domain is a colonial doctrine imported by the colonial government to India and retained by the independent Indian state to institute capitalist development
Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Vinod Rai,
Other three members of the committee are a famous historian and scholar Ramachandra Guha,
Vikram Limaye, Managing Director of Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and
Former Indian women cricket captain Diana Edulji, who would interact with BCCI CEO Rahul Johri for supervision and smooth functioning of the cricket Board (BCCI).

Real Gross Domestic Product (real GDP) is a macroeconomic measure of the value of economic output adjusted for price changes (i.e., inflation or deflation).

Parliament’s jurisdiction to make laws related to real estate as “land” is in the State List of the Constitution.
However, it may be argued that the primary aim of this Bill is to regulate contracts and transfer of property, both of which are in the Concurrent List.

The expression refers to times before the Reformation when Church taxes had to be paid from St. Paul's church in London and to St. Peter's church in Rome; originally it referred to neglecting the Peter tax in order to have money to pay the Paul tax.

Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) is a social movement consisting of adivasis, farmers, environmentalists and human rights activists against a number of large dams being built across the Narmada River, which flows through the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, all in India.

A special economic zone (SEZ) is an area in which business and trade laws are different from the rest of the country. SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include: increased trade, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.

POSCO (formerly Pohang Iron and Steel Company) is a multinational steel-making company headquartered in Pohang, South Korea.