Be Happy, Share & Help Each Other!!!

If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you.

The HINDU
Analysis
15th March
Reflections on the election of our time
Naturally, Modi’s success may be seen as a sign of public acceptance of his policies.

Prejudice makes no distinction
Even in a democracy like the US, prejudice often manifests itself in subtle ways.

On the rocks
A common phrase used in politics to describe a situation where a country or government is facing challenges.

Letters to the Editor
A section where readers can express their opinions on various topics.
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India - USA Relation

- Intro: Srinivas Kuchibhotla in Kansas, Harnish Patel in South Carolina, and Deep Rai in Washington, all well settled Indians in America, were shot at in a span of three weeks resulting in two deaths.
- Words repeatedly used by their assailants were, “go back where you came from.”
- In my own family, spread throughout the U.S., we are hearing stories of insults and innuendoes.
- Fault y terms of engagement?
- For the longest time, we were proud to declare that Indian Americans were the true success story in the U.S.
- After all, even as a relatively young immigrant group (87.2% being foreign born) at 1% of the population (around 3 million)
- We could claim to have the highest per capita income ($88,000 median household income compared to all U.S. median at $49,800) and
- Highest levels of education (70% of those age 25 and older with college degrees, two-and-a-half times the figure for overall population) of any ethnic group.
Indians had truly arrived in America, as prominent writers, business leaders, academics, and even policymakers.

We lived and breathed the so-called American dream; we bought expensive homes in American suburbs, sent our children to the best universities and reaped the benefits of the American system.

But, by and large, we didn’t engage in the messy issues of civil rights, political participation, or racism.

We thought these were not our issues.

We remained attached to our country of origin, going back and forth frequently, contributing to local causes.

Some of us also got very active in the politics of our homeland.
While the White House, including the President, continues to deny any relationship between the rhetoric and policies of the new government and the unprecedented spike in hate speech and hate crimes against South Asian, Arab, Muslim and Jewish communities, the truth is that the Trump presidency has emboldened latent racist and ultra right nativist elements to come out in the open.

This has to be the real wake-up call for the Indian-American community.

During the election, a group of Indians, calling themselves “Hindus for Trump,” tried to make a distinction between themselves and other Indians, especially Muslim Indian-Americans, and other brown-skinned people.

It’s time Indian-Americans joined hands with all Americans who suffer from racial, ethnic or social prejudice, Muslims, Arabs, African-Americans, Latinos or the LGBT community, to fight for what makes America the great country that it is, welcoming new immigrants eager to make a new life here, and in the process, constantly renewing the very idea of America.
Early visit of PM Modi to the U. S. would have a positive impact.

Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran - Several recent developments indicate the need for India to strategise long term:

1) China’s ambitious connectivity infrastructure in South Asia,
2) The arrival of a new U. S. president, and
3) New Delhi’s increasing political distance from Russia, a traditional ally.
4) Growing polarisation in American society.

This could mean that external engagement of the U.S. may well suffer, with its global profile becoming relatively diminished.

Nevertheless, India-U.S. relations have become much stronger and broad-based in the past decade.

This is a valuable asset and a factor of stability even in uncertain times India should seek to expand the relationship wherever possible.
Despite its current preoccupations,
1) The U.S. is and is likely to remain the foremost economic and
2) Military power in the world and
3) The source of cutting-edge technological innovation.
An early visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington would have a positive impact.
H-1B visas- the suspension is only temporary
Trend towards limiting visas to Indian IT professionals offering their much sought after services in the U.S.
One cannot take the suspension to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.
What we can do is to highlight the fact that Indian IT services contribute that Indian IT companies are providing significant employment in their operations to U.S. citizens, and U.S. tech companies in India are some of the most profitable in the world, India is a growing market for U.S. products and services particular for defence hardware and technology- This is a partnership in which both parties gain.
There seems to be growing support for the position that given the protectionist policies of the U.S., India should avoid getting too close to the U.S. and invest more in other international partnerships, such as with Russia.

- **Q-Is it time to be more cautious towards the U.S. and build a more robust relationship with Russia, or a quad with Japan, Australia and New Zealand?**
- **Objective of Indian foreign policy has been to develop and expand a diversified set of relations with all major powers.**
- **Even if protectionist trends are visible in some sectors in the U.S., there are opportunities to expand trade and investment in other sectors.**
- **We have concluded Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with Japan and South Korea and a Free Trade Agreement in trade, investment and services with the ASEAN.**
- **Similarly with Russia, we have been expanding our trade and investment relations.**
Since the Mumbai terrorist attack in 2008, India-U.S. cooperation on counterterrorism has expanded significantly has contributed to the security of both countries.

Such cooperation is likely to continue and even expand under the Trump presidency.

Trump considers jihadi terrorism a threat which needs a robust response, this is positive because it also puts pressure on countries like Pakistan.

Some recent measures announced by Pakistan, including the arrest of the Lashkar-e-Taiba chief, Hafiz Saeed, are a response to the likelihood of Pakistan being targeted on the issue of terrorism.

China, in fact, has isolated itself, and its credibility as a partner in the war against international terrorism- prevent the inclusion of JeM chief Masood Azhar in the UN terrorists list.

Russia has not joined Chinese efforts to shield Pakistan.

However, changed its position on the Afghan Taliban and has joined China in initiating peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

Our response should be to enhance our engagement with Russia rather than react by limiting it.
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ASEAN Member Countries

- Thailand
- Myanmar
- Laos
- Philippines
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Brunei Darussalam
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Singapore
The government’s own documents are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

- **Intro:** Disability rights movement...
- From only seven recognised disabilities in the previous archaic Act of 1995 to 21 disabilities now, the new law is a true game changer that provides provisions that will benefit many.
- It is the real deal which takes into account real issues like
  1) Accessibility to infrastructure,
  2) Technology and
  3) Information.
- We also saw the launch of the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in 2015.
- As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016: “The appropriate Government shall take steps to ensure that all their public documents are in accessible formats.”
- Miss out on information to do with their own lives because of lack of accessibility.
Attitudinal barriers

Recently, the DEPwD drafted the rules of the new law which have now been made available to the public for comments.

It’s ironic that the rules, a public document on the department’s website, are not published in an accessible format to those whose roar made this happen.

Publishing the rules of the Accessible India Campaign without making them accessible is just ironic in a tragic way.
Continue...

Be Happy, Share & Help Each Other!!!
The ability to use computers remains low in the country, in spite of campaigns for digitalisation, an analysis of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data reveals.

An estimated 8.8% of the rural population has computing ability.

In urban areas, the figure is nearly four times higher, at 30.2%.

Computing ability was defined as a user’s ability to operate a desktop, laptop, palmtop, notebook, smartphone and tablets.

Kerala on top.
Parrikar takes oath in Goa as SC declines Cong. plea

Court asks Governor Mridula Sinha to hold floor test in Assembly tomorrow

Hours after the Supreme Court refused the Congress’ plea to stay the swearing-in of Manohar Parrikar as Goa Chief Minister, the BJP leader took charge in Panaji on Tuesday evening, along with a nine-member team. The court, however, requested Governor Mridula Sinha to hold a floor test in the Assembly on March 16.

NISTULA HEBBAR
PRAKASH KAMAT
NEW DELHI/PANAJI

Jaitley upset
Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who was present in the Lok Sabha when Mr. Kharge sought to raise the issue, asked for the Speaker’s permission to respond to Mr.
Lok Sabha clears amended Enemy Property Bill

Approves changes introduced in the Rajya Sabha last week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Heirs of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during Partition will have no claim over the properties left behind in India, with Parliament on Tuesday passing a Bill to amend a 49-year-old law.

The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968, was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha, incorporating the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha last week. The LS had passed the Bill earlier but certain amendments were introduced to it in the RS, on the recommendations of a Select Committee. Those amendments had to be approved by the Lower House, which was done on Tuesday.

Seeking clarity
RSP member N.K. Premachandran had moved a statutory amendment seeking to introduce clarity with regard to those properties which had already been acquired by the heirs of the ‘enemy’ property owners, a reference to nationals of Pakistan and China.

According to the Bill, “enemy property” refers to any property belonging to, held or managed on behalf of an enemy, an enemy subject or an enemy firm. The government has vested these properties in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, an office instituted under the Central government.

After the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965, the Enemy Property Act was enacted in 1968, which regulates such properties and lists the Custodian’s powers.

“The purpose of [the] Bill is to clarify the 1968 Act. Inheritance law will not be applicable on Enemy Property...This will put an end to the long-pending issue which should have ideally happened in 2010 when the Bill was introduced,” Home Minister Rajnath Singh said.
EU religious signs ban sparks outrage
Rights groups raise concerns after court rules that employers can ban staff from wearing such symbols
Religious organisations and rights groups have expressed concerns about a “disturbing” European Court of Justice ruling on Tuesday that enables European companies to ban employees from wearing visible religious signs.
The court ruled that employers can ban the wearing of visible political, philosophical or religious signs, so long as it was already included in company laws, and equally applied.
While the cases considered by the ECJ involve the headscarf, the ruling will also apply to other religious symbols such as Sikh turbans, Christian crucifixes, or Jewish Kippahs.
 ‘Madhesi will have greater representation in local bodies’
The government of Nepal will ensure greater representation of the Madhesi people in the local bodies, said the country’s Deputy Prime Minister Bimalendra Nidhi.
“Madhesis constitute 52% of the total population of Nepal but have barely 20% representation in the National Assembly.

Food and fuel prices spur acceleration in inflation
CPI inflation quickens to 3.65%, WPI-based figure hits 39-month high of 6.55%
BRICS to discuss steps to boost investment
Coordination on e-commerce issues also on agenda
World Trade Organisation (WTO)- level, and is making efforts to ensure that the proposal on a global investment pact gains traction before the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC) meeting in December 2017 in Buenos Aires (Argentina).
India had recently rejected a proposal by the European Union and Canada at the WTO-level for a global investment pact that incorporates the contentious Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism.
The ISDS mechanism allows firms to drag governments to international arbitration without waiting to exhaust the available local remedies and seek huge compensation.
Focus on e-commerce China has been leading the discussions on e-commerce at the global level.
Conclusion...

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- The U.S. health regulator has proposed to lift an import alert on Sun Pharma’s Mohali-based manufacturing plant.

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- A glow-in-the-dark frog found in Argentina
- Scientists have discovered the world’s first fluorescent frog in Argentina that sports a muted palette of greens, yellows and reds under normal light, but gives off a bright blue and green glow in the dark.
Cutting-edge technology refers to technological devices, techniques or achievements that employ the most current and high-level IT developments; in other words, technology at the frontiers of knowledge.

Leading and innovative IT industry organizations are often referred to as "cutting edge."

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs"), before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

China will host the 9th BRICS summit in Xiamen on September 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Host country</th>
<th>Host leader</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>16 June 2009</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Dmitry Medvedev</td>
<td>Yekaterinburg (Sevasiantov’s House)</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>15 April 2010</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva</td>
<td>Brasilia</td>
<td>Guests: Jacob Zuma (President of South Africa) and Riyad al-Maliki (Foreign Minister of the Palestinian National Authority)</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>14 April 2011</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Hu Jintao</td>
<td>Sanya (Sheraton Sanya Resort)</td>
<td>First summit to include South Africa alongside the original BRIC countries.</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>29 March 2012</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Manmohan Singh</td>
<td>New Delhi (Taj Mahal Hotel)</td>
<td>The BRICS Cable announced an optical fibre submarine communications cable system that carries telecommunications between the BRICS countries.</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>26–27 March 2013</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Jacob Zuma</td>
<td>Durban (Durban ICC)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>8–9 July 2015</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Vladimir Putin</td>
<td>Ufa (Congress Hall)¹⁴⁹</td>
<td>Joint summit with SCO-EEU</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>15–16 October 2016</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Narendra Modi</td>
<td>Benaulim, Goa (Taj Exotica)</td>
<td>Joint summit with BIMSTEC</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>3–5 September 2017</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Xi Jinping</td>
<td>Xiamen, China (Xiamen International Conference Center)</td>
<td></td>
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