Time is more value than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time.

~ Jim Rohn ~
purehappylife.com
Voting in a season of discontent

Election results are hope disappointing for the party in power in Kashmir and the Congress in the March election. The economic slowdown and the Naga accord are to blame for the performance of the Congress and the BJP.

A wake-up call

The results of the recent state assembly elections in India have sent a clear message to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress Party. The BJP, which has been in power in the state of Jammu and Kashmir for the past five years, has suffered a major setback, losing a majority of seats. The Congress, which has been in power for the past 15 years, has also suffered a significant loss.

In the nick of time

The results have raised concerns about the stability of the government and the future of the state. The opposition parties have called for a review of the government's policies and have accused the ruling party of corruption and mismanagement.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of affairs in Jammu and Kashmir. The recent election results have shown that the people of the state are disillusioned with the current government and are looking for change.

Sincerely,

[Name]

PERSPECTIVE

An Afghan agenda for Trump

The US President-elect must address Pakistan's unremitting role in Afghanistan at full tilt.

Debating:
The real meaning of independence for RBI

The Reserve Bank of India's independence is a central issue in debate. The RBI's role in economic stability and growth is crucial, and its independence is essential for its effectiveness.

Don't let messengers shoot themselves

Translators and interpreters are often seen as expendable. However, they play a critical role in communicating with non-native speakers and should be valued and protected.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Charkha Yudha:

A British-made submachine gun used by the Indian Army in World War II.

Corrections and clarifications

[Listing of corrections and clarifications]
A wake-up call+Don’t let messengers shoot themselves

“An army marches on its stomach”, a quote famously attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, was unwittingly brought into the spotlight by (BSF) constable Tej Bahadur Yadav’s videos.

Diet to colonial-era- They are a good reason to initiate a detailed study into the internal health of our security establishment.

Problems Faced by Jawans
1) Forced to wash clothes, polish boots and walk dogs for senior officers.
2) Getting about 40 per cent of the menu items allotted.
3) Difficulties they face and discrimination by officers - leave being denied and poor food.
4) Signalman Ranjit Thakur-1985 refused food while serving -28 days’ imprisonment+ senior officers about ill treatment

A summary court martial was conducted for his act of disobeying the order to eat- He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment, dismissal from the Army, and disqualification from civilian service.

Fortunately for him, the Supreme Court found this sentence to be grossly disproportionate and reinstated him with full pay and benefits.

How India treats its armed forces is rarely revealed by soldiers at the lowest ranks- delays in the judicial system - delays for the armed forces can turn fatal in the form of suicide and fratricide (a person who kills their brother or sister).
Introducing the Border Security Force Bill, 1968, the then Home Minister, Yashwantrao Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha:

1) Popularly it is called Border Security Police, but its function is not policing, it is something more than that.
2) Though it is functioning on the borders, it is not the Army.

3) The task of this Force is such that it is something between the Army and the Police Force.

Central police force which was “neither fish nor fowl” was necessary when police was a State subject.

Concern amongst even the Bill’s supporters was that there was a disparity between the Army and the BSF in terms of pay, service conditions, grievance redress mechanisms and deployments to forward areas (Border movie).

Bill was passed and independent India’s first paramilitary force was born - The concerns of stepmotherly treatment in service conditions exist even today.

Military justice system does not believe that it is required to be equal for all.

Lt. Col. Prithi Pal Singh Bedi v. Union of India (1982) for not having even one layer of judicial scrutiny, for unchecked command influence in decision-making, and for absence of recorded reasons in final judgments.

In 1999, the Law Commission’s 169th Report stated that disciplinary and service matters required quick resolution and proposed a special tribunal.

However, the Armed Forces Tribunal Bill was steered through Parliament only by the Defence Ministry, leaving paramilitary forces, even the Assam Rifles and the Coast Guard, outside the tribunal’s purview.

Court martial proceedings, penalties including the death sentence can be imposed - With no process of appeal other than statutory petitions - before the Home Minister.

Report by Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis titled ‘Addressing Stress-Related Issues in the Army’ quotes two studies - One on stress management+ other on suicide and fratricide- Not open- Government’s reply -would affect troop morale.
Indian Armed Forces are the military forces of the Republic of India. It consists of three professional uniformed services: the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force. Additionally, the Indian Armed Forces are supported by Indian Coast Guard and paramilitary organisations. The Indian Armed Forces are under the management of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). CAPF refers to uniform nomenclature of five security force in India under the authority of (Q-Under which ministry).

They are the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), National Security Guard (NSG), Assam Rifles (AR).
Goods and Services Tax (Q-Bill & Amendment Number)

Council has made some breakthroughs on outstanding negotiables that were holding up the introduction of the indirect tax regime.

A compromise has been reached between the Centre and the States on the formula for administrative control over taxpayers under the GST, which will subsume myriad existing State and Central levies on commercial activity.

The new control-sharing system - Now, 90 per cent of all GST - with a turnover of up to 1.5 crore will come under the watch of the States and 10 per cent under that of the Centre, with both getting to assess half of the firms with a turnover over 1.5 crore.

More important, it gives States, many of which had claimed at recent GST Council meetings revenue losses following demonetisation of currency notes - better deal with the Centre on a reform that is now inevitable.

Eyeing a ‘more realistic’ July 1 date - the trickiest issues between the Centre and the States are now resolved and only legislative drafts remain to be approved when the Council meets next on February 18.

It is an opportune time to address some of the concerns raised by another key stakeholder — industry. Firms have indicated they would need about six months to gear up for the new tax regime.

While it is important to protect the consumer, a clear rule-based framework is necessary.

An exponential change in ease of doing business - government committed to ending tax terrorism.
The real meaning of independence for RBI

- The demonetisation decision has led several observers to express concern about the autonomy and institutional integrity of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Many of those against demonetisation blaming the RBI for surrendering its independence- To Govt
- Misunderstanding about precisely what autonomy for the RBI entails- The RBI is not a self-governing Republic.
- RBI Act (Section 7 on Management)- Part-1 “The Central Government may from time to time give such directions to the Bank as it may, after consultation with the Governor of the Bank, consider necessary in the public interest.”
- Parts (2) and (3)- spell out the roles for the Central Board and Governor.
- There is a clear ‘seniority’ principle with (1) taking precedence over (2) which takes precedence over (3)-(1>2>3)
- Demonetise step was taken by the government in public interest after consultation with the RBI- Left to the Governor and his officers to implement the decision.
- RBI could not take a policy decision as major as demonetisation unilaterally.
Ensuring low and stable inflation

- Autonomy and institutional integrity mean-
- RBI, like most central banks, consists of technocrats and bureaucrats who are unelected and not directly accountable to the people
- In a democracy, the final responsibility of all policy decisions must lie with the elected representatives of the people, either the government or Parliament or both.
- The central goal of central bank independence was to ensure low and stable inflation via the autonomous conduct of monetary policy.
- Important to note that is not the central bank’s discretion to decide what the targeted rate of inflation ought to - job of the elected government- But once that target is laid down, the central bank must ensure that it meets those targets with complete operational autonomy.
- it was the RBI Governor — just one person — who had complete control over monetary policy goals and decisions- That was vesting too much independence in an unelected official
- Government New Rule— a Monetary Policy Committee — rather than one individual, without any interference from the government.(This is not interference)
Debt management -

RBI is government’s debt manager- proposed to be hived out to an independent debt management agency but resisted by the central bank- The separation of debt management from the RBI is not an assault on the RBI’s independence

Instead, it is to remove the conflict of interest that exists in the RBI’s functions of setting interest rates, and management of the government’s debt.

RBI is in the regulation of the banking system- Like any regulatory agency, RBI must be allowed to operate at an arm’s length from the government while doing its work.

Again, there is no evidence to suggest that the government has interfered in any way.

Remember that the government plays a separate role in the banking sector as the owner of public sector banks which control nearly 70 per cent of all lending- The RBI is the regulator, not owner, of banks.

Both the RBI and the government play critical and visible roles in banking but that does not mean that they are stepping on one another’s turf(मैदान)

The government, when it exercises its right as sovereign, whether to set an inflation target or to demonetise high-value currency, is acting well within the norms of the law and the spirit of democracy
Manipur is a state in northeastern India, with the city of Imphal as its capital. Manipur is sometimes called alternative names such as Kangleipak or Sanaleibak. It is bounded by Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, and Assam to the west; Burma (Myanmar) lies to its east.

**Legislature**
- Unicameral (60 seats)

**Parliamentary constituency**
- Rajya Sabha 1
- Lok Sabha 2

**High Court**
- Manipur High Court

Martial law is the system of rules that takes effect when a military authority takes control of the ... Also, it is implicit in Article 34 under which martial law can be declared in any ... The Supreme Court held that the declaration of martial law does not ipso(by that very fact or act.) ... of the term "martial law " used in Article 34 of the Constitution of India

**GST**
- The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014
- Constitution 101st Amendment Act, 2016