



THE HINDU EDITORIAL

28 SEP 2020

7:30 AM



THE HINDU
EDITORIAL ANALYSIS



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TIME TABLE

- 1) EDITORIAL ANALYSIS – 7:30 AM (you tube)
- 2) QUIZ AT MY TELEGRAM – 8:30 PM
- 3) FOR OTHER BATCHES JOIN MY PAID COURSE

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TASK OF THE DAY

- 1) EDITORIAL DISCUSSION + VOCABULARY
- 2) TONE OF THE PASSAGE
- 3) IDIOM
- 4) PHRASAL VERB
- 5) ONE LINERS
- 6) QUIZ



Battle for Bihar

Nitish is seeking a new mandate, with emotive rhetoric deflecting the debate on performance

The Assembly election in Bihar will be taking place in unprecedented circumstances over three phases, in the last week of October and the first week of November. This will be the first Assembly election since COVID-19 disrupted normal life, and the performance of the governments on the health and economic fronts will become an issue in the election campaign. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's record of 15 years is mixed. After initial improvements in governance after he took over in 2005, there was an evident downslide, culminating in the bungled handling of the pandemic. He deserted the BJP in 2013 and won the 2015 Assembly election in alliance with the RJD, only to return to the BJP's embrace soon. His popularity is waning, while the BJP is on the defensive on questions of border security, economic stagnation, and farmer backlash. The State and the Centre, jointly and separately, mismanaged the return of migrant workers from other States to Bihar during the lockdown. They have held together to distract the debate from substantive issues to emotive rhetoric. The suspected suicide of a film actor who hailed from Bihar is being used by both parties to fan caste and parochial emotions. The brazenly partisan conduct of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh – a member of the JD(U) – during the monsoon session is being hailed as a landmark move to Bihar's honour and



C. RANGARAJAN &
D.K. SRIVASTAVA

India's growth in the first quarter of 2020-21 at (-) 23.9% showed one of the highest contractions globally. Global growth prospects for 2020 have been projected by a number of multilateral institutions and rating agencies including that for India. The 2020-21 real GDP growth for India is forecasted in the range of (-) 5.8% (the Reserve Bank of India's Survey of Professional Forecasters) to (-) 14.8% (Goldman Sachs). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its September 2020 Interim Economic Outlook has projected a contraction of (-) 10.2% in FY21 for India.

The annual projections also indicate a strong likelihood of even the nominal GDP growth showing a contraction for 2020-21. The latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics indicate a Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate of

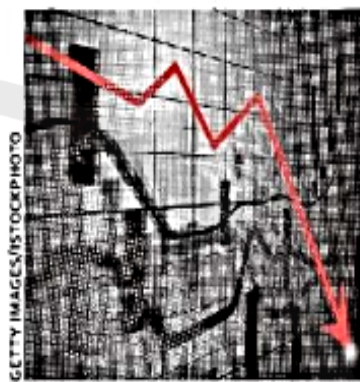
deflator was only 1.8%. If we take the OECD's real GDP growth projection at (-) 10.2% and a deflator-based inflation of about 5%, the implied contraction in nominal GDP is about (-) 5.0% for 2020-21.

It is true that some of us felt at one time that the economy might not do too badly because some key sectors such as agriculture and related sectors, public administration, defence services and other services may perform normally or better than normal given the demand for health, relief and revival expenditures. We had even expected that a small positive growth might be possible. The recently released national income figures for Quarter 1 of 2020-21 hold no such hope.

What is most surprising in the Q1 data is that the sector 'Public Administration, Defence and other Services' contracted at (-) 10.3%. This means that there was no fiscal stimulus. Independent estimates show that States' capital spending fell by 43.5%. The worsening of the fiscal deficit appears to be because of decline in revenue than increase in expenditure.

Revenue erosion

The policy challenge for the remaining part of the fiscal year is to



45% in their own tax revenues. This implies a negative buoyancy of about 1.65 in the combined tax revenues of central and State governments in the first quarter. Given the adverse impact of the lockdown, even the budgeted non-tax revenues are not likely to be realised. The revenue calculations of the Budget were made on the assumption that the nominal income of the country would grow at 10%. With the prospect of a contraction in nominal growth, tax revenues of the Centre would show a considerable shortfall as compared to the budgeted amounts. Some estimates indicate that the tax and non-tax revenue and non-debt capital receipts in the current fiscal may fall well short of the budget estimates by an amount higher than ₹5-lakh crore. The combined fiscal deficit of the Centre and the

8.8% of GDP. This consists of an estimated revised budgeted fiscal deficit of about 4% of GDP due to a lower denominator value of GDP plus 2.5% to make up for the shortfall in tax and non-tax revenues plus 2.3% for the additional over the budgeted expenditures in the already announced stimulus package (including the recently announced first batch of supplementary demand for grants). If one adds the Centre's and States' fiscal deficit, the combined fiscal deficit amounts to 13.8% of GDP. If the nominal GDP actually contracts in 2020-21, the fiscal deficit as the percent of GDP would go up further. This also does not take into account any additional borrowing because of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation. It may be noted that the Centre's fiscal deficit to GDP ratio for the Q1 of 2021 was 17.4%. The Centre's fiscal during the first four months of 2020-21 as a per cent of annual budgeted target was at 103.1%.

Limits to deficit

How high can fiscal deficit go? The International Monetary Fund, in its June 2020 update of the World Economic Outlook, estimated the fiscal deficit of India and China at

have to take on itself, either directly or indirectly, a part of the central government debt. In the direct mode, the RBI takes on the debt directly from government at an agreed rate. It took India long to move away from the automatic monetisation of debt. It happened in the early 1990s. Even if the RBI wants to support the borrowing programmes, it should not do so directly. The indirect method is preferable as the market still sends out the signals on interest rate. In both cases, the RBI is the provider of liquidity. The indirect route is not new. The question ultimately relates to the extent of debt monetisation that may be undertaken. The country has also to guard against high inflation.

This Fisc is caught in a serious dilemma. The economic situation warrants enhanced government expenditure. The fiscal deficit will go well beyond the mandated level – more than twice the mandated level. This has to be accepted. It appears that governments are withholding expenditure. That is not the right approach. At the same time, there is a limit to monetisation of debt. Perhaps the best course of action would be to keep the combined fiscal deficit around 14% of GDP in the current

Let might ultimately form an alliance, but not more bad blood is generated and confusion spread among their supporters. This will be the first Bihar Assembly election in 30 years in which Lalu Prasad is not the central campaigner. The junior Yadav is often compared, unfairly, to his father. Hamstrung by his siblings, and dealing with a changed social environment, he has the tough task of selectively appropriating his father's legacy and selectively disowning it. Muslims constitute nearly 17% of the State's population, and it will be interesting to watch how the NDA and the RJD-led alliance address them regarding the National Population Register and allied concerns. The election will be a health check of Indian democracy in the post-pandemic era. There is potential for a new imagination in Bihar, but, unfortunately, that is not visible on the horizon yet.

Salutary lesson

The Vodafone case shows why India should not undermine the faith of foreign investors

Vodafone Group Plc has won yet another round in its 13-year-long battle with India's tax authorities. On Friday, an international arbitration tribunal ruled that the Indian government's efforts to claim more than ₹20,000 crore in tax (including related interest and penalties) from Vodafone using retrospective legislation was in clear breach of the 'fair and equitable treatment' protections afforded under Article 4(1) of the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and the Netherlands. The ruling upholding the British multinational's stand ought to end India's protracted and often perverse pursuit of what at the very outset was a highly contentious claim. The dispute began in September 2007 when tax authorities served a demand on Vodafone International Holdings BV for tax that it said Vodafone's Dutch unit ought to have withheld while acquiring

Diagnosing what ails medical education

Confusion over policy for human resource development and economic policy is affecting quality, equity and integrity



GEORGE THOMAS

The new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 (<https://bit.ly/2Sldpjs>) aims to provide "universal access to quality education..." and bridge the "gap between the current state of learning outcomes and what is required... through undertaking major reforms that bring the highest quality, equity and integrity into the system, from early childhood care and education through higher education". It suggests that where it differs from previous policies is that in addition to the issues of access and equity, the present policy lays an emphasis on quality and holistic learning.

The outcome sought in higher education is "... more than the creation of greater opportunities for individual employment. It represents the key to more vibrant, socially engaged, cooperative communities and a happier, cohesive, cultured, productive, innovative, progressive, and prosperous nation". In a brief paragraph on

professionals "primarily required for working in primary care and secondary hospitals."

On private entities

Successive governments have been faced with the quandary of how to quickly expand educational opportunities while simultaneously addressing the issues of quality and equity. In the field of health care, there is a continuing shortage of health-care personnel. The infrastructure required for high-quality modern medical education is expensive.

Faced with public demand for high-quality medical care on the one hand and severe constraints on public resources on the other, private entities have been permitted to establish medical educational institutions to supplement government efforts. Though they are supposed to be not-for-profit, taking advantage of the poor regulatory apparatus and the ability to both tweak and create rules, these private entities, with very few exceptions, completely commercialised education.

None of the three stated objectives of medical education has been achieved by the private sector – that is, providing health-care personnel in all parts of the country, ensuring quality and integrity

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



provide poor quality education at extremely high costs.

Faced with this situation, the public has approached the polity, the executive and the courts to ensure equity, if not quality. The results have been patchy. On and off, there have been attempts to regulate fees, sometimes by governments and sometimes by courts. Faced with the fundamental contradiction that all governments have been complicit in violations of their own policies to ensure quality as well as equity, these efforts have not been fruitful.

The executive, primarily the Medical Council of India, has proven unequal to the task of ensuring that private institutions comply with regulations. When the courts are approached, which issues are seen as important depends on the Bench. Some judges wish to ensure quality and equity; others give importance to points of law or the rights of private

board of governors, which replaced the Medical Council of India, as an interim before the National Medical Commission became operative, introduced the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, as a single all-India gateway for admission to medical colleges. It is well known, though not easy to prove, that entrance examinations being held by almost all private colleges were a farce, and seats were being sold to the highest bidder. Challenged in courts, after an initial setback, the NEET scheme has been upheld.

NEET has worsened equity

NEET may have improved the quality of candidates admitted to private institutions to some extent, but it seems to have further worsened equity. Under any scheme of admission, the number of students from government schools who are able to get admission to a medical college is very low. With NEET, the number has become lower. The high fees of private medical colleges have always been an impossible hurdle for students from government schools, whatever the method used for admission. Allowing government medical colleges to admit students based on marks in

leges will be more equitable right now.

The basic cause of inequity in admission to higher educational institutions is the absence of a high quality school system accessible to all. In medical education, the situation is made far worse by the rent seeking and profiteering of the majority of private medical colleges.

It's about political resolve

The fundamental problem in achieving quality, equity and integrity in education, the stated objectives of the new NEP, is confusion on the part of successive governments between policy-making for human resource development and economic policy. On the one hand, the Ministry of Human Resources Development repeatedly says that quality and equity are the cornerstones of good education. On the other, the economic policies consider education a consumer good which can be sold to the highest bidder. No amount of tweaking the methods of admission can address this contradiction. Only a resolute government, determined to ensure that economic policy facilitates quality and equity in education, can do it.

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Profitable, लाभदायक

Destroy, कमजोर

Intermediacy, मध्यस्थता

Looking backward,
पूर्वप्रभावी

the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and the Netherlands. The ruling **upholding** the British multinational's stand ought to end India's **protracted** and often **perverse pursuit** of what at the very **outset** was a highly **contentious** claim. The dispute began in September 2007 when tax authorities served a demand on Vodafone International Holdings BV for tax that it said Vodafone's Dutch unit ought to have withheld while acquiring the controlling stake in the erstwhile Hutchison Essar Ltd. from Hutchison Telecommunications International Ltd. Since the stake purchase transaction took place outside India between two overseas entities, Vodafone was emphatic from the start that it was not lia-

Favour , समर्थन करना

Expanded, लंबा

Corrupt, distorted, भ्रष्ट

Goal, aim, लक्ष्य

Beginning, शुरू

Controversial, विवादास्पद

ble for any tax relating to the deal. Following a **setback** at the Bombay High Court, Vodafone presented its position to the Supreme Court, which ruled in its favour in 2012. In a move **fraught** with implications for all its international investment treaties, the government of the day, however, amended the tax legislation to give retrospective effect to its claims. This was the trigger for the U.K.-based company to seek arbitral recourse.

For Vodafone, the legal win is at best a **pyrrhic victory**. After having spent about \$11 billion in 2007 for acquiring the 67% stake in Hutchison Essar, the telecom services provider has struggled with challenges that forced it, in November 2019, to write down the book va-

Hinder, नाकामयाबी

Satiate, भरपूर

Very costly victory

lue of its Indian holdings to zero. While the Indian operation has gained size and market share including through its merger with the erstwhile Idea Cellular – from, respectively, 44 million subscribers in 2007 to 305 million users, and 26.7% at the end of June – there have been continued losses in the face of intense competition and **unviable** tariffs. Add to the mix the **substantial** sum of money it owes the government in the form of adjusted gross revenue dues and the future fund requirements of a rapidly technologically evolving and highly capital intensive industry, Vodafone's **wariness** to commit more **equity** to the Indian **venture** becomes understandable. The government must not seek

No profitable, अलाभकारी

Sufficient, पर्याप्त

Caution, सावधानी

Fairness, न्यायसम्य

Journey, उद्यम

to **litigate** the matter any further. The cost of doing otherwise will surely be **bruisingly** high, especially at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi spares no opportunity to **woo** foreign investment. Any failure to learn a salutary lesson from this loss would only serve to undermine overseas investors' faith in India's commitment to international treaties and the rule of law.

To go to law, मुकदमा करना

Violently

Try to impress for gain, प्रीति करना



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- **Jump the bandwagon – to join a popular activity or trend.**
- ❖ **When he was detected with diabetes , he quickly jumped on the bandwagon and joined the Zumba dance class.**

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Soulful, भावपूर्ण

Art of language, वक्रपटुता

Never seen before, अभूतपूर्व

Break, बाधित

Finalize, समापन

Manage awkwardly

The State and the Centre, jointly and separately, mismanaged the return of migrant workers from other States to Bihar during the lockdown. They have held together to distract the debate from substantive issues to emotive rhetoric. The suspected suicide of a film actor who **hailed** from Bihar is being used by both parties to fan caste and **parochial** emotions. The **brazenly** partisan conduct of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Hari-vansh – a member of the JD(U) – during the monsoon session is being hailed as adherence to Bihari **ethos** and his critics are being labelled anti-Bihar.

Call, स्वागत

Narrow, संकीर्ण

Harsh & loud

Conduct, moral, आचार

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ONE LINERS

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- ▶ World Tourism Day is celebrated on 27th September every year.

WORLD TOURISM DAY



ZINDAGI NA
MILE GI
DOBARA .LET'S
EXPLORE THE
WORLD

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session on Saturday (September 26) at around 6:30 pm.

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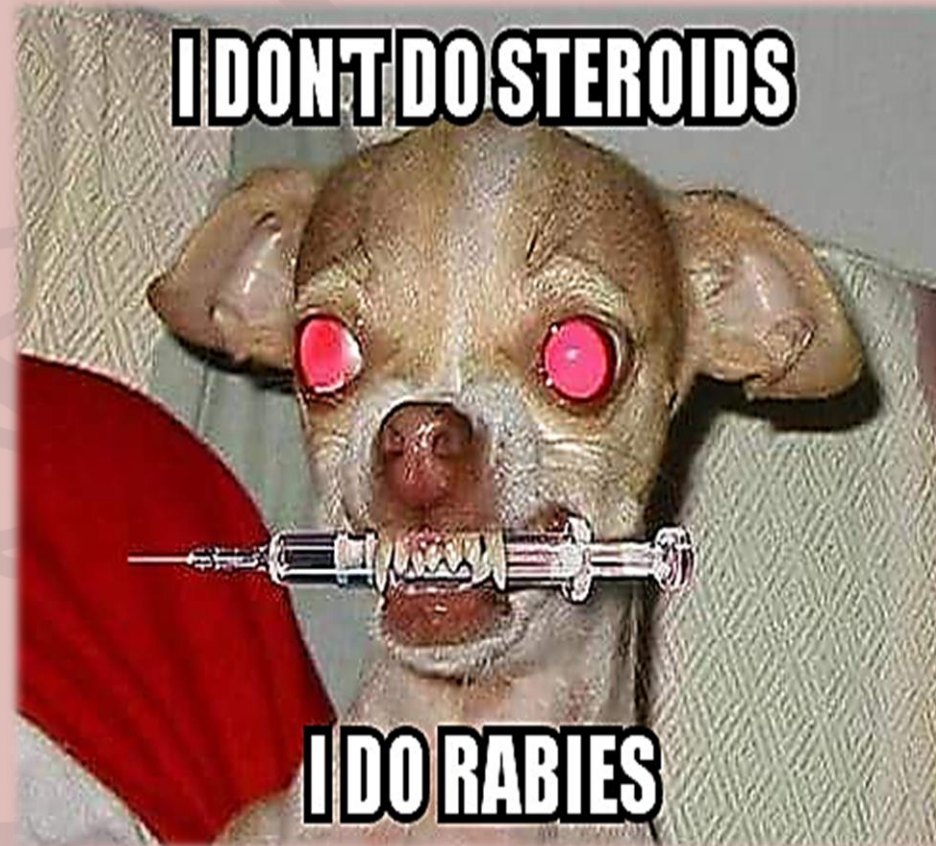
**VIRTUAL
MEETING**

सहोदय...

- ▶ World Rabies Day is observed on 28 September every year to make people aware of the prevention regarding rabies and to highlight the progress in defeating this horrifying disease.

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PEOPLE ASKING RIGHT NOW

DR. GULATHI



ARE YOU READY FOR QUIZ ??

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❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to (a) injecting 8,000 crore into the market by purchasing (b) government bonds by November 22 and it will (c) buy these securities through (d) multi- security auction by use multiple price method (e)

1-a & c

2-b & c

3-a & d

4-b & d

5- b & e

- Ans- 5
- b- replace “injecting” with “INJECT” .
as v1 is used after “to”
- E- replace “use” with “using”



- ❖ To join the Atal Pension Yojana, the subscriber's age should be between 18 years (A) and 40 years and the benefit of the Atal Pension Yojana is that the minimum (b) pension is guarantee by the government even if the returns from the sum invested (c) by the subscriber over the period of contribution (d) is less than the minimum guaranteed pension (e)

1-a & c

2-b & c

3-a & d

4-c & e

5- d & e

- Ans- 4
- C- replace “guarantee” with “guaranteed” as sent is in passive voice
- E- replace “is” with “ are” because sub- is plural (returns).



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❖ The BJP leadership may discover that projecting an uncompromising attitude may help with the voters but practicing it may make it _____ to potential partners.

- 1- Frightful
- 2- Unattractive
- 3- Proximity

- 1) only 1
- 2) only 2
- 3) only 3

- 4) only 1 & 3
- 5) only 2 & 3

▪ Ans – 2- only 2



❖ The _____ shape of the government would depend on how many seats the BJP wins.

- 1) Subsequent
- 2) Eventual
- 3) Final

- 1) Only 1
- 2) only 2
- 3) only 3

- 4) only 1 & 3
- 5) only 2 & 3

■ **Ans – 5 – only 2 & 3**

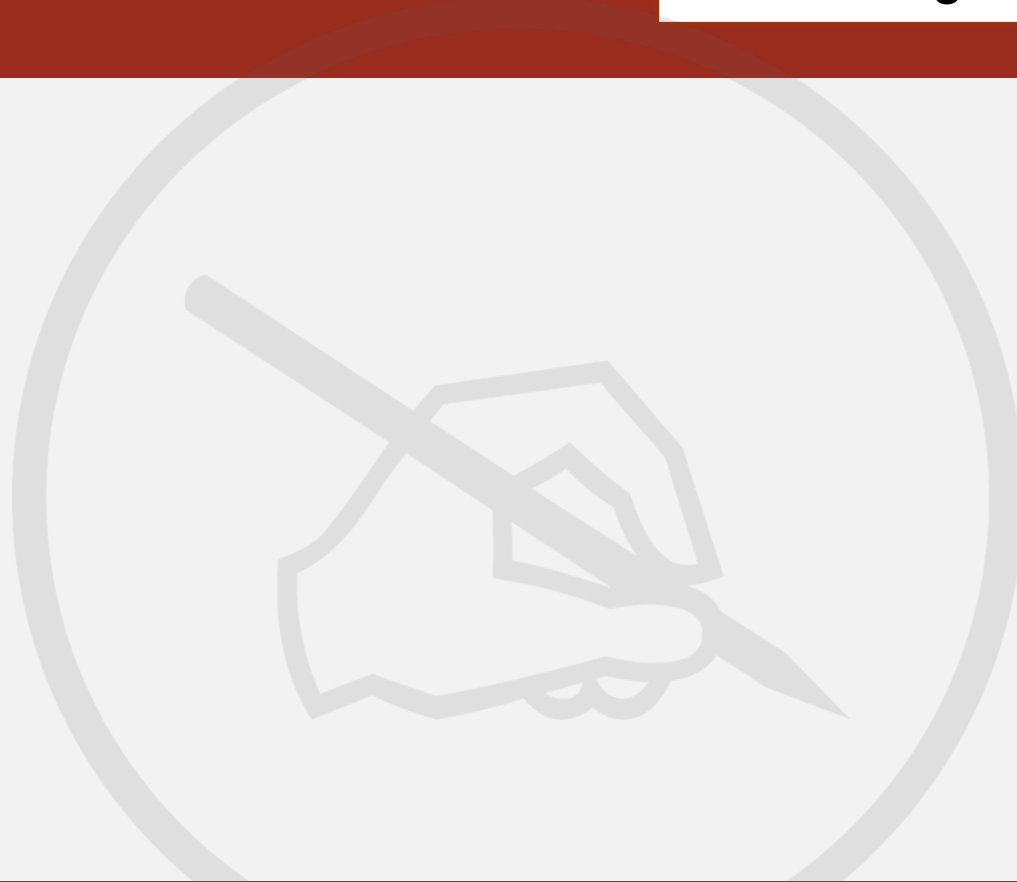


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❖ Up in arms ?

- A) to be angry
- b) to be rude
- c) to be nervous
- d) to be defensive



■ Ans – A – to be angry



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