

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

At last, it is over

Shrill leaders forget 'vikas' mantra in UP

PEOPLE across the land would breathe a definite sigh of relief that at last the absurdly long campaign for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly has come to an end. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues can come back to New Delhi and start attending to the business of governance. Sober and serious observers are still at a loss to explain the Prime Minister's excessive preoccupation and involvement with the campaigning in Varanasi. Never before had a Prime Minister put himself out in an assembly election as Narendra Modi did in Uttar Pradesh. What is more disappointing is that the Prime Minister did not enhance his reputation for dignity; his choice of epithets for his rivals, his preference for loaded metaphors were, to say the least, not very elevating. And, given the fact that the BJP does not have a chief ministerial face, its electoral fortunes have come to hinge very heavily on Prime Minister Modi.

Apart from the implications for the Prime Minister's prestige, the UP campaign assumed its own importance for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Whatever be the outcome, this electoral round seems to have administered a much-needed dose of reality into the Congress calculus. That the Congress managers came to realise and accept that Rahul Gandhi had to play second fiddle to Akhilesh Yadav can only be a different kind of political education. Working with other parties and leaders is a part and parcel of the Indian political realities and a necessary rite of baptism.

The UP vote will also be important for two most important segments of the Indian population—the Muslims and the Dalits. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, not a single Muslim candidate could get elected from the state; in the 2017 poll the BJP chose not to put up a single Muslim candidate. This has implications beyond Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, the Dalits too have to feel reassured about their place under the Indian democratic sun. The UP battle also had another sub-text: the regional parties' ability to sustain themselves against aggressive pan-India parties and leaders. All the shrill and all the ugly campaigning would still be worth it if the vote reaffirms these basic equations.

Urban bias

Haryana education, health demand greater attention

FINANCE ministers often use budgets to make political statements. Haryana's Captain Abhimanyu has this time raked up the controversial SYL issue by allocating Rs 100 crore for its construction, promising ten times more if need be, in a provocative signal to Punjab. Though this shift to water is a welcome departure from the earlier focus on the Hindutva agenda, the Finance Minister could have granted more for managing the existing water resources than a mere 13.62 per cent increase. The SYL money may well remain unutilised since indications are Punjab is unlikely to part with any more of its river waters regardless of which party, or combination of parties, forms a government after March 11.

Haryana's fiscal health is sound. Growth at 8.7 per cent — above the national rate of GDP expansion — is almost on track. The opposition Congress has found fault with the rising level of debt, which is a concern, but still is within the prescribed limit. Replacing the Plan and non-Plan division with the new rural and urban categories for making budgetary allocations, the Khattar government has provided 56.69 per cent more funds for rural development, though it can still be accused of having a pro-urban bias. The 33 per cent urban population gets almost as much funds as the 67 per cent rural population. Haryana is a highly unequal society — socially as well as economically. The intermittent eruption of Jat/Dalit unrest is a manifest reminder of that.

Apart from water, education and health too have not received the desired fiscal boost. A CAG report has found in schools deficiencies like lack of drinking water, toilets and desks. The urban-rural divide is nowhere as glaring as in health and education facilities. The budgetary priorities need a rearrangement to correct the imbalance. In the "ease of doing business" the state claims to lead North India, but growth has to move beyond the GT Road and areas closer to Delhi. Urban Gurgaon may lure the prospective investor but what can turn him off is the kind of violence seen last February, and more worryingly, the government response, or rather non-response, to it.

Thought for the Day

Always remember, your focus determines your reality.
— George Lucas

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attack on Indians

The anti-immigrant policy of Donald Trump has started showing its ominous face and the first victims of his pre-election hate speeches are Indians. In a short span, three Indians have been targeted, killing two (Sikh shot at in US 'hate crime', March 6). Trump's reaction to racial killings is too late and too little. The world is a global village, with every country adopting a liberal policy towards people migrating to different locations of the globe in search of a better life. Such immigrants not only strive to better their lot, but also contribute to the nation's economy. It is incumbent upon nations to welcome and protect their immigrants. The Trump government must take effective measures for the safety of all immigrants living in the US.

SHEMSHER B SINGH, AMRITSAR

They didn't vote for this

After the US elections, a whopping change is visible in the behaviour of Americans towards Indians. Within 10 days, three Indians have been victims. During voting, Indians living there also exercised their franchise and voted for a better change and

opportunities. For Indians residing in America, fear has a new name — Donald Trump. Indians believe in 'Atithi Devo bhava'. With such a scenario, will any Indian go to America, even for a holiday, where fellow Indians are brutally attacked?

RAJABINDA BINDRA, KHARAR

Not easy for Mehbooba

The open letter to the J&K Chief Minister is an eye-opener ('Madam CM, you can turn round the system', March 6). The writer has dared to spell out the political compulsions resulting in the failure of governance on her part and the ground realities in the Valley. The CM has not been able to protect the State from threats of agitation and protests by her rivals and separatists. So far as the Centre is concerned, it always showed 'a gap between its word and reality towards the State'. Pakistan has never been so hostile as we see today because of the CM's alliance with the BJP. In fact, her own party people are against her because of their own ambitions. The people of the Valley need sensitive governance.

SHADI LAL, BY MAIL

OPINION

Limits of cultural diplomacy

Shift in UK immigration policy is likely to put Delhi-London ties under pressure

HASAN SUROOR

IN case you haven't noticed, India and the UK are celebrating 2017 as the Year of Culture: a year-long big-bang celebration of cultural exchange between the two countries. But, I was struck by something else: the festival was kicked off not by the foreign minister or the culture minister, as is the practice on such occasions, but Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, perhaps revealing a glimpse of the power play going on within Team Modi. And Jaitley, of course, loved it to bits, though he talked less about culture, and spent more time defending his political alma mater, ABVP's thuggish actions back home, and educating his hosts about the Sangh Parivar's notions of free speech and nationalism. Telling them how an imaginary 'alliance of subversion' comprising 'separatists and the far Left' was threatening the unity and integrity of India, and the patriotic ABVP was simply trying to thwart their anti-national plot.

I find this absolutely strange that an argument is being raised that I have free speech to advocate that India should be broken into pieces and those who oppose me are hindering that right to free speech. Well, they too have a right to free speech, he said. Here's a sentence that's riddled with so many misleading suggestions that it should be up there with the joke about the man who was accused of 'beating his wife' when in fact the man in question didn't even have a wife. There's an old saw about poor diplomats having to 'lie' abroad for their country. Should it now be extended to include senior ministers having to dissimulate abroad to defend their ideological foot soldiers at home?

The India-UK Year of Culture was mooted during Narendra Modi's UK visit in 2015, ostensibly to mark the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence. A more cynical reading is that it was conjured up to put a gloss on a rather anaemic visit which achieved little beyond expressions of friendly intentions. The tour was marred by street protests and some scathing media criticism of his and his party's intolerant attitude. Though some routine bilateral agreements were signed (the sort that are dutifully kept ready by civil servants for such occasions) there was no progress on the two big issues that have



NOT ROSY: The India-UK Year of Culture was mooted during Modi's 2015 visit.

dogged India-UK relations in recent years: India's demand for a more generous visa regime, especially for its students, and UK-based Indian companies; and British clamour for a bigger share of the Indian market. It wants India to open up its insurance and legal sectors to British businesses.

As the two countries go to town over their cultural links — according to a breathless Indian newspaper report, "It's raining 'India' all over UK's capital" — let's step back from the hype and

mentators had invoked the image of the British PM coming 'cap-in-hand' begging for a trade deal, and prepared to pay any price for it.

In the event, she remained stubbornly unmoved, making clear that 'we have, I think, a good system... The figures show that we issue more work visas to India than I think the US, Australia and China put together.' Those who know her were not surprised. It was she who reportedly wrecked a potential India-EU free trade deal on grounds

A more serious point about India-UK ties is that, in the absence of any major bilateral dispute, the strength of this relationship has never really been tested. The honeymoon maybe over

take a more realistic look at the state of play. The two issues, flagged up above, continue to cast a shadow over bilateral relations. Long-simmering tensions over visas, particularly, have escalated. Britain's former business secretary Vince Cable has called it 'the main irritant' in their relationship. Indian hopes that London's post-Brexit desperation to find new non-EU trade partners would give it sufficient leverage on the visa dispute were dashed after Theresa May refused to make any concessions when she visited New Delhi last November. On the eve of the visit, Indian com-

that it would open the floodgates for Indian immigrants to enter Britain through the back door. Immigration was at the heart of the Brexit vote and May is determined to deliver on it. Given her government's headline, any concession on the issue is extremely unlikely.

Many from India and other Commonwealth countries were duped into voting for Brexit. They were told that a Britain 'in control of its own borders' would give precedence to skilled workers from outside the EU. Boris Johnson, who is now foreign secretary, even suggested a 'visa-free Commonwealth migration

You are precious, be safe

SAIJIT SINGH

VALENTINE'S Day is gone but several cases of indecent behaviour against women are still alive. More often than not 'the eulogised love between man and woman is the frill, the fancy trapping, a thin veneer for lust'.

There is much talk about women's rights on Women's Day, even as there is commercial exploitation on this day. At every stage in life, a woman occupies a predominant position in a man's thoughts. For me, at the moment, it's my granddaughter, my 'nanhi pari'.

It was a heavenly feeling when I held her in my arms for the first time. Hardly 12 hours old, she looked like a fairy made with butter and a touch of vermilion. I could not have prayed

for anything more at that time. Protecting her from heat, cold and keeping her in a hygienic environment was our priority. The house was disinfected before she came from hospital. Not to take a chance with insects and mosquitoes, we covered her with sterilised linen, and, as a matter of abundant precaution, a baby-pink mosquito net was also arranged.

Now, after seven years, we have different concerns. She will not understand much of what I write here, neither do I intend to create fear or apprehension in her innocent mind. In another seven years, she will grow up well to understand and her Mama- Papa may share this with her, even if I am not around then. Another reason why I write is that I feel like addressing all girls in my family, neighborhood and her senior

friends in school, she calls 'didis'.

Today we are talking of rape, molestation and other crimes against women — highly deplorable, and deserving stringent punishment. Society, including media, administration, government and social organisations are raising their voice, and rightly so. Nobody has the right to create hindrance in the free and fearless movement of women, leave aside rape or teasing or stalking.

However, I am disturbed when some girls consider taking 'precaution' as a sign of weakness and refuse to pay heed to advice on how to conduct themselves to avoid any untoward incident. Nobody has the right to violate a woman's modesty. But then, law or society also does not permit thefts. We try to secure our house and belongings,

block' invoking Britain's historic links with it. Priti Patel, the then employment minister, said the existing visa regime was 'biased' against Commonwealth citizens and promised to replace it with a fairer system. Those who fell for the bait are now discovering they had been victims of an elaborate hoax.

The hype over the Year of Culture is simply a distraction from diplomatic tensions. Cultural diplomacy has its limits, and when the festival is finally done and dusted, it will have done nothing to resolve the hard political issues dividing the two countries. The truth is that on immigration, India is banging against a tightly-shut door: Brits have zero appetite for more immigrants. Here's a country which is willing to forego access to 500-million strong single market and face political and economic uncertainty simply to stop EU migrants. The idea that it will swap them with another set of migrants is fantasy.

May's entire Brexit strategy is driven by immigration and she would rather give up on a lucrative trade deal with India than give in on immigration. Brexit compulsions apart, she is personally opposed to 'too much' immigration as she believes it poses a threat to Britain's cultural identity and is bad for community relations. The best India can hope for is some sort of a sop dressed up as a great favour. One idea being discussed is fast-tracking Commonwealth arrivals at British airports through immigration. Rather than herding them with ordinary Toms, Dicks, and Harrys, they will have a queue of their own — like British/EU citizens. Big deal!

No one should grudge Jaitley some fun time in London but don't expect his foray into cultural diplomacy to fetch more visas for Indians. Soft power is not a magic wand — and the appeal of India's soft power, particularly, is too limited and lacks enough pizzazz to count as a factor in international diplomacy. But a more serious point about India-UK relations is that, in the absence of any major bilateral dispute, the strength of this relationship has never really been tested. That may be about to change with immigration likely to put Delhi-London ties under pressure to a degree they've not faced before. We might be seeing the beginning of the end of a rather long honeymoon.

Enough rewards already

Reference to the March 5 news report, 'Haryana Govt yet to fulfil its promise, claims Sakshi', it is disappointing to see the 'avarice' of Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik. Her statement demeans sports spirit. Cash awards and incentives worth over Rs 3.5 crore and a specially created job at the MDU are not enough for the young grappler? How many bronze medallists have been honoured with such hefty rewards? Her State has recognised her achievement and awarded her quite lavishly, but demanding a promotion for her mother and the construction of a stadium in her village exhibits a poor attitude. All Indians are proud of her achievement, which in itself should be considered the most valuable reward. Sports politics need not be made bigger than real politics.

MONA SINGH KHOKHAR, BY MAIL

Positive spin

Middles have always interested me as a student, and now, as a college teacher. 'Let's get this right' (March 6) is one such meaningful

middle where the narrative doesn't merely take us on a nostalgic trip of yore, recalling an engaging event, but resonates a sound ethical and psychological maxim which keeps us above the crippling hate mode. A person with hatred is, as Buddha said, carrying on his palm a burning coal to throw on his rival, which would actually cause him more harm than to his rival.

PL BHOLA, GURGAON

Compassion over hatred

Apropos the middle 'Let's get this right' (March 6), the nation, by and large, shares the writer's opinion. We salute Gurmehar Kaur, her mother, and grandparents who have brought her up in a manner that puts compassion before hatred.

AJAY KUMAR SHARMA, BATHINDA

Women's Day

Year after year, a variety of issues concerning women are debated worldwide on International Day for Women. Women, particularly in India, are largely ignorant about their rights. Despite laws to the contrary,

women are subjected to utter neglect, discrimination and sexual violence and harassment. The number of rape cases reported to the police are just a fraction. In our social setup, women shudder to report the matter due to fear of stigma. Foeticide is rampant despite prohibition. How many people have been imprisoned ever since the enforcement of the law banning sex determination? The practice of dowry is another big blot on our society. Let us commit ourselves to eradicate these evils and make India safe for women.

DIVYA, CHANDIGARH

Keep her safe

If a woman is safe, the family is safe; when a family is safe, society is safe! There is no tool for development more important than the empowerment of women. It is alarming that women aren't safe even in their own homes. It is not rape alone, but also about respecting women in public places, homes, and the workplace. Our country, once known for social reformers, freedom fighters and people with bold ideas who engaged women in religious rituals, has wit-

keep our vehicles locked and insured. We protect our wallets from pickpockets and keep our shoes in safe custody while we pay obeisance in a temple. Our valuables are in bank lockers. All this, in spite of anti-theft laws.

You, my dear daughters, are precious, and at times, so less cared about. As they say 'Every fool shall be meddling', and there is no dearth of fools. During my visits to some of the most advanced countries, we had advisory about crime-prone areas. Isn't it desirable to take precaution and not expose ourselves to undue risk? Just be careful about the time, the area, and company. This is certainly not a weakness.

Please take care of yourself. And no, this does not mean any let-up in our fight against perverts and criminals.

nessed an increase in crime against women. Even if India can't provide basic food or housing to all, it must ensure complete security and respect to its women. The mindset of society towards women must change. Once that happens, everything will automatically fall into place.

NAVYA CHOPRA, AMBALA CITY

Real heroines

Literature and cinema mirror the real world ('Gender bender', March 6). When I first saw Aamir Khan's advertisement, it filled me with hope that it may someday be true, not realising that the original thought existed in Chandigarh. The lady says 'compliments and taunts have come her way in equal measure'. Only narrow-minded people can taunt, for they are incapable of comprehending this emotion and the powerful message. The girls have done a wonderful job. Their actions are akin to a Bollywood film in which girls strive hard to fulfil their father's dream, like any good son would. *The Tribune* is helping to bring these real-life heroines in the limelight.

DIVYANSH MALIK, AMBALA CANTT

AGENDA FOR PUNJAB-3

Need to clear smog in minds first

K.S. PANNU



WASTING THE WASTE: The government needs to incentivise farmers for paddy straw management in the field itself. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

GIVEN the level of environmental degradation faced by the residents of Punjab, a natural question arises as to whether they deserve what they are facing. Although controverted by Punjab, the WHO Urban Air Assessment-2016 included four cities of the state — Ludhiana, Khanna, Amritsar and Gobindgarh — in the list of 30 most polluted cities of the world from the view point of fine particulate matter in the air. That is just one extreme example that illustrates the environmental situation in Punjab, encompassing water and soil too.

FARMS FOULING AIR

Ludhiana and Mandi Gobindgarh towns were declared critically polluted by the Union Ministry of Environment in January 2010. NASA images at the time of paddy harvest show Punjab enveloped in smog due to unbridled burning of 20 million tonne of paddy straw on 65 lakh acres. Farmers, however, say they have no alternative as the small window for Rabi sowing requires quick clearing of fields. But courts and tribunals do not agree, and insist the practice be banned.

SOLUTION: Both state and Central governments need to invest heavily in new farm waste clearing machinery and technologies, and promote alternative uses of precious farm waste, besides incentivising the farmers for *in situ* paddy straw management. Although seven biomass-based power plants of 62.5 MW have been commissioned in the state, and three are in the pipeline, these plants have the capacity to consume only 1 million tonne of straw per year, while the availability is 20 million tonne. Similarly, five bio-refineries, each with a capacity of 75,000 kiloliters per year, consuming 1.5 million tonne of paddy straw, are proposed to be set up. But the government has to encourage more such units by providing a suitable investment ecosystem. Installing a "straw management system" costing Rs 1.25 lakh per harvester combine should be made mandatory. Providing machinery such as chopper shredders, rotavators, 'Happy' seeder drills, and straw baling and binding machines at subsidised rates to farmers requires Rs 2,000 crore.



INDUSTRIAL SMOKE

Pollution from smoke spewing factories, especially thermal, paper, cement and chemical plants, besides brick-kilns, needs to be put down with a heavy hand because industry owners often deliberately turn off the pollution control devices to save cost, even though effectively installed. Unplanned development has led to industrial units, commercial complexes and residential colonies coming up cheek-by-jowl. This has led to unhealthy living conditions for a large population.

SOLUTION: Air quality measuring stations need to be set up at around 100 places in the state to keep an eye on the pollution. No violation should be allowed to go unpunished. A research project needs to

be set up to identify less polluting alternative fuels for the 3,000 brick-kilns, though the Punjab Science and Technology Council is already working on this. Any unit operating without running the installed pollution control devices even for a short duration should be sealed for three months. No diesel vehicles older than 15 years, or overloaded vehicles, should be allowed. Most centres issuing pollution-check certificates for vehicles are not certified. These should come under regulation immediately.



POISONOUS WATER

Degradation of groundwater as well as the rivers because of pollution is serious. But the water needs to be used for irrigation and drinking, because of which it ends up adversely affecting human and animal health. Of the 50 towns identified for discharging effluents into the Beas, Sutlej and Ghaggar rivers, only 28 have yet set up sewerage treatment plants (STPs). Running STPs requires constant monitoring and contingent funds, but this has been woefully inadequate.

Five (STPs) have been installed in recent years to treat 400 million litres per day (MLD), out of a total of 500 MLD of the water flowing in the Budha Nalla in Ludhiana city before pouring into the Sutlej 30 km away. Individual as well as common effluent treatment plants have also been installed for about 250 textile dyeing units. As many as 14 large and medium electroplating units, and 1,525 small units are also supposed to have set up treatment plants, but complaints of discharge of effluents into the sewerage continue.

Similarly, the setting up of 50-MLD STPs for domestic effluents and a common effluent treatment plant for tanner-

ies have failed to protect the Kala Sanghi-an drain passing through Jalandhar city from tanneries and 56 dairies. In the Dera Bassi area, pharmaceutical industries have been responsible for ruining the Ghaggar river.

SOLUTION: The 22 major towns that are yet to set up sewerage treatment plants must have these within a year. Any city or town disposing of its sewage without treatment must face heavy penalty on the basis of the internationally accepted principle of "polluter pays". Similarly, any factory discharging effluents without treatment must face immediate closure and criminal action under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Despite people suffering from serious diseases on account of water pollution, no polluter till now has suffered imprisonment in Punjab, although a large number of cases have been filed against them by the authorities concerned. The lackadaisical approach of the State towards human suffering has to change for that.



HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous and bio-medical waste contains toxic material that causes many infectious diseases on a large scale. While mechanisms for the disposal of this waste exist, their monitoring is weak. The exact quantity of this waste is anybody's guess. Since the segregation and transportation cost of the waste is very high, these units have a tendency to under-report. The unreported waste, thus, goes into the municipal solid waste.

SOLUTION: Around 3,136 industrial units produce about 5,000 tonne of waste per annum that needs to be incinerated. There is also dangerous storeable waste of

about 27,000 tonne per year, which is stored at a common facility near Dera Bassi, set up by the Punjab Pollution Control Board in 2007, with a life span of 15 years. Strict monitoring of this facility as well as vehicles carrying hazardous waste is a must. Bio-medical waste of around 13 tonne per day is generated by 5,863 hospitals in Punjab. This needs to be segregated at the hospital level, and then treated at four common bio-medical waste treatment facilities at Mohali, Ludhiana, Pathankot and Amritsar. Door-to-door collection of this waste and its transportation to treatment centres is a major challenge.

Since this waste is generated by hospitals and high-end industries, owned by educated and influential strata of society, they should receive exemplary punitive action for any violation. But that will require strong political will.

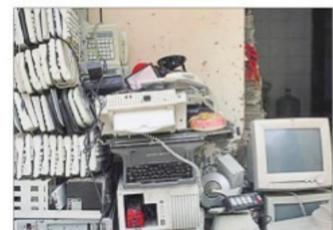


MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

As much as 4,300 tonne of garbage is produced by 163 municipal towns per day. Although the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal are monitoring municipal solid waste management, not much has moved in terms of an effective system. Punjab is divided into eight clusters for managing solid waste, but treatment facilities have been commissioned only at Ludhiana and Bathinda, that too on a trial basis.

SOLUTION: The government needs to overcome resistance from local populations against common treatment facilities, as seen in Jalandhar and Amritsar, where locals forced the authorities to redesign the plans at huge costs and delay. Waste management through clusters has been discussed for 10 years, but little has been

achieved. Policy paralysis must end to set up facilities away from dense populations within a year. These can be scientifically managed to produce power and manure.



ELECTRONIC JUNK

The heavy metals that leech into the ground from disposed of electronic waste is a serious cause of concern, but nothing concrete has been set up for its safe disposal.

SOLUTION: Under the Government of India's E-Waste Management and Handling Rules, 2011, revised in 2016, electronic equipment can only be handled by e-waste collection centres numbering 16 in Punjab. The PPCB facilitated disposal of 2,214 quintal of e-waste in 2016. But awareness needs to be created regarding this. The state has to urgently set up these facilities in view of the large-scale use of electronics. Violators among manufacturers as well as users of electronic goods must be forced to dispose of the waste through such collection centres.



AGRO-CHEMICALS

Overuse of agro-chemicals such as pesticides and fertilisers pollutes the soil and water and is a major source of poisoning the food chain. Farmers in the state used 6,300 tonne of 'technical grade' agro-chemicals to control farm insects, weeds and diseases in 2016, which was almost double of 1980. Similarly, they applied 2.5 quintal of technical grade fertiliser per hectare in 2016, as against 1.12 in 1980. This is the highest level in the country.

SOLUTION: Awareness amongst farmers regarding balanced use of fertilisers and chemicals is the key. There is thus a need to revive the system to educate farmers, which seems to have been inoperative for the past 30 years. The burden for the well being of the residents of Punjab must shift to the state government. Every dealer and agriculture development officer should be made accountable for ensuring that only the required quantity and quality of agro-chemical is made available to farmers. Satellite imagery and modern technology could be used to monitor any overuse, and for taking corrective action. Farmers not following advisories should be denied subsidy on fertilisers.

Tackling the monster of pollution is the joint responsibility of the State, vigilant citizens, NGOs and awakened judiciary. Punjab is running against time and running out of options.

The writer is Secretary, Department of Irrigation, Punjab.

ON THIS DAY... 100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1917

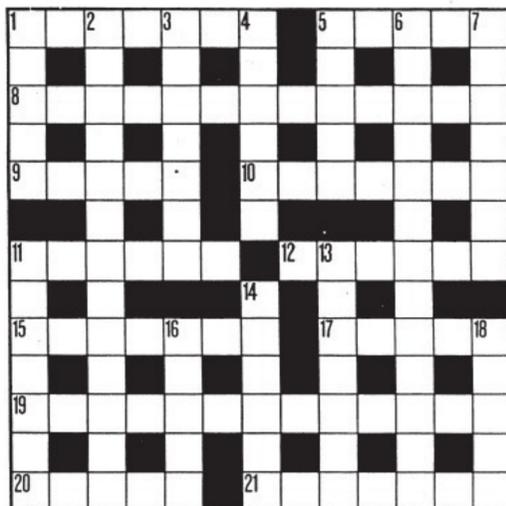
The Fruit and the Tree

Is it fair to pick up some rotten, isolated and discarded fruits in an orchard and go before the keeper and tell him that he has nothing but bad trees? Yet this is what Lord Chelmsford chose to do when he confronted the eager deputation of the press of India with the amazing remark:- "Can I judge the tree except by its fruit?" We are sorry that His Excellency made this comparison. "Do you come before me today as journalist," said His Excellency, "to say that you do not regret that such sentiments should have appeared in the public press." Are there not similar extracts and even worse ones from the Home Press whose freedom was never sought to be curtailed in the manner done in India? Is there any well kept garden in any part of the world which does not produce a few fruits that are bad, bitter and uneatable, and would any gardener take the axe to lop off the trees and put on a sour and injured face?

Sugar Cane Crop in India.

THE final memorandum of the sugar cane crop during 1916-17 shows an increase of only one per cent. in the year but a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the yield of raw sugar. The largest area cultivated is in the United Provinces, viz., 53.2 per cent. of the whole or 1,200,000 acres which is 5 per cent. less than the area in the previous year. The total yield is estimated at 13 per cent decrease. In the Punjab the total area shows an increase of 18 per cent. and the total yield of 26 per cent. This is due to high prices of sugar.

QUICK CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across
 8 Frump, 8 Charisma, 9 Means, 10 All there, 11 Moral, 12 Met, 16 Figaro, 17 On time, 18 Bet, 23 Fakir, 24 Temerity, 25 Again, 26 Last word, 27 Stink.

Down
 2 Rhetoric, 3 Mandalay, 4 Shelve, 5 Grate, 6 Askew, 7 Cagey, 12 Mob, 13 Tot, 14 Straight, 15 Ambition, 19 Entire, 20 Still, 21 Smash, 22 Crown.

ACROSS

- 1 Policeman (7)
- 5 An area's plant life (5)
- 8 Permanently (3,4,3,3)
- 9 Choice of roads taken (5)
- 10 Faint, tremulous light (7)
- 11 Vast, treeless plain (6)
- 12 Breed of sheepdog (6)
- 15 To raise (7)
- 17 A liking (5)
- 19 Pompous (4-9)
- 20 Tend in illness (5)
- 21 Hot-tempered (7)

DOWN

- 1 Bid (5)
- 2 Palmist (7-6)
- 3 Detailed examination (5-2)
- 4 A salad vegetable (6)

- 5 Mushrooms, toadstools etc. (5)
- 6 In miniature (2,1,5,5)
- 7 In general (2,5)
- 11 Man's Western-style hat (7)
- 13 Sudden emergence (7)
- 14 Maintain (4,2)
- 16 In existence (5)
- 18 Way in (5)

SU DO KU

HARD

								9
3			7		6			4
2		4	3					
		6			8	9		
5								1
		8	1			3		
					5	2		6
	7		6		4			5
	8							

Yesterday's solution

7	1	4	5	8	3	2	9	6
2	6	3	4	7	9	8	5	1
8	5	9	6	2	1	7	4	3
4	2	5	8	3	6	1	7	9
1	9	7	2	5	4	6	3	8
3	8	6	1	9	7	4	2	5
6	7	2	9	1	5	3	8	4
5	3	1	7	4	8	9	6	2
9	4	8	3	6	2	5	1	7

CALENDAR

- March 8, 2017, Wednesday
- Vikrami Samvat 2073
- Shaka Samvat 1938
- Phalgun Shaka 17
- Phalgun Parvishite 25
- Hijari 1438
- Shukla Paksha Tithi 11, up to 10.50 pm
- Soubha Yog up to 11.14 am
- Punar Nakshatra up to 5.46 pm
- Moon enters Cancer sign at 11.57 am
- Ekadshi Vart

FORECAST

SUNSET: WEDNESDAY 18:26 HRS
 SUNRISE: THURSDAY 06:40 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy
CITY	MAX	MIN		
Chandigarh	27	13		
New Delhi	28	15		
PUNJAB				
Amritsar	23	13		
Bathinda	24	10		
Jalandhar	24	13		
Ludhiana	29	13		
Patiala	28	13		
HARYANA				
Ambala	28	14		
Bhiwani	31	14		
Hisar	29	13		
Karnal	27	11		
Sirsa	23	12		
HIMACHAL PRADESH				
Dharamsala	16	10		
Manali	12	04		
Nahan	21	12		
Shimla	15	07		
Solan	19	09		
JAMMU & KASHMIR				
Jammu	20	12		
Leh	06	-03		
Srinagar	11	03		
UTTARAKHAND				
Dehradun	26	12		
Mussoorie	18	06		
Nainital	17	08		

TEMPERATURE IN °C