

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET IN JAMMU

After a hiatus of three decades, international cricket is set to make a triumphant return to MA Stadium, Jammu with the entire state eagerly anticipating the spectacle. The league will kick off in Jammu on November 27th with Manipal Tigers, led by the iconic Harbhajan Singh, facing off against Southern Superstars, captained by Aaron Finch. The floodlit match, scheduled to start at 7 pm, promises a star-studded lineup featuring players like Mohammad Kaif, Abdul Razzaq, and Robin Uthappa. The excitement continues on November 29th as Bhillwara Kings, under the captaincy of Irfan Pathan, take on Southern Super Stars, boasting renowned players such as Yusuf Pathan, Shane Watson, and Tillakaratne Dilshan. Subsequently, on November 30th, Gautam Gambhir's India Capitals will clash with Parthiv Patel's Gujarat Giants, featuring cricket stalwarts like Chris Gayle, Sreesanth, and Kevin Pietersen. The pinnacle of the league will be reached on December 2nd in Jammu, where Bhillwara Kings, led by Irfan Pathan, will vie for supremacy against Suresh Raina's Urban Risers Hyderabad in the final showdown at 3 pm. The Hyderabad team will showcase talents such as Martin Gupthill, Dwayne Smith, Morne Morkel, Stuart Binny, and Asghar Afghan. Cricket enthusiasts can secure their seats for these historic matches by purchasing tickets online from Paytm and Paytm Insider, marking a momentous occasion for the cricketing landscape in the region.

Politicians have no intentions to decriminalize the politics

MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

With reference to the title of the write up, I will say 'YES', this is because of the reasons they themselves are neck deep into this quagmire of criminal world. They are cunning foxes and know that such arrows in their quiver have also brought the Cabinet births for them otherwise they would have been brooding in Jails. (Of the 78 ministers in the cabinet, 33 (42%) have declared criminal cases against them in their election affidavits - ADR (source: https://indianexpress.com / https://thewire.in). The criminality is a powerful tool with them to cast aspirations on voting patterns in elections and thereby sneak into parliament and become law makers whereas as such law breakers should have been dumped into jails. Usually we notice much bro-ha-ha on criminalization of politics but on 'Law Makers' it goes as 'Kaan par yoo na rengna'. Although there are many Apex Court Judgments and many directions of the 'Election Commission of India' on the subject, political parties are habitual of flouting such directives as these go against their political interests. On the other hand, such corrective measures are of least concern to the voters as they always look for freebies like rice, Atta, Daal, the commodities for their sustenance.

A traverse into the Timeline on Supreme Court Judgments on decriminalization of politics, we find in a petition 'Public Interest Foundation v. Union of India', Constitution Bench on 25/09/2018 have issued directions for publication of criminal cases against contesting candidates. This directive of Apex Court was not taken very seriously as such in a contempt petition, on 13th February 2020 the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Rambabu Singh Thakur Vs. Sunil Arora and others, ordered political parties to list out reasons on their website including their social media platforms for nominating candidates with criminal background within 72 hours of the selection of such candidates. Going one step further, the Supreme Court in its directions had also specifically instructed political parties to give reasons for such selection and why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates. In compliance with Supreme Court orders the Election Commission also issued guidelines titled 'Guidelines on publicity of criminal antecedents by political parties and candidates'. The criminalization in politics is a bitter manifest truth, which is a termite in the citadel of democracy and Lawmakers have completely failed in taking any concrete step/action against growing criminalization in Indian elections and not even follow the Apex Court Directives or from any Constitutional Authority such as Election Commission of India (ECI). In 2021, commenting that "The nation continues to wait, and is losing patience. Cleansing the polluted stream of politics is obviously not one of the immediate pressing concerns of the legislative branch of government", in a contempt petition the Supreme Court imposed fine on political parties including Janata Dal-United (JD-U), the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Communist Party of India (CPI) for committing contempt of court by flouting the directions given in its February 2020 judgment for publication of the criminal antecedents of candidates during the Bihar assembly polls held in Oct-Nov 2020 during.

The act of blatant and willful disregard of the Supreme Court orders and simultaneous guidelines issued by the Election Commission on publication of criminal cases against candidates also goes against the spirit of 'democracy' and constitutional propriety as enshrined under the India Constitution. It must be borne in mind that when political parties are registered with the ECI under Section 29A (5), they are required to bear a true allegiance to the constitution which includes 'democracy' and 'Rule of Law'. Democracy under Constitution indicates a participatory democracy with a level playing field devoid of criminality and money power and therefore, this act of political parties of repeatedly selecting tainted candidates and neglecting the credible, honest and deserving candidates as also asked by the Apex Court surely goes against such ethos. Here The Election Commission should use its wide powers under Article 324 of the Constitution read with Section 29 (Part IV-A) of the RP Act, 1951 and immediately de-registers these political parties that are found guilty of such failure to abide by the lawful instructions of The Election Commission.

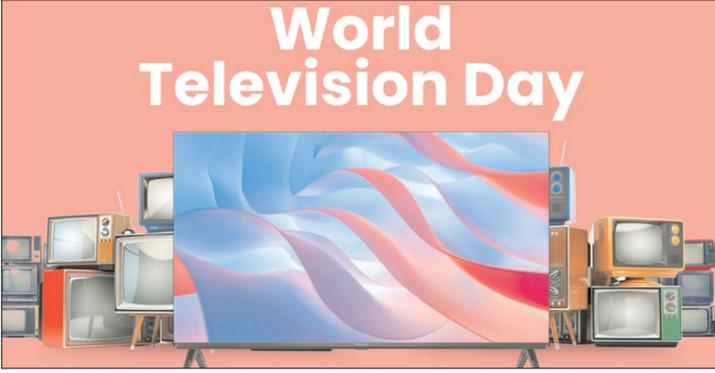
At this juncture, we come across 'Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)' that do disclosure of the criminal, financial, and educational background of the candidates contesting elections with the objective to improve governance and strengthen democracy through continuous work in the area of electoral and political reforms, corruption and criminalization in the political process, empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidates and the parties, for a better and informed choice, need for greater accountability of Indian Political Parties, need for inner-party democracy and transparency in party-functioning. The deliberate act of contempt by political parties of the directions dated 13th February, 2020 and 25th September, 2018 was also brought to the notice of Hon'ble Supreme Court and in its order dated 17th March 2023, the Hon'ble court had directed ADR to pursue its remedies before the Election Commission of India. The ADR has approached the ECI through a request letter dated 19th of June, 2023, addressed to Shri Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner; Shri Anup Chandra Pandey and Shri Arun Goel Election Commissioners, for an immediate action against political parties and their office bearers for willful disobedience and blatant disregard of the lawful directions of the Election Commission of India issued in pursuance to the Supreme Court judgments. Now we have to see 'how the wind blows'.

Television-Connecting Global Communities

DR. BANARSI LAL

Every year 21st of November is celebrated as the World Television Day across the globe to recognize the beneficial effects of television for the social, political and economic developments of society. This day was declared by the United Nations general assembly in 1996. This day renews the governments, organisations and individuals commitments to support the development of television as a mass media in providing the information and entertainment to the society. The theme of World Television Day 2023 is accessibility. Although TV has replaced radio but still there are many people and places in the world where TV is not accessible. Television is both a visual and auditory medium. It is a very powerful and effective electronic medium of communication as well as globalization. It helps to educate and entertain the people across the globe. Television is considered as one of the most influential mass media for communication and assists to increase the cultural diversity. On December 17, 1996, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 21st of November as the World Television Day to commemorate the date on which the first World Television Forum was held earlier in that year. All the members' states were invited by the UN to observe the day by encouraging the exchange of television programmes on issues such as peace, security, social, economic and cultural developments. Television is considered as the cornerstone of democracy. In the world of smart phones, social media, computers, laptops and many other electronic gadgets, television is still considered as the primary source of education and entertainment.

The word television (the Greek prefix 'Tele' meaning far or far off-combined with the word 'vision') describes the latest and the greatest triumph in the field of mass communication. Television is the flourishing medium in the world. It is very effective as it appeals to both the ears and eyes. Television has shown the tremendous influence on the society. Television provides both education and entertainment. Communication is identified as the oldest continued activity of human being since birth and goes on and on till death. More precisely, communication is the basic need of human beings and web of society which makes the survival, growth, progress and development of man possible and holds the society intact and progressive. Communication plays a vital role in ones' personal life in the society. It is equally important in business, education, civilization, administration and other situations where people encounter with each other to satisfy their needs and wishes. The present age has been rightly termed as an 'information



tion age'. Information plays an immense role in our society. Information has become an integral part of our daily life. Now people want adequate and authentic information as early as possible. The mass media namely newspaper, radio, television and internet are catering to this important need of people. For the rapid and overall development of a country it is must that the citizens of that country are well versed with the happenings around them.

Present Indian extension system is under numerous pressure where the extension workers have to cater not only the vast population but also to perform administrative, election, input supply and other responsibilities. Under these circumstances, it is not practically possible to serve all the farmers, all the time for all the problems when ratio of extension worker and farmer, the sender and receiver is more than 1:1000. Therefore, the potential of print and electronic media can be exploited to serve the rural population in this direction. Electronisation and mechanization in communication systems have provided opportunity to access the information rapidly, accurately and repeatedly. As far as the farmers of hilly areas of J&K etc. are concerned they are traditionalist-hardliners and shy in nature with poor communication behaviour. They hesitate to ask recent information's. The reason of poor communication behaviour is not only because of their personal weaknesses but there are number of constraints which come in the way and restrict them to make use of extension personnel and communication channels. Information and technologies generated are of no use for the farmers unless they reach to the ultimate users. It has been estimated that only about 30 per cent of the technologies are being received and used by the farmers. It is further added that the information / technologies generated today reach to the entire ultimate users in about 20 years.

Use of television as a powerful communication medium has no doubt to captivate the agriculture educators to harness its potential for reaching far across the nation. While it provides words with pictures and sound effect like movie, television has the capacity to reach the largest number of people in the shortest possible time. People learn through the eyes and ears both thus, gain greater knowledge and understanding of the subject. The boom in television industries has not only affected urban masses but the rural masses are also fascinated with this media. Now this has become one of the most important media of mass communication for rural masses. It is paying a significant role in transferring the latest technological know-how to the rural people. In India where the rural masses are isolated in villages, the communication is difficult and challenging, in this situation television is one of the important sources of mass media which plays a pivotal role in reaching large number of people in a very short time. Television can bring the world to our door steps within a second. This mass medium has made dissemination of news, information and entertainment possible on a scale unprecedented in human society. It is undoubtedly one of the most versatile audio-visual aids ever developed. Admittedly, this is still a new field. There is a much to be done before television achieves its full usefulness in teaching.

In 1907, television was first recognized as a word in English and in 1948, the acronym TV was coined. In 1924, a Scottish engineer John Logie Baird invented television. He was the first person to show a working television. The television in India began modestly on September 15, 1959 by a UNESCO grant to study the use of TV as a medium of education, rural uplift and community development. In 1959 an experimental television programme was started to train personnel and particularly to discover what television would achieve in community development and formal education. Philips (India)

demonstrated its use at an exhibition in New Delhi. The range of the transmitter was 40 kilometers and the audience comprised members of 180 tele-clubs which were provided free sets by UNESCO. The year 1961 witnessed educational television programmes on science for teachers. In the year 1965 entertainment programmes were introduced under pressure from manufacturers and the public. In the year 1967, Indian T.V. went into rural programmes and 'Krishi Darshan' programmes for farmers in 80 villages' tele-clubs in Delhi and Haryana were started. The year 1975-76 beamed educational programmes to villages through SITE. Commercial telecast for the first time was introduced in 1976. In 1977 terrestrial transmitters were put up at selected centres to extend television coverage. On August, 15, 1982, the national programme was inaugurated. In 1983 INSAT-IA India's first communication satellite was placed in geostationary orbit but failed in its operation. In 1983 INSAT-IB was successfully launched in orbit by the American Shuttle Challenger. Recently government has launched a channel known as Kisan Channel especially for the farmers.

T.V. is one of the most sophisticated means of mass communication media. It serves the people by disseminating the information in areas of agriculture, national integration, health and hygienic, entertainment programmes, advertisement etc. T.V. is an ideal medium to convey information to illiterate and literate in urban and rural areas on whom it would have profound impact. As an instrumental device it is being used in variety of ways such as for direct teaching for supplementing formal education, for developing psychomotor skills, for adult education and for diffusion of agricultural know-how from etc. It is expected that the rural oriented T.V. programmes can solve the problems of inaccessibility, illiteracy and shortage of skilled persons in India. In rural development nothing is more important than the transfer of useful ideas from one person to another. The researches in agricultural sciences are of no use, unless they are communicated to the farmers in an effective manner in the shortest possible time. T.V. has emerged as a powerful medium of communication. Television is providing information and entertainment even to the people of far flung areas. While it provides sound, vision and movement, it can reach the largest number of people in the shortest possible time. Television is really the great symbol of communication and globalization that educates, entertains, informs and influences our decisions and opinions.

(The writer is Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi, SKUAST-J).

Celebrities in the law making business

SHIV KUMAR PADHA

India is the largest democracy, with the largest population in the whole world in terms of deliverance of social justice, guaranteeing of equitable development, safeguarding public liberties and rights and providing public amenities to its citizens irrespective of cast, creed, sex, religion and region. "Government of the people, by the people and for the people is the hallmark and main spirit behind the success of Indian democracy which stands on the four concrete pillars of legislature, executive, judiciary and press. Far the governance of the country all the four pillars must be strong and should work in rhythm and unison with each other. But the parliament and judiciary are the institution where the elected public representatives are entrusted with the noble job of framing the people friendly laws which go a long way in shaping and steering the destiny of its citizens whereas the judiciary acts as the watchdog against any deliberate infringement of their rights which are guaranteed by the constitution of the country. But in the present democratic set up of the country the political parties, in order to lure the voters and manage crowds in their rallies, are not only recruiting the star campaigners from among the Bollywood stars, singing icons and aces from the sports world only but they are offered parliamentary mandates also. It has been observed that many political parties whether ruling or in opposition do not hesitate even making clowns and jesters as the icons of their political parties. These celebrities, like square pegs in the round hole, are proving little of assets and more of liabilities on the national exchequer. Comparing their attendance and performance in the both houses of the parliament with the incentives, allowances and perks, which they draw from the poor tax payers

pocket they are proving like white elephants for the nation. Undoubtedly the celebrities are the real maestros of their fields and professions. They are the shining stars of the galaxies which are bringing laurels for the nation and adding more and more feathers in the nations cap. Utilizing the services of the celebrities for the selfish motives by the covetous politicians tantamount to depriving the gullible voters from the capable and visionary representation and playing with the faith and confidence which they repose in this biggest institute of democracy in the country.

The old saying "only the bearer knows where his shoe pinches," speaks about the people of the constituencies who have been bearing the brunt of being represented by the celebrities either in the legislative assemblies or in the parliament and as a result reeling under great sufferings due to the neglecting attitude of their elected celebrity MPs Or MLAs, towards the public because;

1. The Multimillionaire celebrity's representatives neither develop rapport, which they never like, with their voters nor they care for and always maintain a distance from them.
2. They are seen in their constituencies only during their election campaign or on the day they express their gratitude to the voters. They show their faces once in a blue moon during their entire tenure of five years. The entire management of the home constituency is either entrusted to a man of their faith or is managed through the remote control from the places they transact their personal business.
3. Their attendance and performance as MPs and MLAs in the august houses of parliament is too little to be compared with their non punctual an irregular counterparts in these houses.
4. They are often seen more on the televi-

sion screens advertising for the various products ranging from the kitchen articles to the golden ornaments, water purifiers to the spices and oils, medicines and the allied products for which they are paid an exorbitant amount more than they earn as being the hon'ble parliamentarians.

5. Many of such celebrity law makers work as the brand ambassadors of many organizations and the production houses.

6. Our Bollywood MPs keep themselves engaged in producing the feature films and their sequels from where, as reported, they earn hundreds of crores on the box offices in a month.

7. Owing to their flourishing parental business and income they consider politics as their pastime from where they get political and social security against any illegal, immoral and anti national proceedings they are involved in.

In the context of the subject in hand it is pertinent to quote ADR, Association for democratic reports which give startling revelations that 82 % MPs are crorepatris in the parliament whose bread is being buttered both sides with the money hard earned by the farmers, laborers and the poor men. Who would not like to become MP or an MLA who gets a full nutritious thali of meals for RS. 29 Only. It is astonishing how a poor man's money is being doled out to our public ( crorepati and celebrity) public representatives. As regards the perks, salaries and allowances of our representative MPs and MLAS, in addition to their salaries they get,

- ▶ Additional compensation for sessions.
- ▶ Constituency allowances
- ▶ Office expenses.
- ▶ Dearness allowances.
- ▶ Infinite number of power units.
- ▶ Free Palacious bungalows, AC, Ref. TV, Curtains, covers, washing allowances in thousands, free air travel with spouse

and many other hidden benefits etc. While the country got rid of hundred of kings ruling the country before independence the nation was burdened with thousands of democratic kings in the shape of celebrity and crorepati MPS and MLAs, who instead of proving asset for the nation have become white elephants for the developing country like India where the poor people still live on the foot paths, inside the concrete pipes and compete with the animals for food on the heaps of garbage..

Every political party must think twice before offering the candidature to the crorepati celebrities neglecting capable persons in the elections. The elections are held after every five years to provide capable progressive, visionary and the people friendly government for the people not to showcase the celebrities in the Parliament as the glamorous showpieces. The political parties must take pity on the voters and help provide them capable representatives who can highlight their problems and can get them addressed. Engaging the celebrities in the politics can prove a blessing for the selfish politician but they are always a liability for the common man. Our politicians should stop burning the candle at the both ends.

According to PM Modi "A government doesn't belong to any group but it must work for 130 crore people improving life style of every Indian."

According to the Constitution of the country "No elected public representative can hold any office of profit during his/her tenure as it is the violation of the Constitution which they swear before entering the house of parliament or the legislative assemblies. Such type of violation is a crime which can lead to the disqualification of such celebrity law makers."

(The writer is a social activist from Basohli).

Multi-Asset Investing: An All-Weather Investing Strategy

ANKIT SHARMA



When it comes to investing in turbulent times, the go-to option is a hybrid category scheme. The beauty of hybrid investing is that the investment corpus is deployed across equity and debt or equity, debt and other asset classes based on their relative attractiveness.

well, then one can consider multi asset category. As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India, multi asset funds are those mutual funds that invest in at least three asset classes with an investment of at least 10% of the corpus in the three asset classes. Given the ability to take exposure to various asset classes within a single fund, multi asset can be considered as the most flexible within hybrid category schemes.

At a time when the market volatility is increasing owing to the increasing uncertainties due to geo-political developments and conflicts, we believe that investors should be very cognizant of their portfolio asset allocation during times like these.

Instead of focusing too much on equities, investors should look at other assets classes as well which includes debt, gold, real estate etc.

A multi asset strategy, given their dynamic rebalancing among asset classes, allows an investor to capitalise from the volatility much better which ultimately tends to deliver better risk adjusted return than a single asset strategy at this point in time. Furthermore, because of the diversified nature of the fund, it can be looked at as an all-weather investment solution which can be considered by investors across the risk appetite spectrum. Also, if you are an investor looking to deploy lump sum investment but are

apprehensive due to the ongoing conflicts, do consider investing into a multi asset category scheme.

One of the oldest fund and a consistent performer in this category is the ICICI Prudential Multi Asset Fund. The fund has a 21-year track record. A lump sum investment of Rs. 10 lakhs at the time of inception (October 31, 2002), as of September 30, 2023, would be approximately worth Rs. approximately 5.49 crore i.e. a CAGR of 21%. A similar investment in Nifty 50 would have yielded a CAGR of 16.8% approximately Rs. 2.6 crores.

(The writer is Co-Founder, Financial Mart).