


CRITICISM UNFOUNDED

The criticism by many of Kashmir-based political parties with regard to government declaring portions of land in Gulmarg and Sonamarg as strategic areas is totally irrelevant because things have been accomplished well within the law and also to overcome the difficulty which is being faced due to rising number of terrorism related cases. This should have been done much earlier because it is necessary to fortify and enhance the security edifice in the Valley looking into the threat perception because terrorists after getting desperate are coming out of their hideouts more often and encounters are also on rise. The government cannot sit idle and allow terrorists to move scot-free therefore the aforesaid step is appropriate and those decrying the same must have some vested interests. The parties which are demanding revocation of the order include PDP, NC, CPI (M), JKPC and some others. These parties are giving their own logics and reasons to annul the decision but the centre has other plans as it wanted to get rid of terrorism as soon as possible and it will do everything possible for the same. This step is also in the same direction as it will go a long way in fortifying security edifice in Valley and making the defence robust against the terrorists. Looking into this, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has criticised the government move, saying the allocation of huge tracts of land to armed forces in tourist areas of Jammu and Kashmir confirmed the intention of the Centre to convert J&K into a military garrison. Mehbooba should understand that government is afoot to bring peace in the Valley, which in turn will be bountiful for the natives of Kashmir and therefore the PDP chief and her ilk in the region should appreciate the Government for taking out of the box measures to make Kashmir free from terrorism and to restore peace. It is strange that the steps taken by the government are always taken negatively by Kashmir-centric parties as if the Centre is enemy of Kashmir. This is a very wrong notion and should be changed as soon as possible because this is important for bringing the desired changes in the Valley.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Rewiring the Subconscious Mind

Are you living a wishful life?

If your answer is 'Yes', that's great, but if the answer is 'No' then perhaps you have surrendered to your present circumstances due to past disappointments. Well, if you've hit a state of complacency, or feel as if you are stuck in your life or understand that you are yet to reach your full potential, it's never too late to give it a push.

You can rewire your subconscious mind to get a fresh vision & purpose that is needed to create a new life giving you contentment, delight, and miraculous achievements.

There are some meditation techniques- one of them is Jeevan Nirman Sadhna-Back to Living program- that can make your subconscious minds work according to your direction. These meditation techniques can transform your old habits into new routines bringing positive changes to your profession, finances, health, and relationships, leading to a beautiful sense of well-being.

But why rewiring the subconscious mind is required?

Subconscious Mind, the Key to a Fulfilling Life

Understand that your subconscious mind holds the key to a satisfactory and purposeful life. You can find your life that way through reprogramming the mind. If you want to live the way you want with all the miraculous changes, start pushing the limits of your mind.

The 'subconscious' is the part of your mind that takes decisions on your behalf, even if you don't think about certain things. It's unlike the 'conscious' mind, which holds the thoughts you know you are having at any point of time. It's different from the 'unconscious' part of mind as well, which preserves past events & feelings that sometimes you don't remember at all.

Learning to drive a car is a good example of how the subconscious mind acts.

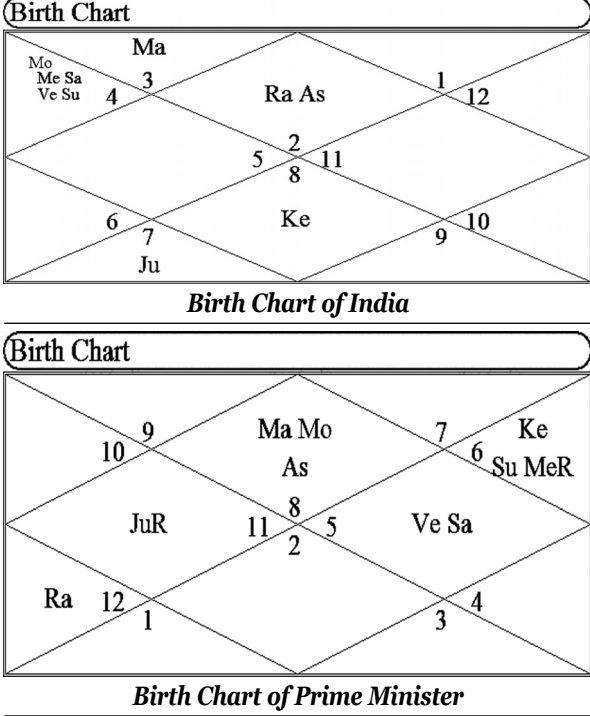
At first, you need to watch carefully all the components of the car before moving your legs and hands to drive it. With practice, you find that now you can control brake, clutch or gear effortlessly and you don't need to put much effort into it. Everything is automatic

■ JYOTISH ACHARYA P L KHUSHU



Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and the largest in the Solar System. It is a gas giant with a mass more than two and a half times that of all the other planets in the Solar System combined, but slightly less than one-thousandth the mass of the Sun. Jupiter is the third brightest natural object in the Earth's night sky after the Moon and Venus. It was named after the Roman God Jupiter, the king of the gods, because of its observed size. As per its astrological effects, Jupiter is 'Jeeva-Karka, Gyana-Karka, Vidya-Karka, Guru-Karka, Dharmakarka, 'Dhana-Karka', etc. Over all position of Jupiter in the planetary cabinet and role is that it mostly boosts one's destiny and faith in 'Dharma', which is to follow the path of righteous of course, depending upon the position of Jupiter in one's horoscope. Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun and the second-largest in the Solar System, after Jupiter. Saturn is named after the Roman God of wealth and agriculture. It is misunderstood as a planet which is only misery giving, which is not a fact. Saturn as a planet in astrological parlance

puts a soul or a person on the test chariot of Time the 'Kaal', to direct him or her to improve one's 'Karma' and 'Kriya', towards one and all, which means to be good to self and the creatures of the God of all forms, with the performing of good and self less deeds towards one and all. Saturn is a separative planet which teaches renunciation and avoidance of material gains and comforts which ultimately can take a person to eternal salvation and freedom (Mooksha). These two planets when Saturn bestows and Jupiter blesses, have a distinct role to play during their movement (Transit) in the sky above, over all the matters of functional importance of individuals and the country as a whole as per 'Mundane' astrology. In particular, the joint double transit effect of these two planets for the 12 signs of the zodiac, which constitutes a horoscope, has a great relevance. Jupiter is transiting in Aquarius from November 21, 2021 at 00:05 hrs until 13th April 2022. At this point of time of transit of Jupiter, Saturn is in Capricorn thus making 2/12 combination with Jupiter. This position will remain till 13th April 2022. Thus for nearly five months both Jupiter and Saturn will remain in this position and will aspect Libra sign, by its 9th and 10th aspects respectively in



the zodiac. According to double transit effects of Jupiter and Saturn the house/sign which get impacted and activated by both slow moving planets Jupiter and Saturn gives results accordingly.

In India's birth chart, 6th house, is occupied by Libra (Tula) Rashi, when 6th house indicates the house of loss, animosity, litigations, debts, national turmoil's, diseases, competitions etc, gets activated, by this double transit of

Uttarakhand and the southern coastal belts of India. Country lost a splendid soldier in a shocking air crash, which shook the whole country. Political turmoil is at its peak in the country, when there is almost a cut throat rivalry between the different political parties presently. The 6th house the house of agitations and strikes got a retrieve too for the farmers, when the farm laws were withdrawn, but the bitterness continues till farmers all demands are not met by the government, as per their statements. 6th house as is known as the house of diseases is now again showing the enormous spread of new COVID variant 'Omicon', endangering the lives of the people. This house of rivalry saw its extreme extent, when just three days back an indecent attempt was planned by the adversaries of our Prime Minister; to stop Prime Ministers cavalcade for more than 20 minutes in the middle of a road in Punjab, thus risking his life to a great extent. It is unheard of. Seeing such an impact of the double transit effect of Jupiter and Saturn on the birth chart of our Prime Minister Modi, the 12th house of his birth chart is getting involved as Libra (Tula) is occupying his 12th house, with the 10th aspect of Saturn from Capricorn and the 9th aspect of Jupiter from the

Aquarius sign. 12th house in astrological parlance is the house of death, loss, hospitalization, humiliation and above all damages of all sorts. We have seen that our revered Prime Minister had a narrow escape from a death like situation on the January 5, 2022, when his cavalcade and motorcade was stopped and held as a hostage by some political opponents in Punjab, in the middle of a road on a flyover. It was a deep conspiracy as is coming forth now to humiliate him as also could be a suspected attempt on his life too. He could not reach and address the political function, where he had to inaugurate some national projects of biggest magnitude. This is for the first time that such a situation has occurred with a prime Minister. His birth-chart being very strong as such no physical harm could be done on his person. In fact due to his strong planetary combinations in the lagan of his birth-chart, the entire nation condemned such an attempt on him by an inimical political party. The effects of this double transit combination of Jupiter and Saturn on 12 Rashis will be written separately as another column in this behalf, in a day or so, because of shortage of space, as it will become a long column in that case if included here with this write-up.

Role of modern technologies in agribusiness

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Agricultural sector remains to be a great player in the generation of revenue and a source of food for the increasing population. This sector contributes about 20 per cent of India's GDP (2020-21) despite employing about 65 per cent of the total workforce. It is the mainstay of the Indian economy. This sector contributes immensely to employment, foreign exchange, food and many other sectors. Agricultural sector is the basic catalyst and accelerator of growth and development of the industrial and services sectors. It is no longer possible to mitigate the needs of the increasing population and to achieve the food security objectives by expanding the areas under agriculture. But this problem can be solved by increasing the agricultural productivity by utilizing the yield increasing modern technologies. Agricultural research and technological improvements are therefore crucial to increase agricultural production and productivity and thus can reduce the poverty and meet the demands of food without irreversible degradation of natural resources. Modern technologies play a crucial role in agricultural production and productivity. Technological uses are influenced by the technical trainings, demonstrations, trials, meetings, campaigns, oral transmission and credibility on technician and belief level on technology. Adoption of new technologies varies differently for the progressive, young and educated farmers. Generally the farmers are having positive perception of technologies but they face lot of problems in technology adoption due to lack of capital, guidelines and compensation policy. State and Central Governments are making strenuous efforts to promote the modern agricultural technologies and increase the crops production and productivity. An increase in agricultural productivity is a prevailing motive for the Indian farmers and a driving force in India's agricultural policy. The success of modern technologies can be obtained by knowing how to apply fertilizers, pesticides and take care of plant for its healthy growth. A farming system is the result of a complex interaction of a number of interdependent components such as soil, water, crops, livestock, labour and other resources within an environmental setting.

Presently global warming and climate change are making the farming unpredictable. By 2030, the water supply will fall 40 per cent short of meeting global water needs. Rising energy, labour and nutrients costs are already pressuring profitability in the agricultural sector. About one-quarter of arable land is degraded and needs significant restoration. Also there are increasing environmental pressures such as climate change and the economic impact of catastrophic weather events.COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified the other challenges. The total environment can be divided into two elements: technology and human. Technology determines the type and physical potential of different enterprises and includes the physical and biological factors that can be modified. The human element is characterized by exogenous and endogenous factors which can be controlled by the farm household. It is the household which ultimately decides whether to adopt a new technology or not. The decision of use of technologies is dependent on how farmers perceive

the technology. After independence, India has made tremendous progress in agricultural development. There has been substantial increase in available food-grain per capita. Before mid 1960s, India relied on imports and food aid to meet domestic requirements. Severe drought in 1965-66 compelled India to reform its agricultural methods. India adopted significant technological reforms and focused on the food grain self-sufficiency. This ushered in India's Green Revolution. Superior high yielding and disease resistant wheat varieties in combination with better farming practices to improve production and productivity were adopted. A hectare of Indian wheat farm that produced an average of 0.8 tons in 1948 produced 4.7 tons of wheat in 1975 from the same piece of land. Such fast growth in farm productivity enabled India to become self-sufficient in the food grains. By 2000, Indian farmers adopted wheat varieties capable of yielding 6 tons of wheat per hectare. With Green Revolution success in wheat and rice was exceptionally obtained. Benefits of improved farming technologies now largely depend on whether India develops infrastructure such as reliable irrigation network, transportation facilities, electricity production, food control systems and competitive buyers of produce from the Indian farmer. Agronomically, the package of technologies may seem attractive but the farmer may not accept due to the financial risk. The provision of appropriate credit facilities may sufficiently reduce the risk element to make the package more attractive. The reasons for poor adoption of modern technologies are: (1) If the farmers are illiterate or less educated. (2) If the technology is new to the farmers then generally they will not believe on it. (3) They might not have seen the demonstration fields of the technology. (4) Worry of low yield (5) Old age farmers sometimes do not believe on new technology and only believe in their past experience (6) Old behaviour of cultivation practices embedded in farmers mind for a long period (7) Large land holding farmers think that if the yield is lost due to the use of new technologies in larger area, the amount of loss will be greater: (8) Lack of capital (9) Lack of skilled labour. Generally numerous factors have been identified for the use of modern technology in agriculture. The results of agricultural research include high yielding crop varieties, better livestock breeding practices, more effective fertilizers and pesticides and better farm management practices etc. Agricultural research and development are required to increase the production and productivity. Education also speeds the rate of adoption of new technologies by farmers. Farmers who have more education may be better able to assess the merits of technology and can successfully adopt the new technology for their benefits. A large share of agricultural research expenditures is devoted in the maintenance of research. Educated farmers can gain technology skills through education to solve their field problems. Education is thus an investment in human capital analogous to a farmer's investment in physical capital. Education hastens the rate of development of new system. It is also kept in mind that required input for the technology is available or not.

Technologies play a crucial role in farming and with the advent of digital technology, the scope has been increased. The new innova-

tions in agriculture can reduce the losses and increase efficiency in agriculture. There is a need to look into societal and cultural standards in which the technology operates. Collective technologies are more easily adopted as collective action reduces transaction cost. Affordability of the technology is an important indicator for their wider use as cost is the major factor in encouraging or discouraging the application of appropriate technology in developing economies. In India labour is relatively cheaper than capital and thus, labour-intensive technologies are less costly. It is an important factor to find out how smoothly technology works in the local production system and the supportive system that explains to what degree is the technology system dependent or system independent. This indicates the need for understanding two types of risk i.e. the internal and external risk. Although analysis of risk is necessary before applying new technology, it is almost impossible to remove all risks. If the chosen device is static it will relatively reflect the short-lived solutions to a much larger problem. The technology, which supports the continuation of development by enhancing capability to expand, can be expected to compete at the regional, national and international level. A significant positive relationship between infrastructure and Indian agricultural productivity is essential to boost agricultural productivity. Improved road connectivity can reduce the farmers' cost of acquiring agricultural production inputs and of transporting outputs to market. Proper marketing network can also help the farmers to sell their farm produce smoothly and earn more profits. Performance of the technologies can be explained on the basis of their success and failure stories. The performance can also be assessed on the basis of percentage of population adopting to a particular technology. Modern technologies are helpful in improving the crops yields, protecting crops against diseases and pests, making livestock healthy, designing the best methods of crops storage and even helping in predicting the climate conducive for agricultural practices. The use of modern agricultural equipments and machineries help in making agricultural practices easy for the farmer. In the developing countries like India agricultural mechanization is the order of the day. Promotion of technology with social wisdom can help in preventing migration of youth from rural to urban areas, mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and revive agriculture for sustainability of India's growth. It has been observed that the process of adoption of new agricultural technologies in India specially in hilly areas has been slow and interrupted mainly due to constraints like lack of capital, high cost of agro-inputs, low price of agricultural produce, insufficient cold storage facilities, transportation facilities, Mandis, difficulty to get the institutional credit, lack of soil and water testing facilities, inadequate irrigation facilities etc. New ways and means are needed to feed the increasing population. There is need to educate the farmers on modern technologies and innovative approaches to increase the crops productivity and raise profitability. Technologies can help to generate the foreign exchange, increase crops productivity and improve the overall standard of farming community.

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YOUR COLUMN

Menace of cheating in exams

Dear Editor;

I would like to express my deep concern regarding 'Menace of cheating in examinations' through medium of your esteemed daily newspaper and want to suggest some corrective steps to ensure fair and free of cheating exams. Cheating in examinations in our schools, colleges and universities is nothing surprising for students, teachers and parents. It is commonplace and no one seems to be bothered by it. What is going on? How is cheating taking place? Who cheats? Why? And, can anything be done about it? Those who cheat in exams are not concerned about taking the easy road, getting undue credit or the injustice they are doing to others. For them, success is its own measure. Such conduct is perhaps to be expected given the level of cheating, dishonesty, deception, corruption and fraud that exists in the India It may be that our students only mimic all the other kinds of cheaters and dishonest people whom they see as successful in life and without facing consequences. Honest, hardworking and smart people seem to toil for nothing. But let us focus more closely on cheating in exams.

Cheating in public examinations, especially in the high-stakes Class X and XII Board examinations, has become common practice. Question papers are leaked and sold in advance. On day of exam, fake student IDs are used, Burqas and Hijabs allow concealing identities. Copying material is smuggled into the exam halls. Students share answers during examinations. Mobile phones are now in frequent use for cheating purposes. Outside the exam halls, helpers gather to pass answers inside, often using megaphones. Teachers invigilating the exams are not always faithful to their duty. In fact, they are often 'helpful'. Their insensitivity to this wrong is

due perhaps to their own practices in their student days. It is also evident when some teachers with several years of experience take examinations for a higher degree and resort to unfair means. A society cannot run indefinitely on short-term cramming, fraud and deception. So who is cheating? It seems obvious that well-prepared students have no need to cheat. Less-prepared students, and those who struggle to learn, tend to cheat in the highly competitive environment of high-stakes examinations. For them, good grades are the path to a better future. The immorality about the use of unfair means does not register. Then there are the exams themselves. The board exam papers barely rise above memorisation exercises. Exam questions are invariably taken from the prescribed textbook. For instance, it can be established that all the questions in the mathematics exam papers are from the textbook exercises that students are supposed to have done in class.

In formative assessments also, teachers seldom opt for questions other than end-of-the-chapter exercises. Going through the prescribed textbooks, one doesn't find a question in such exercises that goes beyond memory recall. Those who cheat are often students who have not worked hard enough to memorise their textbooks. For others, the shortcut is to memorise only key passages and past papers. The raging business of tuition centres helps narrow down the material to memorise. We cannot blame only the students. In Jammu and Kashmir, as perhaps also in other States an exam-setter has to indicate for each question in the submitted draft the page and paragraph of the textbook it draws on. Those who are grading are also required to check if the answer dutifully reproduces what is in the textbook. All this means that to do well, a student needs to depend only on his or her memorisation skills. The problem is worse when school assessments restrict testing material to content in one single prescribed textbook. Students and teachers understand that nothing outside the book's contents can be asked, or else it will be declared

'out of course'. Given system, anything 'out of course' is seen as unfair. Rote memorisation was the practical response to bad textbooks, bad teaching and bad exams. It is easier and more effective for most students to memorise and for many to cheat than to try to understand ideas and concepts and develop the practice of reasoning. It is true that not all students in India rely on memory; some must pass an exam that is set internationally. After all, this is what our students who sit for the O-Level and A-Level examinations face. I also know from experience and from those who work in universities in the West that teachers there do not stay in the exam room to monitor students' conduct. It is left to the students' sense of integrity and honour to do their best in the exam, and not cheat. Examiners in the West do not ask questions requiring only rote memory. In some exams, questions are such that students are even allowed to consult books and notes. The questions are not repeated from previous exams, and therefore cannot be predicted. Can examination malpractice be eradicated? It must if education in India is to have any credibility and validity in long run. A society cannot run indefinitely on short-term cramming, fraud and deception. Scientists, engineers, doctors and many others must have a good comprehension of what they learn and apply. Otherwise, any new thing will leave them confused and useless. Exams must aim to test comprehension, the ability to analyse and deductive and inductive thinking. Our examination practices need to evolve to this level. A lot will have to change. All the examination boards of the country must produce a plan to eliminate cheating. Students must be well-prepared. This means the responsibility lies on better-trained teachers and textbook writers. And, the hardest of all, parents will need to set a better example. But, most important, the practice of prescribing a single textbook for exam material must be reverted to multiple approved textbooks.

Mool Raj.