

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Implementation of Uniform Civil Code will bring uniformity in laws like marriage, divorce, property, inheritance etc. Like now criminal laws apply equally to everyone without any discrimination of religion, gender or region.

There are two types of codes in the country, one is the Criminal Code which is known in common language as IPC, while on the other hand there are personal laws, which are called Personal Law. Personal Law mainly includes Hindu Marriage Act, Anand Karaj Act, Muslim Law, Personal Law regulates activities like marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, guardianship, etc. These apply differently to everyone according to their religion. Now, after the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, there will be uniformity in the personal laws of all religions. That is, inequality on religious basis in marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, property rights will be removed.

5 Pre-requisite Skills to Become a Trend Forecaster

DR ROOPAK VASISHTHA

A career in trend forecasting can be exciting and fulfilling; it offers the chance to collect, study and analyze data to anticipate future trends and guide strategic decisions for businesses and organizations. In this article, we'll delve into the role of a trend forecaster, the essential skills required for success, potential career advancement paths, and the diverse industries they can engage with. Whether at the outset of your career or contemplating a career change, trend forecasting holds promising opportunities.

Introduction of Trend Forecasting

Trend forecasting predicts shifts in consumer preferences, societal behaviours, fashion, design, or any other area or element where change occurs. It involves analysing current social, cultural and technological movements to anticipate how attitudes, preferences and styles will likely evolve. Trend forecasters use tools like market research, data analysis, and industry knowledge to identify patterns and predict what might be famous or influential in the future. This information helps businesses, designers, marketers and other professionals make informed decisions about product development, marketing and distribution strategies, thus leading to gains.

What is the role of an experienced forecaster?

An experienced trend forecaster typically has a deep understanding of the field in which they are forecasting trends and a solid grasp of the various tools and techniques used in trend forecasting. They may use multiple data sources and methods, such as market research, consumer surveys, and data analysis, to identify emerging trends and predict their potential impact. They are updated on industry news and developments and can spot trends before they become more widely recognized. In addition to making predictions, an experienced trend forecaster may provide insight and analysis on the implications of various trends for businesses and organizations. These predictions can help decision-makers understand the potential risks and opportunities associated with different trends and make more informed decisions.

What skills do you need to become a fashion/trend forecaster?

To become a trend forecaster, you will likely need a combination of analytical skills, research skills, and a creative aptitude. Some specific skills that might be helpful for a career in trend forecasting include:

"Data analysis: Trend forecasters often rely on data to identify patterns and make future predictions. Strong analytical skills and the ability to work with large data sets are essential.

"Research skills: Trend forecasters should be able to collect information from various sources, including market research and consumer surveys, to identify emerging trends. Therefore, Strong research skills and the ability to locate and evaluate relevant data are essential.

"Creativity: Trend forecasters need to be able to think outside the box and come up with creative ideas and predictions. Their work involves considering potential scenarios and looking at trends from different perspectives.

"Communication: Trend forecasters must communicate their findings and predictions effectively to others. It may involve writing reports, presenting their findings to colleagues or clients and explaining their predictions clearly and compellingly. "Attention to detail: Successful trend forecasters need to be detail-oriented and able to spot small changes and patterns that may indicate an emerging trend.

"Knowledge of the field: Trend forecasters need to have a deep understanding of the field in which they are working, as well as the latest developments and trends. It requires staying updated with industry news and developments and abreast of new research and developments in the field.

Educational Qualification -

For a bachelor's in fashion forecasting, a 12th-grade qualification is preferred, while a graduate degree is necessary for post-grad studies. The Apparel Made-Ups and Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMHSSC), functioning under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, recognizes the field's promising future and is providing an exclusive online certification course in Fashion Forecasting. Industry professionals offer aspiring individuals comprehensive training on trend analysis and fashion forecasting.

Career opportunities

Trend forecasters can find employment in a variety of industries, including:

- " Fashion and apparel
- " Home furnishings and interior design
- " Beauty and cosmetics
- " Food and beverage
- " Automotive
- " Technology
- " Consumer goods
- " Marketing and advertising
- " Media and entertainment

Salary

The salary of a trend forecaster in India depends on several factors, including their experience, education, and the industry in which they work. Entry-level trend forecasters typically earn around INR 3-5 lakhs per annum. Mid-level trend forecasters can earn INR 5-10 lakhs per annum, while senior-level trend forecasters can earn INR 10 lakhs per annum or more.

(The writer is Chief Executive Officer AMHSSC)

Historic development

Pushkar Singh Dhami Government in Uttarakhand passes UCC Bill. Uttarakhand becomes the first-ever state in Bharat to pass and implement UCC.

As was expected, UK founded and Italian controlled Congress opposed the Historic bill like it had shamelessly opposed construction of Bhagwan Ram Mandir and bitterly opposed the path-breaking August 5, 2019 bill seeking abrogation of seditious Article 370.

One thing is clear: Bharat will soon be brought under the ambit of UCC.

It should also be noted that the BJP becomes the only party that fulfilled all its three promises and that too between May 2019 and February 2024.

(Prof Hari Om)

Bharat Ratna to L. K. Advani

OMKAR DATTATRAY

The decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government to confer the country's highest civilian award to former Deputy Prime Minister, Home and Information Broadcasting Minister Lal Krishan Advani is praiseworthy and is very deserving. The NDA government of Modi has conferred Bharat Ratna to two leaders of the BJP that is to Nanaji Deshmukh, L.K.Advani and also to Karpouri Thakur though posthumously. By awarding Bharat Ratan to Advani, Modi has repaid his Guru Dashna to his mentor, Guru path bearer Advani as he stood with Modi through thick and thin and defended Modi in 2000 when he stood alone and when Modi was asked by the then prime minister Vajpayee to follow Raj Dhrama when Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Modi government has decided to confer the Bharat Ratna to 96 year old Advani in recognition of his outstanding services to the nation. On hearing the news of conferring the Bharat Ratna to the senior leader of the BJP, Advani, the old leader L.K Advani got emotional and complimented the prime minister and president for deciding to confer the highest civilian award to him. Advani is the 50th person to have been given this highest honor. BJP leaders Amit Shah and JP Nadda congratulated Advani for this honor. The senior leader of BJP, M.M.Joshi also went to the residence of Advani and congratulated him for the award and presented a bookie to him. Advani rightly deserved the Bharat Ratna as it was he who changed the political landscape of the country by conducting the Rath Yatra and the Ramjanaboomi movement which was the brain child of Advani and it changed the politics of the country and catapulted NDA/BJP to power at the centre and ended the six decade rule of congress. The decision to confer the Bharat Ratna to Advani proved that the nation does not forget the service and

role of the leaders /personalities to the country. Both Advani and Modi were emotional over the award as the student/shasha was paying his debt to his guru. As the news of conferring Bharat Ratna to Advani spread, many leaders of the opposition like congress, Samajwadi party and AIMIM opposed the decision to confer the Bharat Ratna to Advani. Veteran leader, Shri Lal Krishan Advani will be conferred with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the nation. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has announced about this development through his X post. PM posted on X this.

"I am very happy to share that L.K Advani Ji will be conferred the Bharat Ratna. I also spoke to him and congratulated him on being conferred this honor. One of the most respected statesmen of our times, his contribution to the development of India is monumental. His is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our Deputy Prime Minister. He distinguished himself as our home minister and I&B minister as well. His parliamentary interventions have always been exemplary, full of rich insights. Advani Ji's decades-long service in public life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to transparency and integrity, setting an exemplary standard in political ethics. He has made unparalleled efforts towards furthering national unity and cultural resurgence. The conferring of the Bharat Ratna is testimony to the fact that Advani connected Indian democracy with national ideologies and again it was Advani who changed the political landscape of India. It is Advani who challenged the dynastic politics of congress and made the BJP led NDA rule possible in India. The multifaceted contributions of Advani to the nation cannot be exaggerated. It was Advani who made it possible that the nationalistic card was made possible as he gave a nationalistic tinge to the politics of the country. He in fact

did a great service to the Indian nation by relating and combining democracy with national ideology. Besides this it was Advani who made national integration and national unity possible as he strengthened national integration by his conduct and enviable role in the country. But there are many political leaders especially of the opposition front who questioned and criticized the Modi government for its decision of conferring Bharat Ratna to Advani. Some politicians are politicizing the conferring of Bharat Ratna on Advani. Others said that Advani communalized the politics by holding Rath Yatra and Ramjanaboomi movement which according to them divided the society. But others said that it was Advani who gave a new tinge to communal amity and true secularism as he was the strong advocate of secularism as it was he who coined the name of pseudo-secularism and criticized the minority appeasement of congress and other so called secularists. But then why a Bharat Ratna can't help the 96-year old Advani from becoming a mere pawn on Modi's political chessboard. Having buried him in the shadows of the party's retirement bench, redundantly named as the "mardarshak mandal", PM Narendra Modi has now decided to resurrect the senior BJP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishan Advani by conferring him with the country's highest honor, the Bharat Ratna. Advani, the man who as party president in 1989 first incorporated the construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya as one of the party's agenda in its Palampur National Executive resolution, was recently both "invited and disinvented" at the temple's grand consecration ceremony on January 22, 2024. There could not have been a more suitable time for the Hindutva ideology to receive the Bharat Ratna in a new India that embodies widespread feelings of uncertainty, fear and insecurity, the foundation of which was laid by none other than

Advani. Fated to watch the fulfillment of his single-most significant political goal, the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, on television screens, Advani at 96 can now recall his unparalleled role in driving the country towards sharp religious polarization as his contributions have finally been acknowledged by his greatest mentee and successor, Narendra Modi. Over the last few decades, the country's highest honor has been reduced to an instrument for political messaging. While scientists, musicians, sports persons, and social reformers have received the honor from time to time, political dispensations at the centre have mostly chosen to confer the award to ideologues of their parties. He is among those founders of the BJP who gave a clear and sharp ideological line to the saffron party from his days in the Jana Sangh, even when his party had most depended on stitching up anti-congress alliances. He perhaps played the biggest organizational role in transforming the saffron party into a mass organization. He is still the BJP's longest-serving party president, having been at the helm of the party machinery between 1986-91 for the first time then between 1993-98 and finally a yearlong stint in 2004-05. But despite all this Advani deserved most the honor of Bharat Ratna and Modi deserved to be complimented for conferring the highest civilian award to Advani. The playing of dirty politics over the decision of conferring Bharat Ratna on Advani is untenable and unacceptable as Advani was a multifaceted politician who deserved the Bharat Ratna in recognition of his service to the nation and parliamentary democracy as he was the tall parliamentarian which India has seen and Advani's role in strengthening parliamentary democracy and nationalism and national integration cannot be undermined.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist.)

AASHRAYE - the residential facility for the elderly

GURSHARAN KAUR

Life is the greatest gift of God. Family is still a bigger gift. A life without a family is lifeless, listless & rudderless. Family is the smallest unit of the mankind which finally evolves into the humanity that we see all around. It is the family that develops bonds of love & affection. It is the family that determines whether a society is to develop eventually into a disciplined & progressive society or will stay back as laggards.

In the Indian tradition & culture the parents were always considered to be next to God because of the sacrifices they made in bringing up their children. These sacrifices could never be counted & there was no way to pay them back for their tremendous effort for making the children comfortable & ensuring they were educated & civilised.

With changing times this positive tradition is also undergoing a subtle but sure change. Whether it is good or bad will have to be judged by the society at large, but the changes are having implications. With the ever-rising requirement of the families & consumerism touching new heights it has become imperative for all members of a family to look for ways of earning an extra dough. It could be through jobs in several enterprises or running businesses. This is certainly putting strain on the family structure as every member of the family is into multitasking. That is not all, the members of the family need not be placed in the same locality or place. Many could be working in distant places within the country or maybe even offshore. This division in family structure because of location or many a times because of misunderstandings is causing isolation of the senior members of the family - the elderly, who are the most vulnerable link in the family structure because of their age & in capabilities to do things that they would take for granted as younger people.

To take care of this vulnerable link of the society several old age homes have come up in the country. This is a laudable effort by several organisations & NGOs that have taken upon themselves the responsibility of taking care of such vulnerable people in the society. I came across one such old age home in Jammu that has been aptly named as Aashraye - the Shelter.

Aashraye is located in the campus of the Bee Enn General Hospital complex, Talab Tillo Road, Jammu & is managed by the Bee Enn Charitable Trust headed by Kunil Bhalla. The establishment is very well & efficiently managed by the Trust. It houses



around 20 elderly people. This has become an Aashraye in the real sense of the word for the elderly who have either been left alone by their "upwardly mobile" children or have become lonely because of unfortunate personal losses in their families.

Recently I had an opportunity to visit Aashraye & interact with many of the residents of the facility. It gave me an opportunity to understand the intricate human relationships & how they unfold over the years in a family & amongst the friends resulting in isolation of several family members, who were till recent past the most loved & respected people living & enjoying every moment of their life with their loved ones.

At the same time Aashraye is located in an immaculately clean building that has maintained high standards of hygiene. The senior citizens are taken care of & looked after by a dedicated staff who can be seen serving the inmates with an infectious smile on their faces. The staff, I found, is quite friendly & supportive & meets the needs of the residents very effectively & efficiently.

During my visit I saw that few of the residents were severely ill & were unable to get out of their respective beds, but their specific & special requirements too were met with full dedication by the nursing staff. Their beds too were seen to be very clean. Aashraye also houses a puja room where many of the residents gather in the afternoon for performing puja.

Aashraye has also provided sports & other recreational facilities for the resi-

dents where they take a break to enliven themselves up depending upon their own medical or physical capabilities.

Additionally, the management also provides books, television, newspapers, etc. to the senior citizens. I also had an opportunity to talk to many of the residents of Aashraye who spoke to me about the experiences of their lives very passionately. Each one of them had their own story to tell. One such person was a retired professor from Jammu University who was eager to talk to me and know about me. He asked me about my education and shared insightful knowledge on the subject. There was an old, but very educated & active lady who didn't want to speak about herself very openly. I saw a few resident who could get out of their beds but needed wheelchairs for their movement in the room or outside. The residents routinely attend Satsang together. The management of the Trust provides free medical facilities to the residents too.

As I walked into one of the rooms of an eighty-four-year-old woman, I heard the sound of the television playing while she laid on the bed munching a biscuit. She could not comprehend much and was very weak and was unable to get out of the bed. Her caretaker told me that she had suffered memory loss and couldn't recall much of anything, although she does remember her son who lives in Belgium with his wife and kids. As I talked to the caretaker, the woman frequently called out to her and asked about her parents. She kept mumbling about how she wants to see her moth-

er and father. I also discovered that she was a postgraduate. Her husband had passed away probably a long time back. She had to take several medicines along with those for her psychiatric condition. Her caretaker told me that her mental health started declining rapidly due to lack of family environment and support. Though her son would enquire about his mother very frequently & visit her once in a while, but she was unable to recognise him. Her situation brought tears to my eyes. This also touched my inner sensibilities that compelled me to think about the fragility of life & importance of family support to individuals at such an age. Aashraye was trying its best to make her life as comfortable as possible.

Many such elderly patients lie at many old age facilities across India, and it is to see their emotional and mental turmoil which is a direct result of lack of loving support from their children and relatives. By talking too many of them, I saw that they like the way they are taken care of at Aashraye and it is their companionship & collective Puja and Sat sang that they cherish the most.

The Aashraye residential facility takes care of the elderly with a lot of commitment and determination. Many do feel lonely due to the absence of their family, but that loneliness is greatly reduced by the loving environment and gatherings that they engage in on a daily basis. We need more and more such facilities that help the elderly and provide a safe place for senior citizens in need of a loving environment.

TROUBLE MOUNTING ON AAP

K. V. SEETHARAMAIAH

Poaching of MLAs or MPs is a very serious issue. It is no secret that poaching of MLAs or MPs has been going on quite sometime. No political party is inexperienced in the art of horse trading. Since horse trading has been the part of political life, allegations of horse trading are levelled even when there is none. Political statements are generally not taken very seriously. When political statements have wider ramifications threatening the political future, the aggrieved persons knock at the door of police stations and courts. At all the times, politicians making statements of far-reaching effects cannot go scot-free. Those levelling bribery charges against another person or another party must be in possession of adequate proof to substantiate the charges.

Now Delhi Police Crime Branch officials

have once again arrived at the residence of Delhi minister and AAP leader Atishi to serve notice in connection with the charges accusing BJP of making attempt to buy AAP MLAs.

Of the total strength of 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly, AAP has won 62 seats and BJP 8 seats. The allegation is that the BJP has offered Rs. 25 crore to each of the 7 AAP MLAs allegedly contacted. If these 7 MLAs fall into the net of BJP, BJP's tally in the Delhi Assembly raises to 15. The magic figure for formation of government is 36. In that case BJP needs another 21 seats even if it is assumed that the 7 MLAs are unofficially in the pockets of BJP. Voluntary defections in massive scale from the ruling party can only destabilise a popular government. If the BJP cannot form the government with an addition of 7 MLAs to its stock of 8 MLAs, why would BJP lose Rs. 275 crore for no

political gains? Even a layman can understand that BJP cannot dislodge the Kejriwal government at Delhi. Moreover, Anti-defection Law operates. Having levelled allegations of horse trading by BJP, the burden of proof rests with the AAP to prove the charges. Response has been sought from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to allegations that BJP tried to attract 7 MLAs.

The credibility of AAP has nosedived following the alleged involvement of Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in liquor gate scam. Kejriwal has skipped the summons from Enforcement Directorate (ED) 5 times. It is self declaration from Kejriwal that the summonses issued by ED are illegal. Hemant Soren avoided ED enquiry 9 times and attended after the 10th summons was issued. Enquiry is an opportunity to prove innocence. If the enquiry officer is found to be one-sided, his find-

ings are not final. They are subject to judicial scrutiny. Kejriwal rode to the seat of power on the plank of India-against-Corruption under the leadership of Anna Hazare. Skipping the enquiry is postponement of the problem. Kejriwal would do well to appear before ED and come clean if he is innocent. If his claim of innocence is disproved, he must face the legal implications. His repeated abstention from attending to the ED enquiry gives the signal that the investigating agencies can be taken for granted. An innocent person can have nothing to fear the investigating agencies. The more Kejriwal tries to avoid the ED, the more the suspicion about his involvement grows in the eyes of public. Trouble will never end. Rather, it aggravates. The latest report from Bengaluru is that Suresh Gowda of BJP has been exonerated from the charges of 'operation' lotus by a Special Court.