

Bihar's Unveiled Economy

-Amrita Sinha

Until 2016, according to state excise department figures, Bihar consumed almost 25 million litres of alcohol each month. In the financial year 2005-06, the state brought Rs 87.18 crores from foreign liquor made in India, which rose to Rs 1,777 crore – a 1,938% rise in 2014-15. Just before the ban, in 2014-15, Bihar made over Rs 3,100 crore from excise duty on liquor sales, according to the Economic Survey of 2016. The survey pointed out that the estimate for 2015-16 was Rs 4,000 crore. But with a win in the 2015 state assembly polls, The Janata Dal (United) led by Nitish Kumar, in alliance with Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal, imposed a ban on liquor consumption and sale in the state.

Has the government tapped this hidden aspect of Liquor ban?

Despite the Bihar government's report card on prohibition, which notes that the policy has been a success, it does not entail that the state has stopped drinking. Based on the National Family Health Survey 2019-20 report, Bihar has consumed more alcohol than Maharashtra, proving prohibition has been ineffective and led to the creation of a liquor mafia. This has also negatively affected the state's economy and potential investments, thus affecting job creation. The state misses out on Rs. 10,000 crores in annual revenue, forcing it into debt problems. This loss has turned out to be the neighbours' gain as liquor sales in border districts of neighbouring states have gone up. Former state revenues are now floating in the black



Source: Internet

It is important to realise that alcoholism is viewed as a law-and-order problem in Bihar, rather than a social problem. Rather than launching a mass awareness campaign, consulting relevant stakeholders, establishing de addiction centres, etc., the state could have taken some time to do so. Liquor bans, however, are not the extent of the state's responsibilities; it has to think about different segments of society.

Just before the ban, in 2014-15, Bihar made over Rs 3,100 crore from excise

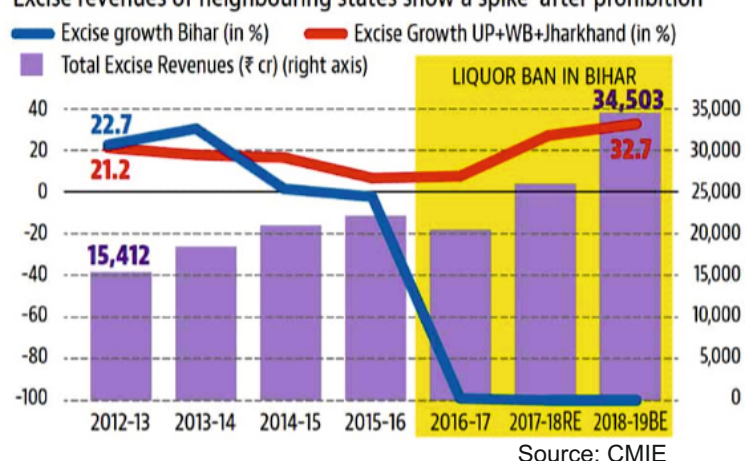
- Duty on liquor sales, according to the Economic Survey of 2016.
- Based on the National Family Health Survey 2019-20 report, Bihar has consumed more alcohol than Maharashtra, proving prohibition has been ineffective and led to the creation of a liquor mafia.
- The state misses out on Rs. 10,000 crores in annual revenue, forcing it into debt problems.
- The ban has paved the way for the state's expenditure but blocked its income path.

market. In the five and a half years since prohibition, more than 4 million litres of liquor have been confiscated in Bihar. "Royal Stag whiskey and Imperial Blue whiskey are the most sold", said a bootlegger. He further added "One box either has 48 quarters, 24 half bottles or 12 full ones. There is ample liquor sale in Bihar, helping us make Rs. 300 per box, or Rs. 60,000 per month." The ban has paved the way for the state's expenditure but blocked its income path. Going by various surveys and reports of different media houses, it is evident that in the interior of the state, illicit brewing is rampant. Derogatory liquor is prepared deep in the villages. A village in Bihar produces hooch daily worth Rs 2 lakh which never counts and contributes to the state's economy. And additionally, consumption of these hooch has resulted in hundreds of deaths in past 1 year, where districts like Nalanda, Buxar, West Champaran, Gopalganj, Samastipur and Muzaffarpur are on the top. At the beginning of Bihar's illegal liquor trade, there were few bootleggers, and they operated under immense caution, like: a new customer had to be referred through an old one, and "alcohol" could not be directly addressed. Those were dangerous times, but it was also the time to mint money. Bootleggers with good connections soon prospered, bringing more money and gaining trust. This provided employment opportunities for liquor store workers as well. So, what they used to do legally, now are continuing with it illegally.

Points To Ponder

Illegal alcohol being smuggled in Bihar?

Excise revenues of neighbouring states show a spike after prohibition



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In the wake of RRB result protests, RRB aspirants take to the streets

- Sareen Yasmin



Source: Internet

Thousands of people gathered in Bihar to protest against the railway as they were unhappy over the “inaccurate exam results” of the Railway Recruitment Board’s Non-Technical Popular Category (NTPC) competitive exam, 2021. After 9 million Tweets and 14 days of Twitter trends, students came on the ground on January 24 th at Rajender Nagar Terminal, Patna. Later, the protest grew into a mass movement near Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Why are students protesting against the railways?

In the 2019 online notification, it was noted that several vacancies were available for graduates and matriculated students. After giving the exam in 2021, many are opposed to holding the second round of exams to select candidates. The protests started in the state of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh after several students claimed that there were discrepancies in the RRB recruitment process. Over 35,000 vacancies are available for jobs at level 2 to level 6, with starting salaries ranging from Rs 19,900 to Rs 35,400 per



Source: Internet

month. Qualification requirements for the jobs differ, and the protesters argue that the selection process unfairly favors candidates with high qualifications over individuals with lower qualifications. A candidate from Muzaffarpur, Roshan Kumar, said “Until the Railway authorities concede to our demands, the protests will continue,

What causes protests to become violent in some places?

On Republic Day, the brawls became violent in some parts of Bihar, including Gaya, Nawada, Fatuha, Buxar, Nalanda, Chhapra, Biharsharif, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, and many other parts of Uttar Pradesh. There were attempts to disrupt rail traffic and road traffic. In Gaya, they burned down four empty coaches and blocked the rail traffic in Ara and Nalanda. Several protesters sustained minor injuries.

The police have also registered a complaint for violations at the site of the protest over the RRB and NTPC exams. Different FIRs have also been registered against the teachers involved in the protest. As part of this investigation, Patna’s famous Khan Sir, who is recognized for his support of students in every way, has also been booked for vandalism by the Patna Police. For the second day in a row, students threw stones at police in the Bikhna Pahadi, Kadamkuan, and Saidpur areas of Patna. No major injuries have been reported from either Patna or Ara, where a train



Source: Internet

compartment were not canceled.

What makes Khan Sir the center of the storm?

Khan Sir, a YouTuber from Patna, has been in the eye of controversy of late. He was reported to the Bihar Police in connection with the violent protests over the results of the railway recruitment exam. He has been accused of



Source: Internet

inciting violence during these protests if the RRB-NTPC exams were not cancelled. According to the police, the agitating students accused Khan Sir of motivating them to take part in these protests and engage in violence through

a video when they were detained by police. Lately, in an interview Khan Sir asked students not to participate in these protests that were taking place on January 28. He urged students to keep the protest peaceful as this would be a “wrong step” for the government to take while it considers their demands and concerns.

Why such a long wait?

At the press conference, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav affirmed, “1.25 crore applications were accepted for 3,528 seats, of which 7,05,446 were shortlisted.” The overall vaccines were announced in 2019 by the then Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal. Candidates urged that the announcement mentioned only one exam. Now, another notification by RRB which came on January 24 th, stated that the government has decided to conduct another CBT-2 exam for the same. Students said they were frustrated that the CBT-2 stage of the exam was totally unfair to those who



Source: Internet

had cleared CBT-1 and whose results had been released on January 15, 2022. The government’s response! The Ministry of Railways first denied the irregularities in the 2019 notification and kept the selection on hold. Railway then issued a press statement saying, “Those who are protesting and causing damage to railway infrastructure will not be able to participate in the selection process.” Ashwini Vaisnav has also held numerous meetings with RRB and formed a high-level committee to investigate the discrepancy and to hear the students’ side of the story. Recruiters for the Railways released a general notice stating that the aspirants, conduct was unbecoming of a railway employee since they destroyed railway property and disrupted railway services. In the notice, RRBs warned that anyone found engaging in illegal activities may be penalized by police as well as barred from ever applying for a Railway job. Aspirants involved in misguided activities are unfit for jobs with the railways/govt. Video footage of these activities will be examined.

हिंदी पत्रकारिता का अंतहीन संघर्ष

- आकाश भारद्वाज

पत्रकारिता की चकाचौंध, पत्रकारों जैसा रुतबा का कौन कायल नहीं रहता?

पूरे भारत में हर दूसरा आदमी ये बात जानता है कि पत्रकारों के पास पावर है। 'प्रेस' में काम करना एक गौरव की बात होती है और हो भी क्यों ना लोकतंत्र के चौथे स्तम्भ को संभालना हर इंसान के किस्मत में कहाँ?

पत्रकार होना जितना अच्छी बात है उससे कई ज्यादा कठनाई भरी राह है हिंदी पत्रकारिता की। ये बातें जो मैं कहूँगा वो ना सिर्फ मेरा व्यक्तिगत अनुभव है हिंदी पत्रकारों के साथ बल्कि सामान्य जिंदगी में घटने वाली घटनाओं पर भी आधारित है।

जैसे उदाहरण के तौर पर देखिए तो पिछले साल झारखंड के नामी पत्रकार रवि प्रकाश जी को जब फोर्थ स्टेज लंग कैंसर हुआ तो उनके एकाउंट में केवल 15 हजार के आस-पास रुपये थे। डेढ़ दशक से हिंदी पत्रकारिता कर रहे रवि प्रकाश जी को क्राउड फंडिंग की जरूरत पड़ गयी। कितनी अजीब बात है कि नामी पत्रकार जो बिना किसी दोमत के शक्तिशाली होंगे उन्हें क्राउड फंडिंग की जरूरत पड़ गयी। सवाल ये नहीं है कि क्राउड फंडिंग ठीक या गलत! सवाल ये है कि आखिर जरूरत ही क्यों पड़ी?

ये बात जगजाहिर है कि एक आम ईमानदार हिंदी पत्रकार अपनी जिंदगी का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बहुत कम तनख्वाह में गुजारता है। भले ही वो आगे उन्नति पाकर बड़े पद पर जाए और तनख्वाह थोड़ी ठीक मिले पर उस वक़्त वो उस दौर में नहीं रह पाता जब उसकी आर्थिक जरूरतें बहुत ज्यादा थी। इसमें भी अड़चन ये है कि बहुत पत्रकार उन्नति नहीं पाते तो नतीजा उन्हें पूरी जिंदगी ऐसे ही गुजारनी पड़ती है। फ्रीलांसर पत्रकारों की

हालत तो और दयनीय है।

इन्हें हिंदी में एक स्टोरी का अंग्रेजी के मुकाबले बहुत ही कम पैसा मिलता है। हमारी मातृभाषा में स्टोरी करना एक फ्रीलांसर के लिए गर्व की बात जरूर होगी पर आर्थिक रूप से ये उनको नहीं जमता। पर बहुत हैं जो किये जा रहे हैं। अगर आप उनके पोस्ट को पढ़ेंगे तो बहुत सी बातों में उनका दर्द छलकता है।



Source: Internet

पत्रकारिता में केवल आर्थिक रूप ही अड़चन नहीं है। पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में जातिवाद का बोलबाला है। बहुत से संस्थान में कोई एक जाति या क्षेत्र का बोलबाला रहता है और अन्य के मुकाबले उस जाति या क्षेत्र से ताल्लुक रखने वाले पत्रकार बेहद फायदे में रहते हैं। उन्हें संस्थान से सहयोग, अन्य के बदले कम दबाव और जल्दी उन्नति मिलती है। बहुत से संस्थानों पर तो खुला इल्जाम लगता है कि वो अन्य जातियों पर

इतना दबाव डालते हैं कि या तो वे नौकरी छोड़ देते हैं या मानसिक परेशानी का सामना करते हैं। मुझे याद है एक बार एक पत्रकार से मैंने बात-चीत की थी जो कि एक बहुत बड़े विश्व्यापी हिंदी पत्रकारिता के संस्थान की नौकरी छोड़कर आये थे।

उनसे बात-चीत में मैंने जाना कि उन्हें वहां कितनी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ा था। उनकी आय बेहद कम थी और उनपर खूब दबाव भी

बनाया जाता था। ये बात तो साफ़ है कि बहुत से मीडिया संस्थान मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को सीरियस नहीं लेते। वो अपने पत्रकार पर काम का इतना दबाव बनाते हैं कि वो सुबह से रात तक केवल अखबार या न्यूज़ चैनल को ही देता है। उसके परिवार को उनका समय बिल्कुल नहीं मिल पाता। ऊपर से इतनी कम आय कि ठीक से गुजारा हो जाये ये भी बड़ी बात है। अब बात उठती है कि जिस तरह से पत्रकारिता का क्रेज़ तेजी से बढ़ रहा है उस तरह से लोगों को साफ़ देखना होगा कि हो क्या रहा है और सुधार के विकल्प तलाशने होंगे।

हिंदी पत्रकारिता में सुधार जितनी

जल्दी हो उतना ही अच्छा है। अंग्रेजी में भी दिक्कतें हैं पर वो

अपने पत्रकारों पर हिंदी के मुकाबले ज्यादा आय और कम दबाव देते हैं। मैंने ऐसे बहुत पत्रकारों से बात कि जो आज महीने के दूसरे हफ़्ते से ही आर्थिक दिक्कतों का सामना करने लगते हैं। अब सवाल उठता है कि इतनी मेहनत के बाद उनके साथ ये सुलूक किस हद तक सही है! क्या हम उनके बारे में बात कर रहे हैं? अगर हां तो कहाँ और अगर नहीं तो करनी पड़ेगी। वरना कल के समय कोई मां-बाप अपने बच्चे को पत्रकार नहीं बनाना चाहेगा।

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Food Blogging : Now and Future

Do you also like the eye catching pictures of different types of food when you are sitting and scrolling a social media Platform? If Yes, then thank a Food Blogger. With the advent of the digital era, Blogging which was just a hobby for some, has now become a business grow. With the different theme based restaurants starting popping up in the cities to the social media platform getting a boost, doing g is a perfect thing for a food enthusiast. But, food blogging is not just about uploading food pictures that you ate. A food blogger focuses on unique and original recipes around the city that people can relate to getting the most attention.

Who is a Food Blogger?
"Some people just eat food to cure their hunger and some are those who have keen interest in having different types of food and call themselves Foodie."
To know who is a Food Blogger first let us know What is Food blogging? Food blogging represents immense interest in cooking different types of recipes, taking photographs and writing blogs or reviewing what they ate in the Restaurant. Most of the food bloggers focus on food photography, mainly locals or home cooked food. When you eat food, you feel good and you want other people to also enjoy the food that you tasted. In Patna, where cafe culture is flourishing, and there are hundreds of cafes and restaurants today in which many got unexplored, some are big or some are small and some don't look much attractive from outside and often do not get much attention from the customers. A food blogger mainly takes customers to the restaurant and restaurant to the customers by giving honest reviews.

Food Blogging as a Career?
Career as a food blogger has seen a huge bounce in recent times, all credits goes to the advent of social media and technology. Food blogging looks glamorous from outside as we see on social media but being a food blogger is challenging as any other job. To make a successful career in food blogging you should have interest in food, a good photography skill and writing skills is also important. You need to have dedication and interest in what you are going to blog about. Also, you need to be consistent. Your revenue will start to increase if you cash in on your popularity smartly and intelligently. If You do What

you love and love what you do for a living you don't have to ever work in your lifetime.

Current Scenario in Food Blogging :
Amidst the nationwide lockdown, Food Bloggers noticed a downgrade in traffic to their sites and pages. It was no longer possible to simply pop to the Restaurants to enjoy a lavish meal and write a blog about it. The Shutdown of restaurants and cafes took the food business downhill. That's when the demand for home-cooked food slowly picked up. People Started to scroll the web pages and youtube for various kinds of recipes. YouTube saw a 950% increase in searches for "jale-bi" in India over the previous 90 days. Instead of usual long videos and blogs, Food Bloggers are now doing a series of short vlogs on multiple dishes that make an entire meal. Since dining out is not really an option restaurants and Cafes have started cloud kitchen services which give the benefits to customers to enjoy their favourite meal sitting at home watching their favourite netflix shows. Food bloggers are collaborating with various cloud Kitchen services to give reviews and opinions about the quality and hygiene of the food they are serving to their customers.

Tips for Food Blogging :
- Food Photography : Photography doesn't mean you should own an expensive camera but you should know how to use what you own. The readers cannot smell or touch what you are sharing but an eye catching photo is essential for a food blog to grow. Composition and lighting is the main key to get good food photos.
- Content : Be authentic for what you are going to blog about. People don't like to read for long, rather they prefer eye-catching pictures and exact genuine reviews. Learn from the reader what they are looking for or what they like about your blog.
- Interaction: If you are dedicated and you want to grow the page you should know what is good or what is not working in the blog, To find out these the best people are your audience. Be interactive to the readers. Engage with them with Q/A sessions or with different types of quiz and polling.

Be Consistent for what you are doing, it would take time but it would be definitely worth it. If you are a Food Blogger/Reviewer and have any questions, then ask in the comments and we'll get back to you.



- Tanzeel Obaid





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The Best Five Biryani spots in Patna

Biryani is one of the most ordered dish from Zomato last year. Zomato claims to delivered two Biryani's every second in 2021.

Did you know that Biryani is not our own Indian dish. Many historians believe that Biryani originated in Persia and was brought to India by the Mughals. The dish was further developed in the Mughal Royal kitchen. Now let's talk about some of the popular places in Patna for Biryani:

1. Biryani Mahal : Undoubtedly, one of the most popular place in the



town. Situated near Buddha Marg Road, Kotwali, the brand serves many varieties of chicken Biryani here . Their primary attraction is the affordable pricing and quick service.

2. Biryani by Kilo : If you are a big fan of dum biryani. BBK is an amazing brand to



have Hyderabad , Lakhnavi & Kolkata Biryani. They

serve freshly prepared dum cooked Biryani in handi. My personal favorites from here are Mutton Hyderabad Biryani Lucknowi Chicken Biryani.

3. Bikkane Biryani : The brand claims to serve Authentic Biryani; I really loved the huge variety they



serve. Their Andhra Special Chicken Biryani, Prawn Hyderabad Biryani are a must try.

The prices are on the higher side which I feel is justified as the quality is really good.

4. Biryani by Bihari's : Bihari inspired Biryani is a new



addition to Biryani family. They are one of the top rated Zomato restaurant in Patna. I would specifically like to recommend Special Egg Chicken Pot Biryani which has good 4 pieces of Chicken, 3 eggs. Pricing is

justified as they serve good quantity combined with good taste.

5. Biryani Grills : One of the my favorite cloud kitchen for ordering Biryani . I would like to recommend - BG SPL Chicken Biryani , BG SPL



Lakhnavi Mutton Biryani Paneer Makhni Biryani from the brand. The main attraction here is splendid taste combined with budget friendly pricing.



- Shilpi Sargam
instagram: @shilpi.eats

The Art of Wood Carving in Bihar

-Trisha Banerjee

Wooden craft is another such craft that is very popular in Bihar from time immemorial.

Gaya is the main center where this art and craft is hugely in demand. Presently apart from Gaya, the craftsmen for this art are located in Bodh Gaya and Khukhari villages. They mainly sculpt the figures of Lord Buddha and for this are solely dependent on pilgrims and tourists.

his craft is not new to the people but is rather age-old. It first started from the kingdom of Ashoka and is prevalent to date. The process of making this art is tiring and requires a person to be hawk-eyed. Firstly the design is decided by the craftsmen and then a line is drawn on the wood with the help of a V-shaped knife. After this, the wood undergoes cutting and carving.

Once the cutting of the wood is completed, it is chipped and cut the wood as much as possible to create small channels around the design. then the gauge tool is used to cut the wood further and then the bent spoon is used for digging into the wood and prying it upward. After some time the chisel is used to cut and provide detail to the edges of the design. Finally when the carvings start to emerge



switch back and forth between the tools until the design is fully brought to life.

A number of wooden handicrafts like toys, idols, wall hangings, and showpieces are made out of this art.

Vivid colors extracted from the minerals and vegetables are used to color these wooden handicrafts. Numerous tools like a Firmer chisel, Hammer, Hand saw, and many more are used to carry out this art.

Gambhar wood is the main raw material that is used

for this art and craft. These are usually available in the woods of Siliguri and Assam, from there the woods are brought to the main market of Gaya and purchased by the craftsman for the work. Once the product is fully completed the craftsmen sell it to the retailer in the local market of Bodh Gaya. To date, the dominant market for this art and craft is China, Japan, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Europe.



Your Weekly Horoscope

Aries March 21–April 19

Early in the week, set your intentions on new beginnings or at least the next phase for your friendship circles or a cause that's close to your heart. What is your ideal, and how far is the gap between that and your reality right now? Imagine what that is and write it down or draw up a vision board that illustrates that gap being closed. This ritual sends a message to your subconscious to make it happen. In the meantime take a constructive step toward it by week's end. Road works and reassessment in your realm of career should be complete by then, so take decisive action and get your show on the road.

Taurus April 20–May 20

This week you may feel something is messing with your signal or challenging your status quo; take it in your stride. Be the change you want to see in the world and respond to provocation with a positive, can-do mindset. Take an experimental approach if you're doing something differently. It's a better way forward than doing the same old thing. Back yourself up by setting your intentions on where you'd like to be professionally at the 6- and 12-month marks. Consider your public-facing persona as well as your contribution to society through what you do and how you show up.

Gemini May 21–June 21

This week your ruling planet Mercury moves out of the first of four retrogrades. Attend to course corrections and spin into forward motion by the weekend. Take it slow, and don't miss a beat, especially for projects dependent on others, or serious and personal matters of the heart. On Tuesday, set your intentions for broader horizons. Education, involvement in a collective, or tapping the hive mind are all beneficial. Write up a list of what you'd like to achieve by the six-month mark, then contemplate how you're going to get from A to B.

Cancer June 22–July 22

Someone in your life is finally about to lurch into action, and it couldn't come soon enough after dragging their feet for too long. That said, if there's something you can do in your own life to advance a situation you want traction on, use your initiative and press go. Why wait for someone else when you can take charge? By next week things should begin to take shape, and you'll feel the wind in your hair once again. Until then, slowly but surely, one foot or action at a time is good enough. Set this month's intentions on your intimate life by writing up a list of your top 10 desires!

Leo July 23–August 22

On Tuesday, make a little modern magic by dropping into your heart and inviting it to speak. Ask this part of you how it feels, what it wants; is it happy? Are you the best partner you can be for yourself, for your closest one-to-ones? What is the lay of the land in your partnership zone? Partnered? Do the exercise alongside your significant other so you're on the same page, looking into the future together. It's an excellent excuse for a quiet date night to cement the deal. Or create a ritual with a best friend because this month daring duos are dynamic duos that get you where you want to go.

Virgo August 23–September 22

Your ruling planet Mercury swings out of retrograde and into forward motion midweek, supporting smooth sailing and agility in expressing yourself creatively and with authority. You're getting your mojo back in an area of expertise and something you take seriously. Although it's slow going for the rest of the week, things should gather pace next week. It's prime time to move forward on creative ideas or a romantic connection. On Tuesday, review your work sector—what you do for work and your general work environment. Write out your intentions and plan what you want to achieve over the coming year.

Libra September 23–October 23

If you've had some back and forth or stalling around home and family, this week the good news is things are slowly turning around. The last few months may have presented challenges to your outlook, how you present to the world, or even your ability to see a clear path forward. With a change or tweak to perspective and plans, taking on a challenge will be worth it in the future. Your romance and creativity sector is up for a fresh set of intentions on Tuesday, so get clear on what you want in your life romantically and creatively. Boil it down to the essentials around what sparks joy.

Scorpio October 24–November 21

Tuesday may present a challenge to your identity with a theme around identity and privacy versus crowd rules and partners. To release tension:

- 1.Be clear about your personal needs, society or group needs, and partner or partnership needs as separate categories.
- 2.Disentangle them and draw on the spirit of objective, detachment, and spaciousness rather than merge or tighten your grip. Let go!
- 3.Set your intentions on what you want in these areas, especially the wider social milieu, so you have a clear vision and feeling you're aiming to experience.

Sagittarius November 22–December 21

Professional and long-term money matters may have been on your mind over the last few months, with extra bills or expenses demanding you to think strategically about your income and spending. Figure out what you're ready to charge depending on your expertise and experience, and accept the extra effort it may take to deliver a product or service with top-shelf positioning. Calling in an expert or outsourcing may be a practical way forward. Set your intentions on fostering community engagement, local networks, and an educational opportunity too good to refuse.

Capricorn December 22–January 19

This week a couple of significant shifts occur in your sign as Mercury and Venus pull out of retrograde and move forward. If you've had a few ghosts from the past lurking about your periphery, or going backward in order to move forward, then this is your time to make the final pivot. Let loose old habits, looks, a style of relating, a relationship, or ways of doing things. Take the time to redo what you know could do with an update. Holding on for duty or old time's sake doesn't benefit you or anyone else. Some solitude and introspection are well spent to gain clarity. Listen to your heart, Capricorn, not just your head.

Aquarius January 20–February 18

This week the new moon is fresh-pressed in your sign on Tuesday. Make the most of this lunar phase by setting your intentions for the year ahead and planting them like seeds in your psyche. Set your sights on your direction, outlook, and sense of self. What exactly do you want traction on this year? Where do you see yourself this time next year? If you have big dreams, remember you've got to believe it to see it, so set your goal posts in alignment with your most highly prized ideal and peg out the way forward.

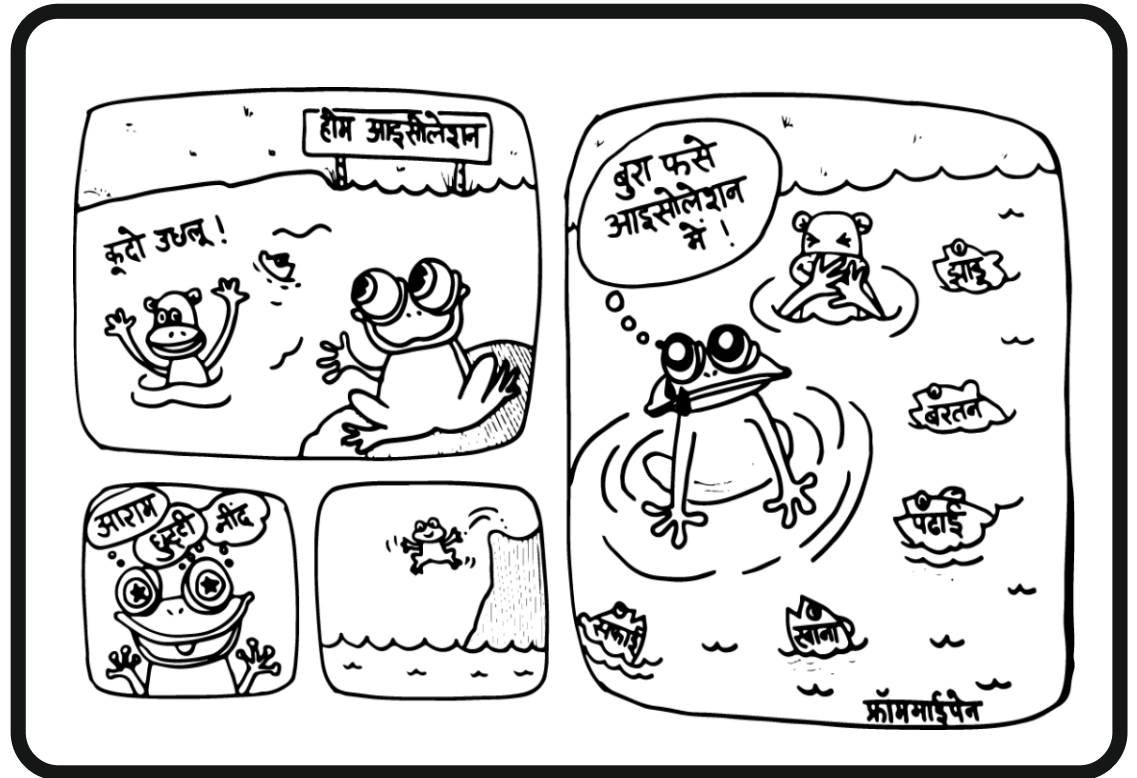
Pisces February 19–March 20

Minor tweaks or momentous pivots in your zone of groups, society, and friendships are coming to an end this week as things begin to make sense and connections finally land. If you haven't made changes (or rolled with them if you have), take this week to face up to any responsibilities and sort them out. Monday through Wednesday, take time for a private retreat to be with your thoughts. It will help clarify your next move, recharge your energy, and soothe your soul. Make a promise to yourself around your me time, dream time, and any mystic/artistic interests you are ready to pursue.

Can You
Solve This ???

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

कुदलू और उछलू



STORM OF LIFE

Well!

What do you think the storm means in life? Is that a word means for nature that comes to hurdle your survival. Yes, the objective is to examine such; even, the storm is unknowingly blew in the way where it is unidentified and originate its symmetry after the hazard. It may result in a good way or a bad too. Seeing as, it can reach upto your life either to turn it invigorate or to eradicate it. It totally depends upon you- how do you face the music? It eventually reaches to suss out your potential, your capacity buried within which can make you rugged. Yes, it is too tough to survive but somewhere it is regenerating you. The zinc rust on your strength making a hindrance and you got stuck to it. What matters?

How you manipulated yourself to suffer all those imbroglios, accept it to the depth of your soul. Let it smell the purity buried inside and clean the each and every phases of constraint tainted your brain and put up with a new version of yourself which is unseen to you also and you actually getting surprised to see the new you in the mirror. And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. Thats what! this storm is all about.



Nidhi Raj, Patna

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Teachers Being Made Easy Targets

-Sareen Yasmin



Education is the key to any state's success. Human potential is the cornerstone of every society's advancement. No country can reduce the gap between the rich and poor without providing those who are not positioned appropriately with an equal playing field. For the overall growth of the country as well as for Bihar, which accounts for over ten percent of the country's population, the ability to deliver quality education is very important. The constraint of Bihar's education system is at the end of the rope, with almost all indicators indicating declining trends from primary to tertiary and being unable to compete with the national average. When it comes to leveraging the potential of the younger generations, the reality is that Bihar is on the brink of a demographic disaster, thus allowing for its own demographic dividend. Bihar is home to around 12.8 crore people and has an impressive population growth rate, so improving its education system should be a matter of national concern. Despite heavy criticism from all sections in recent years due to cheating scandals, the state government increased budgetary allocations on education by 8% from the previous fiscal year. Bihar has allocated 19% of total expenditure for education in 2021 – 22, i.e. highest percentage of Rs 38,035.93 crore for the education sector in the state.

Reasons why government educational institutions failed in Bihar

A systemic failure is evident by failing to meet indicators



such as the pupil-teacher ratio, the quality of teaching, the infrastructure, and the lack of regular classes in schools. As far as state education is concerned, it appears to be on life support, and the government is only trying to save face by burdening the public budget. According to RTE, the ratio of students to teachers should be 30:1. However, the administration is ignoring the fact and sending them to duties regardless of their profession. How Many Non – Teaching Jobs will the Government give to the Teachers?

The Right to Education clearly stipulates that teachers are not supposed to perform any non-teaching duties, with a few exceptions, such as those related to election duty and



disaster relief work. Recently, Bihar government has instructed teachers of government schools to keep an eye on consumption of liquor, manufacturing units, smuggling and provide information to the officials on toll-free number. Among the duties we have are keeping the voting rolls up-to-date, distributing midday meals, and distributing bicycles and school uniforms, all part of the government's welfare programs for the benefit of the children. There are also cases when teachers are deputed into various offices for tabulation work. Now teachers are being asked to look for liquor in the offices. When will the teachers have time to teach in the classrooms? Additionally, the Administrative Officers, such as DDOs, DSS, and SDOs asks the education department to carry out a wide range of tasks, such as counting the census, animal counting, and other demographic- related tasks. During this COVID era, government school teachers were posted to COVID relief centers, isolation centers, and now they are assigned to vaccination centers. Further, government school teachers are seen on traffic signals alongside the police watching to see if people follow COVID protocol, such as if they wear masks, and assist with paperwork. The police are assigned duty in almost every sector of society, regardless of the teacher's degree or profession. And this has a huge impact on the education system. What can be Done to Uplift

Education System? Governments need to develop short-medium-long term strategies to turn around the system and harness the energies of the young population. Line officers

and Board officers must be trained and aligned with those strategies. It is essential that teachers are continuously trained in phase-wise manners during primary and tertiary levels. Government paid tutors should no longer be offered private tuitions. Computerization of all schools will benefit students in the future. A variety of extra-curricular activities should be incorporated into the school curriculum to expose students to different career choices and to develop their overall personality. Sports, life skills, career counselling and guidance should also be offered at schools. We must use teachers' efficiency and skills appropriately. Rather than sending them to other sectors for duty, use them and their intelligence for effective activities, such as awareness campaigns, plays, etc. Having this knowledge will make teachers happy to serve society in the right direction. Putting in place all of these measures can not only supplement government efforts, but can also push the system forward and make school management committees more transparent and accountable. Quarterly teacher-parent meetings should also be instituted. All of these can become game changers. As a result of the Nitish Kumar government's efforts and the 'cycle scheme,' girls are now on equal footing with boys in almost all aspects of education. Education is the only proven tool that leads to change within a generation and opportunities for the state and its people. If the same government can construct roads and do well with electricity distribution in the state, it can also fix the education system. In the meantime, it will be difficult to avert a demographic catastrophe if the current trend continues.