

Editorial Topic 1 : Fighting together: **The BSP-SP-RLD's chances depend on:**

The chiefs of the Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal combine threw down the gauntlet to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Deoband in western Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. The scale and fiery rhetoric were clearly aimed at forcing the momentum as western U.P. constituencies go to the polls on April 11, in the first of a seven-phase parliamentary election in the State. The BJP and its partners had won 73 of 80 seats in U.P. in 2014, and the State is central to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's re-election bid. The political landscape in U.P. however, has changed significantly in the interim years, both in terms of party alliances and social realignments. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's entry as a Congress strategist and campaigner has added new variables that could complicate electoral calculations in U.P. In this emergent situation in the State, the rally must have brought some reassurance to the triumvirate of Akhilesh Yadav, Mayawati and Ajit Singh, leaders of the SP, the BSP and the RLD, respectively. Mr. Yadav has been unambiguous in his deference to Ms. Mayawati, and they have been at pains to emphasise that they are reading from the same page, as coherence between the SP and BSP leaderships is crucial for vote transfer of their core supporters.

Ms. Mayawati is an icon of Dalit empowerment, and since the 1990s has often been deft in building social alliances around her core vote. Mr. Yadav is the inheritor of the rump of Socialist (Lohiaite) politics in the Hindi belt, which has been reduced to purely caste-based entity around the SP's Yadav support. Both could be characterised as part of social justice politics, but the accent and rhetoric of their respective politics are dissimilar. Their opposing positions of the use of English is a case in point-the SP has been rather late in blunting its anti-English edge, while the BSP's Ambedkarite politics considers it as a tool of empowerment. Though the SP(and the BSP had an alliance in the mid-1990s, they had parted ways bitterly, with an SP mob even trying to physically harm Ms. Mayawati. The rout in the 2014 Lok Sabha and 2017 U.P. Assembly elections have forced a rethink in their adversarial politics. Equally striking is Mr. Yadav's outreach to the BSP, compared to his father Mulayam Singh Yadav's. Both parties are conscious that recovering the support of their larger social constituencies, the backward castes and Dalits, which were drifting towards the BJP in the past five years with a new format of social empowerment through Hindutva, is crucial. However, since the Assembly elections, old caste cleavages have deepened under upper-caste Hindutva assertion. By joining hands with the RLD, which has a Jat base in western U.P. and reaching out to Muslims forcefully, the two parties are seeking to draw voters with a show of winnability.

Meaning of difficult words:

Gauntlet (Noun) : Challenge. He threw down the gauntlet to cabinet colleagues.

Fiery (Adjective) : consisting of fire/burning strongly and brightly

e.g: The sun was fiery ball low on the hills.

Spice/pungent : Fiery pepper sauce

Bright colour : The car was painted a fiery red

Strong emotion/typically anger : A fiery speech

Rhetoric (Noun) : Oratory, eloquence, command of language a form of rhetoric.

Extravagant language (An empty rhetoric)

Bid (Verb) : auction, wish, order, invite

Bidding (Noun) : Command, decree, injunction, behest, diktat

Biddable (Adjective) : Obedient, acquiescent, compliant, complaisant, submissive

Re-alignment : Rejoin, Reunite

Emergent (Adjective): Becoming prominent (The emergent democracies of Easter Europ)

Emergence (Noun) : Appearance, arrival, origination.
Triumvirate (Noun) A group of three powerful/ not able people or things.
Unambiguous (Adjective) clear, Lucid, limpid, coherent.
Deference (Noun) : Respect, Kudos, cachet
Be at pains : Try hard, exert
Coherent (Adjectives) : Logical, rational, clear.
Icon (Noun) : Image, representation, symbol.
Deft (Adjectives) : Skilful, adept, adroit, dexterous, expert.
Rump (Noun) : Backside, Remainder
Accent (Noun) : Pronunciation (A Scottish accent), Stress (the accent is on the first syllable).
Accent (Verb) : Focus attention on draw attention to accentuate.
Blunt (Adjectives) : Blunt knife (un sharpened), Blunt tip (Rounded), Blunt message (Straight forward, forthright brusque, curt).
Rout (Noun) : Withdraw, defeat, retreat
Drift (Noun) : Movement (A drift from the country to urban area)
Drift (Noun) : Deviation (The pilot had not noticed any drift.)
Drift (Noun) : Gist, essence (He caught the drift of her thought)
Drift (Noun) : Heap pile (A drift of deep snow.)

Editorial Topic 1 : The Heat is on:

Local Administrations must draw up plans to address heat stress and possible water scarcity

A forecast of a below average monsoon in 2019, after last year's erratic rainfall that flooded Kerala and crippled agriculture in eastern and western State, is a cause for worry. If the assessment from one agency, Skymet, is any indication, there is a prospect of an El Nino, often associated with drought conditions, taking hold. This must, of course, be considered along with other factors that seem to weaken the El Nino link, such as a dipole weather phenomenon in the Indian Ocean. Should monsoon, which normally sets in between June 1 and July 15 across the country, turn out to be deficient, it will add to the pressures on rural employment and the economy as a whole. Things may become clearer when the India Meteorological Department also issues its forecast, although error margins and the erratic nature of rainfall in different regions render the exercise fraught with uncertainty. Last year, for instance, the realisation of rainfall was 91% of the long-term average, while the prediction was for 97%. More immediately, India will go to the polls in the peak of summer after an intensive campaign. It is the responsibility of State administrations to prepare for the likely hood of a heat spike, particularly during April and May, to prevent loss of life and extreme distress to communities. Official agencies and NGOs should start adopting the drill on this, using the template drawn up by the National Disaster Management Authority.

The key elements of protection in a heat wave are avoiding exposure during the hottest part of the day around noon, especially in the case of senior citizens, staying adequately hydrated, wearing suitable clothing including headgear, and creating shade in public places. These messages and weather alerts can be disseminated through television, mobile phone messaging and social media platforms. Urban local bodies in particular have a responsibility to care for the large number of vulnerable city dwellers. Yet, few cities have drawn up proper heat action plans to respond to extreme weather or made them public. During the current year, there is apprehension that the focus of administrators will mainly be on the conduct of the elections, relegating the public health risk of heat waves to the backburner. With the availability of advance weather alerts, there is no reason why local bodies cannot institute remedial measures. Mitigating the effect of heat waves is vital to

Ensuring a high turnout in the elections by making it safe for voters. India is looking at another uncertain monsoon, bringing into sharp relief the neglected potential of decentralised water-harvesting. It is more than a decade since the National Commission on Farmers suggested the wider adoption of both rainwater harvesting and aquifer recharge, in order to provide irrigation for small farmers. It is time to take measures that will help communities achieve resilience.

Meanings of Difficult Words:

Erratic (Adjectives): unpredictable, fitful, variable

Cripple (Verb) : Paralyse, disable, immobilize, devastate, wipe out

Set in : begin

Fraught with : Filled with, full of, rife with, (The world is fraught with danger these days).

Spike (Noun): Thorn, Skewer, Pin. (Spike (Verb) impale, pierce)

Peak (Noun) : top, pinnacle, apex/mountain

Template (Noun) : Model

Draw up (V) : halt, prepare a plan, agreement or other document on detail.

Exposure (Noun): revealing/cold (FIU)/ vulnerability / publicity

Disseminate : Spread, distribute

Vulnerable : in danger, prone to, susceptible to, an easy target for.

Apprehension : Anxiety/appreciation/arrest

Relegate : Down grad, lower (in rank/status)

Mitigate : alleviate, reduce, lessen

Aquifer : permeable rock which can contain ground water

Resilience : Flexibility, durability

Turn out : come, gather a huge crowd turned out

Turn (sb) out : Throw out, expel- He has been turned out from the meeting

Turn (st) out : Switch off. (Turn out the lights)

Turn (st) out : Produce, churn out (They turn out million engines a year)

Turn (st) out: Clean. She turned out the cupboards.

Turn out (Noun) : Attendance – The lecture attracted a good turnout.

Turn out (Noun) : Outfit – His turnout was very elegant.

Editorial – Blinkerson

The BJP's manifesto is un abashed about it's narrowly nationalist agenda.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Manifesto	Noun	Policy statement
Glimpses	Noun	Quick look
Re-iteration	Noun	Repetition
Catalogue	Noun	Directory, brochure
Catalogue	Verb	classify, categorize
Scrutiny	Noun	Examination, inspection, survey
Drastic	Adjective	Extreme
Yearning	Noun	Longing, craving
Monolith	Noun	Standing stone
Hard line	Adjective	uncompromising
Expansive	Adjective	talkative, extensive

Pursuit	Noun	search for
Pest	Noun	nuisance, irritation
Boastful	Adjective	proud, high and mighty, haughty, snobbish
Strides	Noun	step, pace.
Take something in one's stride		Deal with easily
Elbow room		freedom, Latitude
Dwell	Verb	reside
Dwell on		Discuss at length
Blinkered	Adjective	narrow minded, parochial, hide bound
Un abashed	Adjective	shameless, brazen, blatant, flagrant

Editorial – Rafale rebuff,

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Rebuff	Synonymy	Reject, turndown, spurn, repudiate, snub, brush off
Delegitimise	Verb	invalidate, annul, void
Unanimous	Adjective	United, in agreement, concordant, congruent
Verdict	Noun	Judgement, adjudication, decision, pronouncement
Render	Verb	Make : Her fury <u>rendered</u> her speechless Provide : <u>Rendering</u> assistance. Submit : The invoices <u>rendered</u> by the accountant Deliver : The jury <u>rendered</u> their verdict Paint : Paintings <u>rendered</u> in vivid colours. Translate : The phrase was <u>rendered</u> into English Perform/sing : She <u>rendered</u> all three verses. Act : The characters are vividly <u>rendered</u> Give back : He <u>rendered</u> up the stolen money. Melt down : The fat can be <u>rendered</u>
Concurring	Adjective	simultaneous, co-incident, contemporaneous
Provenance	Noun	origin, source, birthplace, pedigree
Dissenting	Adjective	Different, discordant, contrary, dissentient
Parley	Noun	negotiation, summit, discussion, pow-wow

Travesty	Noun	mis-representation, distortion, perversion, poor imitation
Invoke	Verb	Pray, appeal to, supplicate, refer, cite
Setback	Noun	problem, drawback
Adjudicate	Verb	Judge, examine, arbitrate
Revivify	Verb	Revitalize, galvanize, make more lively
Consonance	Noun	Agreement, congruity, harmony
Murky	Adjective	unclear, dubious, mysterious.

Editorial – Looking for oneself,

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Discipline	Noun	Control/Good behaviour/ field (of study)
Discipline	Verb	Control/train/punish
Virtue	(C) (Ant)	Goodness, righteousness, morality Vice
Ingrained	Adjective	established, entrenched, deeprooted
Inconspicuous		unclear, deemed seen, invisible, enigmatic, esoteric, myopic
Boredom	Noun	weariness, frustration, dissatisfaction
Tangles		middle, jumble, confusion, mish-mash
Lately		Recently
Pondering		think about, contemplate, consider
Pangs		Sharp pain
Apparent		evident, obvious, clear
Accomplishment		achievement/talent, skill, gift, adeptness
Resentful		aggrieved, irritated, in high dudgeon
Epiphany		realization, revelation disclosure
Actualise		make a reality of
Hierarchy		ranking, grading, ladder, scale
Grind away		labour
Grind someone down		oppress
Certifiable	Adjective	mad, insane, crazy, preposterous
Suggestive remarks	Adjective	indecent
Naturalize	Verb	grant citizenship to

Editorial – Outer Clarity,

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Take up	Verb	engage in, consume, resume, accept, shorten
Knock out	Verb	knock unconscious, eliminate, exhaust
Galvanise	Verb	Stimulate, Jolt

Poise	Verb	Balance, Prepare oneself
Poise	Noun	Grace, Calmness
Dexterity	Noun	Expertise, Cleverness
Testimony	Noun	Evidence, Proof
Resolution	Noun	Intention, proposal, determination, solution
Assiduous	Adjective	Careful, attentive, diligent
Put in	Verb	Apply for, try for
Articulate	Adjective	eloquent, silver tongued
Regime	Noun	Government, system
Disarmament	Noun	Demilitarization
Vacuum	Noun	Emptiness, gap
Forge	Verb	Build, Fake
Pragmatic	Adjective	Practical, sensible

Making Democracy Meaningful

Cloud	Verb	Become cloudy, darken, confuse
Equate	Verb	Identify, correspond, equalize
Abdicate	Verb	Resign, give up, renounce
Dictum	Noun	Pronouncement, saying
Hastings	Noun	Campaigning
Anihilation	Noun	Destruction
Engender	Verb	Enkindle, galvanize, revitalize, stimulate
Salience	Noun	Importance, conspicuous
Hype	Noun	Publicity, Bally – hoo
Pre-eminent	Adjective	Greatest
Elicit	Verb	Obtain, Extract, call forth, bring forth
Deliberate	Adjective	Intentional, careful, systematic
Ensemble	Noun	Group, whole, out fit
Litany	Noun	Prayer, recitation
Allude	Verb	Refer, touch upon
Stance	Noun	Attitude, posture
Sound bite		a short idea extracted from a longer speech
Jingoism	Noun	extreme patriotism, chauvinism

Simulate	Verb	Imitate, feign
Binary	Adjective	Relating to
Incumbent	Adjective	Present, current, necessary
Bifurcate	Verb	divided into two parts
Fray	Noun	battle, fight
Buck	Verb	Oppose, combat, resist
Rhetoric	Adjective	Oratory, extravagant language

A mammoth election:

At stake – at risk

Provincial – Regional, territorial/ un sophisticated narrow-minded

Clash – Confrontation, fight, battle / argument, altercation

Slide – Sin, Fall, drop, descend

Slump – Fall steeply, plummet, drop

Amicably – in a friendly manner

Convict – Find guilty

Blasphemy – profanity, sacrilege, irreligion

Wedded (Adjective) – married, connubial/dedicated to, devoted to

Pluralism (Noun) – the existence of many different groups of people in a society

Heterodox – Unorthodox, non conformist, dissenting

Subsequent – following, ensuing, succeeding

Credentials – Documents, bonafides proof of identity.

Cleric – A religious leader

Tabulated – Arrange facts/figures

Boost – increase, enhance

Accusations – Allegation, charge, indictment

Manipulation – Operation/massaging, control

Intimidation – Threatening, menace

Nascent – Just beginning, budding, embryonic, incipient, growing

Transition – Change, transformation, metamorphosis

Fortitude – Courage, strength, bravery

For a Free referee:

Knuckles – capitulation, surrender
Stir – mix/disturb/getup
Slumber – Sleep
Transgression – offence, crime, sin, violation
Flurry – Swirl, gust, eddy/Burst, out break
Abuse (Verb) – wrong use/ molest/ torture
Abuse (Noun) – scolding's / corruption
Divisive (Adjective) – dividing, alienating, estranging, isolating, schismatic
Plead (Verb) – beg, implore, appeal, entreat
Crack the whip – excite, rouse, provoke, galvanic, stimulate
Censure – reprimand, rebuke, admonish, criticize, reproach, reprove
Bar – obstruction
Intemperate – extreme, out raged
Incumbent – present, current/necessary, essential, required
Expend – spend, pay out, disburse,/ use, utilize, consume
Accumulate – Gather, collect, amass, stock pile, pile up
Redeem – Vindicate, Justify/save, deliver from sin atone too
Crop up – Happen, occur, arise, turn up
Dissemination – spread, circulation, distribution, promulgation
Invoke – cite, refer, allude, touch upon, resort to/ pray to
Blatant – shameless, unabashed
Smack (Noun) – Slap/ (Adjective) – exactly
Mandate – (Noun) – order, command, decree, behest, injunction
Adhere to – stick to, abide by, act in accordance with conform to.

**The past cannot be changed,
The future is yet in your power.**