

SUPPORT CURBING POLLUTION

Pollution has reached a very dangerous condition in most of the areas across country especially Delhi. The condition of the capital was found to be very poor in the air quality recorded from different places of Delhi. Pollution has reached a very dangerous condition in most areas of North India including Delhi. The condition is that it has become difficult to breathe now and people are being asked to stay in their homes. By the way, the situation of pollution in Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurugram is bad for the last many years and this problem starts from October every year. The major reason for this is the stubble smoke coming from neighboring states. But at this time, the air of other cities including Delhi has deteriorated; the main reason for this has been the smoke of firecrackers. It worked like ghee in the fire. From the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to the Delhi government, there was a ban on firecrackers, but this exercise proved to be a complete failure. Keeping the law aside, people burst firecrackers fiercely. As a result, there was a blanket of smoke in the sky due to the burning of firecrackers. The situation became so serious that on the night of Diwali, there was suffocating pollution in the surrounding cities including Delhi. If we look at the scale, the Air Quality Index has also crossed the very dangerous level and in Noida, it was recorded up to nine hundred and ninety nine.

Not only Delhi, many other cities of the country are facing severe air pollution. This is more evident when the Global Environment Institute ranks cities in their Air Pollution Index. For the past several years, many cities in India have been registered in the first thirty polluted cities of the world. Obviously, we are not able to deal with the deepening crisis of air pollution, but we are not hesitant to do such things knowingly which are making the air poisonous. Delhi Pollution Control Board has clearly said that the increase in PM-2.5 and 10 size toxic particles in the air late night of Diwali is due to the smoke of firecrackers. Due to lack of wind, in a few hours a lot of smoke of firecrackers spread in the sky. If so many firecrackers were not burst, then today the situation might not have got so bad. No one is unaware of the fact that ever-increasing air pollution is making people sick. Poisonous air is the major cause of most serious diseases. From children to old people all are falling prey to respiratory diseases. We have been hearing about the increase in the cases of cancer due to polluted air for the last several years. It should also be remembered that there is no freedom from the corona crisis yet. Doctors are repeatedly warning that due to high air pollution, the risk of spreading corona infection increases because the corona virus gets a chance to persist in polluted air and it can spread the infection much faster. Surprisingly, even knowing all this, we shy away from taking such initiatives which can save the air from getting worse. The issue is not limited to firecrackers only. Whether it is of old vehicles, or stubble burning, these are issues on which the lack of consensus or the inability to move towards their solution creates concern. To prevent pollution, only government efforts will not work, for this public participation is more important.



OFF 'D'
CUFF
You have the
power to be
happy, practice it

It is a good thing to know others, but it is a wise thing to know yourself. Nature has bestowed on every living thing the necessary power that is required for its survival. It is inherent in everyone and is an incredible thing. It can change the impossible into possible, sadness into happiness, war into peace and hate into love. The question is 'Do you realise, the power you have is a gift of nature?' As a human being you are bestowed with the true power of abundant kindness, joy, love, truth, and peace within yourself. These are the things that can change the face of your own world. Despite all turmoil, there is abundant source of happiness in you, which can be brought forward whenever and wherever you need. In the deepest hour of sorrow, you still have the power to change sorrow into happiness. The only thing you require is to practice these powers, because whatever you practice, you get good at it. If you find yourself getting angry within no time, it means you have practiced anger the most in your life. Practice peace in your life and you can get good at it.

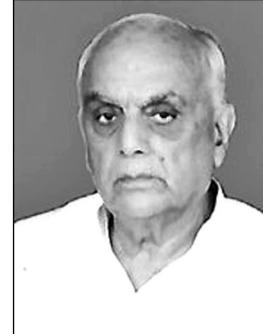
Everything in your life begins with you sowing seeds. Love, kindness, peace, understanding, doubt, and confusion are like the seeds you have been given. Depending on which seed you sow in the soil of this life, those will be the trees you see in the garden of your life. They all start out as little seeds, but as they sprout and grow, they manifest their particular characteristics. Some you will like and others you won't. It is up to you

Prem Rawat

May He, who is the Brahman of the Hindus, the Ahura-Mazda of the Zoroastrians, the Buddha of the Buddhists, the Jehovah of the Jews, the Father in Heaven of the Christians give strength to you to carry out your noble idea. -Swami Vivekananda

EDITORIAL

G20 Summit 2021: Major priorities & India's role



■ ER P L KHUSHU

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The G20 is composed of most of the world's largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations, and accounts for around 90 per cent of gross world product (GWP), 75-80 per cent of international trade, 1/2 two-thirds of the global population, and roughly half the world's land area. The G20, bringing together a diverse grouping of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), has worked briskly since 1999 to build international consensus on tackling major issues relating to global economics, international financial stability, climate change mitigation and sustainable development. The intergovernmental forum comprises of the world's largest developed and emerging economies, with the members representing more than 80 per cent of the world's GDP, 75 per cent of global trade and 60 per cent of the total global population. The sheer size and strategic importance of the economies involved give the 'Group of 20' a crucial responsibility to lay the foundation for long-term global economic growth. The G20 was founded in 1999 in response to several world economic crises. Since 2008, it has convened at least once a year, with summits involving each member's head of government or state, finance minister, foreign minister, and other high-ranking officials, when the European Union is represented by the European Commission and the European Central Bank. Other countries, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations are invited to attend the summits, some on a permanent basis. At its 2009 summit, the G20 declared itself the primary venue for international economic and financial cooperation. The group's stature has risen during the subsequent decade, and it is recognized by analysts as exercising considerable global influence. The G20's primary focus has been governance of the global economy. Summit themes have varied from year to year. The Summit of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, who prepare the leaders' summit and implement their decisions, was created as a response both to the financial crisis of 2007-2008 and to a growing recognition that key emerging countries were not adequately included in the core of global economic discussion and governance. The year 2021 presents the world with unique challenges un-encountered in the past. The incoming shock of a global health crisis in the name of the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic upended the daily functioning of people and economies worldwide. A result of these profound changes is the magnification of other systemic burdens, such as climate change and inequality, in every corner of the world. It is now recognized that local and regional challenges have assumed an urgency that is global in reach, and the process towards building back a better world requires decision-making and implementation on a scale unhindered by

borders. The 2021 G20, under Italian Presidency, remained focused on sharing experiences and learning's from the past year to develop plans that would set the tone for long-term growth which the G20 says, should be 'resilient, sustainable and green'. The three interconnected pillars of action that arise from these objectives are: People, Planet, and Prosperity. Here, multilateralism has found a new meaning in being indispensable to ensure a swift pandemic response in line with guaranteeing equity and access to healthcare, building up resilience to future shocks and promoting overall prosperity. In this context, India's standing as one of the influential emerging powers is only going to gain more firm ground. For the first time, India will hold the G20 presidency from December 2022 and will convene the leaders' summit in 2023. This event is a testament to the country's ever-increasing efforts at spearheading growth and attracting global investor interest. The latest Investment Trends Monitor published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) notes, that while the widespread downturn in economic activity led to a decline in global foreign direct investment (FDI) by 42 per cent in 2020, FDI received by India grew 13 per cent in the same year. Supporting this outlook, the UNCTAD's latest annual World Investment Report ranks India as the fifth largest FDI recipient globally for 2020, up from the previous eighth position. Amid weak global investor sentiment, the country has continued to fervently push to reform FDI policy, improve investment facilitation and strengthen ease of doing business. As economies slowly open their borders, India is already on the road to an upswing. The country is steadily boosting its vaccination drive, with the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered crossing 862 Million as of 27 September 2021, according to Government data. The development and production of indigenous vaccines - Covaxin (Bharat Biotech) and ZyCOV-D (Zydus Cadila) are a testimony to India's capability in healthcare technology. It is clear that wide-ranging support from India across several knowledge areas will be required to start taking concrete steps on the path to post-Covid-19 recovery. The country is well placed to take the lead, with the International Monetary Fund estimating that India will grow by 9.5 per cent in 2021, as against a projected global growth rate of 6 per cent. Adding to these factors, India's commitment to multilateral cooperation, innovation and focus on climate change and sustainability have ensured its pivotal role in the G20 agenda. India is now at a stage where its experience, guidance and leadership is indispensable in the G20 problem-solving process.

The G20 leaders committed to the key goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but for the first time, they identified sustainable and responsible consumption and production as 'critical enablers' in achieving the goal. The inclusion was in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting the mantra of sustainable lifestyles all over the world. The G20 leaders fell short on announcing a target of zero emissions, a call India had rejected ahead of the Summit and the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. Sustainable consumption and responsible production patterns are also part of Sustainable Development Goal, aimed at encouraging developed countries to reduce their luxurious energy-

intensive lifestyles.

Livelihoods for small and marginal farmers were at the focus of our discussions and everybody has agreed that improving their livelihood is an important global effort that we all have to put in, when the union minister of India Piyush Goyal, who was India's Sherpa to G20 Summit also told a press briefing in Rome about the same. Leaders of G20 nations, including India, US, China, and Russia have called for clear national plans that "align long-term ambition with short and medium-term goals and with international cooperation and support". The Indian delegation, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who attended the G20 Leaders' Summit, held a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the G20 Summit and also paid a visit to Pope Francis. At G20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls for collaborative approach in global fight against Covid-19. A collaborative approach is needed for the world community to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and develop mechanisms to deal with future pandemics and global health issues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the G20 Summit. He stressed the need for resilient global supply chains and invited the G20 state to make India their partner in economic recovery and supply chain diversification. He also welcomed the G20's move for a 15 per cent minimum corporate tax, saying it would make the global financial architecture more just and ensure that MNCs pay their share of taxes to countries they are located in.

Similarly in the COP26 Summit, while addressing world leaders at the event of 'Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment', Prime Minister Narendra Modi, called for 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' to improve the viability of solar power and announced that ISRO, India's space agency, will soon provide the world a calculator that can measure solar energy potential of any region across the globe. He said that 'In India, it has been mentioned in the ancient text, in the 'Suryopanishada', that everything is created from the Sun, the source of all energy is the Sun and it is the energy from the Sun that nurtures all. Ever since there has been life on earth, the life cycle of all living beings, the daily routine has been linked with the rising and setting of the Sun. The Prime Minister said that till the time this connection with nature was maintained, the planet stayed protected and healthy. However, he said, in modern times and in the eagerness to race ahead, man disturbed the balance of nature and caused great harm to the environment. "If we want to re-establish a life in balance with nature, the path to this life can only be lit by our Sun. In order to protect the future of mankind, we must go together with the Sun," Modi added. The Prime Minister then said that 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' was the solution to tackle the challenge of solar power available only during the day. "In one hour, the earth's atmosphere receives enough sunlight to power the electricity needed by every human being on earth for a year. This unlimited energy is completely clean and sustainable. The only challenge is that solar energy is only available during the day and is dependent on weather conditions. One Sun, One World, One Grid is a solution for this very challenge," he said.

(The author is a Chartered Consultant Civil Engineer, passionately attached and devoted to his Motherland - Jammu & Kashmir).

Get the right education

■ PANKAJ SINHA

The Supreme Being created the universe - this is often found in the prayers of God revered in all the religions of the world. It is also an irrefutable truth that the universe has been created, which we see with our open eyes and also feel with our inner-eyes. Man, animal-bird, river-mountain, tree-plant and vast ocean are in the creation of the universe. In the whole world, this creation is a system of praise in different sects and communities. In the creation of the universe, a person is that beautiful creation, on which there is full responsibility for the protection and promotion of the universe. Man and animal and bird have body, mind, intellect and soul. Man has the power to think, but animals and birds do not. This is the reason why a human being needs education. A human being is a body, a mind, an intellect, a soul and also has the power to think about them. Education is also necessary for the human being, for the human society. If there is only a system of acquiring knowledge in education, then the human being will remain only a storehouse of knowledge. His intellectual development would be limited to bookish education only. It is very important for a human being to have a complete education. Complete learning comes from experience. It is the experience gained from feeling that makes book education practical.

The nature of education is also a creation. Creator is mother, who bears the seed of the child in her womb. Psychologists, on the basis of research, have uncovered the fact that the seed element of human creation in the womb is affected by the daily life of the pregnant mother. What the mother thinks

which seeds you sow and nurture in your life. It's not only a question of sowing the seeds but also that of nurturing, watering, and protecting them so that they grow in the soil of our life. To feel kindness, to feel true love, to understand what it is like not to be in doubt and confusion, this is something you do first for yourself and then for other people. And it will be a step towards humanity and peace.

When you focus on problems, you will have more problems and when you focus on possibilities, you will have more opportunities. Ships don't sink because of the water around them; ships sink because of the water that gets into them. So, don't let what's happening around you get to you and weigh you down. Life is an opportunity - the truest opportunity, as we only have this one life to navigate. The breath coming into us is the definition of opportunity. Sometimes we need to be reminded to keep our focus clear and remember what is real, because we get impressed by money, followers, degrees, and titles. One should instead be impressed by kindness, integrity, generosity, and humility. This should be real and practical.

We often look at things from the perspective of overcoming situations, people, and ideas. It means somebody is going to win and somebody is going to lose; but when we are victorious over ourselves, nobody loses. It's only win-win situation. If life is a lottery, we all hold winning tickets in our hands.

Primary COVID vaccines in India i.e., Covaxin and Covishield, have to be administered in two doses. Even if you have received first dose of the vaccine, you must take the second shot at all costs. In terms of Covishield, the second dose can be taken after gap of 12 weeks, whereas after the first dose of Covaxin, you can get your second dose after 4-6 weeks.

Getting only one dose of COVID vaccine only provides partial immunity, which means you are still at risk of developing severe COVID infections. Given the new emerging variants, it becomes all the more crucial that you take your vaccination process seriously and follow all guidelines laid down by health officials. Besides lowering your chances of contracting the virus, getting your second shot and being fully vaccinated also ensures mild to no symptoms, even if you catch COVID-19. Apart from that, recent reports have also suggested that people who are fully vaccinated are less susceptible to the Delta and Delta plus variant as compared to the ones who are partially vaccinated i.e. with one dose. Given you and other members of the family are fully vaccinated, according to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), you can host gatherings indoors together and also be

the proximity of the mother. Through the mother tongue, he/she also starts acquiring the knowledge of science and mathematics of domestic items in his conscience. Therefore the early education of the child being in mother tongue is an all-round development of the child understands power, basically Language Knowledge and Numerology.

The seed element of it is contained in the mother tongue itself. After that, any language of the world opens the door of all knowledge automatically. This is the fact behind the 5-year education system in the new National Education Policy 2020 in the context of education. Education in mother tongue is the birth right of the child and it is the duty of the child's parents to protect this right of the child. The system of society and the country to be compatible with such education is the real education for the formation of ideal life of the child. Bharat is a country full of diversity. There are also many dialects. Our education systems are imprisoned in the capricious web of diversity of languages. In elementary education, the child has to accept the language which is not the mother's language.

The child learns another language in school, but is not able to accept the behaviour life through other languages. Receptivity is developed through attachment.

The child acquires knowledge from another language, but is not able to develop his senses properly to face the challenges of life. He gets away from the affinity of mother, soil and society. By the time of his youth, his life starts getting disoriented. He doesn't understand what to do. He has a wealth of knowledge, but lacks the

capacity and courage to face the challenges arising in life. He only sees himself enrolled in the list of educated unemployed. Education is the name of development of full potential by the realization of practical life through knowledge and senses. Therefore the mother tongue is the seed-element to face the challenges of life; which keeps the child connected with the mother, soil and society. The new National Education Policy talks about all-round capacity development from infancy to youth, so that youth can make their own happy path of life. Its basis lies only and only in the mother tongue of the child. The 5-year system of the new National Education Policy 2020 adds to this point. Family, The goal of education in society, state and country should be ideal youth formation. Youth society is the builder of a happy future. In the words of Swami Vivekananda - In the name of education, it is not the filling of knowledge in the mind of an innocent child, but the awakening of the inherent powers of the child through education. The economic resolution for the education system by any government should not only be excessive, but by setting a child-centred policy for child education, it should make a lot of economic resolution on education. The new National Education Policy 2020 exposes this fact. I am not an educationist. Working in the field of education for only four decades has experienced through direct feelings.

It is a heartfelt request to respected educationists to think positively on the role of facts in the mother tongue in the foundational education of the child and give direction to the society and especially the teachers for implementation. Get the right education.

mask-free. However, it is advised to steer clear of those who are yet to receive their COVID shots. Remember, the second vaccine shot is the most important as it provides full immunity against the virus. Besides, getting both the doses of the COVID vaccines can help us achieve herd immunity which can in turn contain the spread of the virus in communities.

Considering the young and elderly are both equally susceptible to the deadly coronavirus, it is important that each and every person, falling under the eligibility criteria, get themselves vaccinated. While you may not feel the need to get vaccinated considering you are young, it is crucial that we protect the most vulnerable in our community and that can only be achieved through mass-vaccination. Through your esteemed daily, I request all to get vaccinated as it is the only way to stay safe from COVID. Get your vaccination done and help in fight against COVID.

Kshitij Sharma,
Trikuta Nagar.

YOUR COLUMN

Complete vaccination is must

Dear Editor,

The second wave of coronavirus taught us a lot of things. Not only did it highlight the unpredictability of disease itself, but also gave us an insight into the various ways we can prevent a potential third wave. However, amidst all the chaos, there are people who are still very reluctant to take the vaccine or believe that skipping their second shot is a possible option. But what you must know is that vaccine is our only mode of protection against virus and that the second COVID shot is the most important among two doses. Until and unless you receive the two doses, you are only partially protected from the virus.

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