

PROMOTING SPORTS AMONG YOUTH

Promoting sports among the youth as a means to prevent drug addiction is a commendable and well-supported approach. Sports contribute to the overall well-being of individuals by promoting physical fitness and mental health. Engaging in regular physical activity can serve as a healthy outlet for stress and anxiety, reducing the likelihood of turning to drugs as a coping mechanism.

Engaging in sports activities helps occupy the time that might otherwise be spent idly or in environments conducive to drug use. Having a structured schedule filled with sports-related activities can reduce the opportunities for exposure to drugs and negative influences.

Incorporating educational programs within sports initiatives can raise awareness about the dangers of drug addiction. These programs can provide information on the physical, psychological, and social consequences of substance abuse, empowering young individuals to make informed choices.

Parents play a crucial role in steering their children away from drug addiction. By actively supporting and encouraging their children's participation in sports, parents contribute to the development of a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

### Guru Gobind Singh's Prakash Parv

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The 357th Prakash Utsav of the 10th Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh is being celebrated on 17th January 2024 with great pomp, show and enthusiasm by the Sikh community in particular and others in general. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti marks the auspicious day where Sikhs celebrate the birthday of the 10th Guru -Guru Gobind Singh. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti also spelled as Govind Singh is a Sikh festival that commemorates the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh ji, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs. It is a religious celebration in which prayers for prosperity are offered. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is a public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed. The day is celebrated on the month of January or December. Guru Gobind Singh's birthday is being observed on 17th January 2024, Wednesday. There is great significance of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti. Guru Gobind Singh is best known for rising against the Mughal rulers and safeguarding the interests of people from invaders. He, was a benevolent man who preached justice, peace, and equality for all. He lived the life of a saint and inspired millions of Sikhs with his writings that depict the way he led his life. He had strict principles, which he and his followers followed and still follow religiously. The basic norms included not obliging to the prevalent caste system and superstitions, they believed in one God and they followed the 5K's- Kangha (comb), Kesh (uncut hair), Kacchera (undergarment), Kara (bracelet) and Karpan (sword). Before his passing, Guru asked Sikhs to consider Guru Granth as the primary text. His teachings and preaching's inspired many. His lifelong battle against the plundering Mughals ensured the survival of Sikhism. The day is celebrated all over India, predominantly within the Sikh community. On this auspicious occasion people pray for the prosperity and well being of fellow people. Reading and listening sessions of Guru Gobind's poetry is a common practice on this day. Discussions on Guru Gobind's life also take place in Sikh communities spread all over the world. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on saptami tithi of shukla paksha in Pausha month. It will be the 357th birth anniversary of the great guru. People celebrate this day and greet each other, spread his teachings and message to all. The devotees visit Gurudwaras and all Gurudwaras are decorated with illumination of lights, candles and diyas. As per Hindu calendar Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on Saptmi Tithi of Shkula Paksha 1723 Samvat in the month of Pausha. According to the Julian Calendar, he was born on December 22, 1666 in Bihar Patna. The Julian Calendar is obsolete and no one uses it at the present time. Guru Gobind Singh's father was Guru Tegh Bahadur who was killed by Aurangzeb. Guru Gobind Singh's mothers name was Mata Gujri. Aurangzeb beheaded his father, Guru tegh Bahadur for not accepting Islam in the year 1675. In 1676, Guru Gobind Singh was declared the tenth Guru of Sikhs on the day of Baisakhi when he was only nine years old. The place where Guru Gobind Singh was born is now Takhat Shri Harminder Ji Patna Sahib. In 1670, his family again moved to Punjab. In March 1672, his family moved to a place called Chak Nanaki, located in the Shivalik Hills of the Himalayas, Chak Nanki is now called Anandpur Sahib where he took his education. He took Persian, Sanskrit lessons and learned military skills to become a warrior. Later, Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa Panth. Khalsa strictly followed a spiritual discipline under the supervision and guidance of Guru Gobind Singh. People fearlessly fought against Mughal rulers. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a great poet and writer who has written several literature. He announced the Guru Granth Sahib as the permanent Sikh Guru prior to so his death in the year 1708 and the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is a holy scripture of Sikhs. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is celebrated across the world where Sikh community people lives. Not only Sikhs but everyone celebrates this day by visiting Gurudwaras and spread his teachings to everyone. People extend their greetings to each other. Distribute Langars to all. All Gurudwaras are decorated with lights and candles. Guru Nanak Vani is also narrated at some places. Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is an auspicious day among the Sikh community and is celebrated every year with great fanfare and enthusiasm. The auspicious occasion of Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is also known as the Prakash Parv of the tenth Guru. Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It is the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and falls every year in December or January. On this day, devotees from all over the world send best wishes to one another and vow to follow the teachings and path of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The day is observed in honor and remembrance of the great warrior, poet, Philosopher, and above all a spiritual master. According to Drik Panchang, Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on Pansh Shukla Saptami. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, born as Gobind Rai, was the tenth Sikh Guru, a spiritual leader, warrior, poet and a philosopher. He formally became the leader and protector of the Sikhs at the tender age of nine after his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was killed by Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam. Guru Gobind Singh ji was a great warrior. He was known for his inclination towards poetry and his philosophies and writings he stood by. He refused to answer the Mughal invaders and fought alongside the Khalsa to protect his people. Under his guidance, his followers adhered to a strict code. His philosophies, writings and poetry inspire people to this day. To celebrate Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti, Sikhs around the world visit Gurudwaras, where prayer meetings take place in honor of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. People participate in processions organized by the Gurudwaras, hold kirtans, and also do seva- a significant part of Sikh religion, for the community. Among his notable contributions to Sikhism are founding a the Sikh warrior community called Khalsa in 1699 and introducing the five K's, the five articles of faith that Khalsa Sikhs wear all times. Guru Gobind Singh is credited with Dasam Granth whose hymns are a sacred part of Sikh prayers and Khalsa rituals. To conclude it can be said that millions of people across the world are inspired by the life and teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his birth anniversary is celebrated with gaiety all over the world where Sikh community lives.

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

# Mahatma Gandhi-Spiritual essence manifested in political mobilization

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Mahatma Gandhi is an enigma which the present and the generations to come would look at as a sheer impossibility. A man in flesh and blood with the innocence and purity of a child held an empire on its toes with his overwhelmingly simplistic and powerfully invasive connection with the Indian public. He was definitely surrounded by an aura of versatility and his ability to embrace multiplicity was his profundity. He was nothing but this versatility fulfilled in the real core of his character that in a later part of his life made him the Mahatma of India. He, otherwise, was often seen from the angle of politics as a leader, who largely mobilized aspirations of generations of Indians to the terrain of a non-violent revolution that caught the British Raj by surprise. This fight against the colonial dominance was not momentary which began with the advent of Gandhi, but it remained active and solid irrespective of it being subdued by the colonial muscle power, visibly surfacing occasionally well before Gandhi came into the scene and the ripples of the agitation was the background that Gandhi began his mobilization.

His entry into the scenario of discontent that ran across the country against the British Raj was instrumental in redefining this essential struggle for freedom. There stands Gandhi with his uniquely invented method of non-violent agitation against the domination of invasion. While wandering through the pages of India's pre-independent political history, you experience the spiritual impact of the Gandhi presence. You witness a silent but gradual transformation of a man who jumped into the mobilization of the nation's freedom struggle, into a spiritual being. Gandhi was of course a political persona, but he was a unique representation of someone who could deeply delve into the realm of spiritual greatness through his simple understanding of life. He thought life would

never flourish into its actuality without truth and compassion. Turning these universal ideals into weapons of agitation Gandhi was probably raising his eminence as a leader into unassailable heights and the invariable momentum that he could channelize the country through was unique and unprecedented.

Was Gandhi a great soul or a normal human being? This understanding of the most popular man in India's freedom movement could be treated as a genuine assessment on the Mahatma. He was, indeed, a genuine being who otherwise could have manipulated his aura of greatness with unreliable facts and sophisticated illustrations. But throughout his autobiography, Gandhi chose to represent the common man in him with dim decoration. His mistakes and confessions inexorably take us to a deeper sense of understanding and self-discovery. They, urgently but silently, urge us to go with the inner voice of truth that if not excavated properly would lay hidden deep under the complexity and mishmash of life's daily ordeals. And to understand Gandhi with all the controversies he had left for his critics and his benign contribution to go beyond the legitimate thirst for freedom being applauded by his followers, he is an unmistakable source to tap inspiration from. Churchill's "Half-naked Fakir" still holds relevance in a world that is totally enmeshed in ruthless violence in the name of religion, region and expansionist political madness. There stands Gandhi, even after the country gained its freedom almost seven decades ago, with full relevance and ideological commitment, solidly representing the genuine aspiration of the common man.

Here, in this write-up, I would rather look at his personality from a spiritual angle. For various reasons I understand the momentum he created and catapulted, the momentum that later stormed into the minds of millions was substantially present in him in its minis-

## YOUR COLUMN

### No choice for baby boy or baby girl

Dear Editor,  
God has given no choice for the people for having baby boy or baby girl. Babies are God-given gift to the people

for that matter for animals too. Upset at not having a daughter, a man in Madhya Pradesh is reported to have killed the newborn son. Instances of killing newborn daughters and mothers have been seen in the past at not having son. This is a bizarre incident wherein newborn son has been killed. One should appreciate for desiring to have daughter as against many people craving for son. But that does not mean that the son has no right to live. The accused Anil Uikey (31) would not have been alive today if his parents had killed him on the day he was born on the

ground that he was not born a baby girl. It has been reported that the intoxicated Anil had a quarrel with his wife Ruchika who fled to a nearby village fearing for her safety. The fight was on the gender issue. When Ruchika fled, if she had carried with her the 12-day baby boy, that baby would have survived for the moment at least. She cared for her own safety without realizing that the safety of the baby is in jeopardy. Mother is symbol of sacrifice. She should have taken care of her baby risking her own life.

K.V. Seetharamaiah

# Revolutionizing Skills: eLearning Courses in the Automotive Industry

■ SHWETA SINGH

In the dynamic and ever-evolving automotive industry, continuous learning and skill development are essential for individuals to stay ahead of the curve and thrive in this competitive landscape. eLearning courses have emerged as a transformative force, offering a flexible, accessible, and cost-effective approach to acquiring new knowledge and enhancing skills. This comprehensive guide delves into the world of eLearning courses in the automotive industry, exploring the diverse range of courses available, the benefits of eLearning, and strategies for maximizing the learning experience. As products transform, auto companies and suppliers urgently require upskilled workforce's adept in these emerging domains through continued learning programs. This is where digital learning platforms are playing a seminal role.

NEP Paves the Way for a Tech-Driven Learning Landscape

New Education Policy (NEP) aims to transform the country's education system by providing equitable and quality education for all learners, regardless of their social or economic background. The policy focuses on increasing state expenditure on education from around 3% to 6% of the GDP. It envisions a holistic, multidisciplinary, and flexible approach to education, with a strong emphasis on skill development and e-learning. Some key aspects of the NEP related to skill education and e-learning include:

- Skill Development:** The policy aims to develop a robust skill development ecosystem in India, including the establishment of world-class skill development institutions, training of teachers, and industry partnerships to enhance the quality of skill development programs.
- E-learning:** The NEP encourages the use of technology in education, including the development and adoption of e-learning materials, online courses, and digital tools to enhance the learning experience and reach a larger audience.
- Flexible Learning:** The policy promotes flexible learning pathways, allowing learners to pursue education and skill development programs according to their interests and needs. This includes the introduction of the 5+3+3+4 structure, which extends compulsory schooling from ages 6-14 to ages 3-18.
- Innovative Approaches:** The NEP encourages innovative approaches to education, such as the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other emerging technologies to improve the quality of education and make it more accessible to a diverse range of learners.

Collaboration with Stakeholders: The implementation of the NEP requires collective efforts from the Centre, States, Union Territories, higher educational institutions, regulatory agencies, and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure a successful transformation of the education system.

NEP is a significant step towards modernizing India's education system, focusing on skill development, e-learning, and flexible learning pathways to prepare learners for a rapidly evolving world.

The Benefits of eLearning in the Automotive Industry in India:

Several eLearning providers offer specialized courses tailored to the automotive industry. These courses are designed to meet the specific needs of the industry and provide individuals with the skills and knowledge required to succeed. For example, Globibo offers automotive eLearning programs that aim to standardize and accelerate learning programs in the fast-growing and evolving automotive industry. The primary objective of their automotive eLearning training program is to create a one-stop solution for learning, training, assessment, and evaluation, provide self-paced training options for different learning groups, share industrial engineering and market best practices, create an engaging learning journey for different stakeholders, reduce face-to-face training, logistic effort, and cost, and provide the flexible option of training for employees with tight work schedules.

eLearning offers a multitude of benefits for individuals seeking to advance their careers in the automotive industry in India:

- Flexibility and Convenience:** eLearning courses provide the flexibility to learn at one's own pace and from anywhere with an internet connection, eliminating the constraints of traditional classroom schedules, particularly in India's diverse geographical landscape.
- Cost-Effectiveness:** eLearning courses are often more cost-effective than traditional classroom-based training, reducing the financial burden on individuals and organizations, especially in a price-sensitive market like India.
- Self-Paced Learning:** eLearning allows individuals to personalize their learning journey, revisiting concepts and progressing at a pace that suits their learning style, catering to the diverse learning preferences of Indian students.
- Interactive Learning Experience:** Many eLearning courses incorporate interactive elements, such as simulations, videos, and quizzes, enhancing engagement and knowledge retention, particularly for visu-

ally-oriented Indian learners.

- "Accessibility to Global Expertise: eLearning grants access to a vast pool of expert instructors and industry leaders, regardless of geographical location, providing Indian learners with exposure to global automotive trends and best practices.
- Strategies for Maximizing the eLearning Experience
  - To maximize the benefits of eLearning courses in India, individuals can employ effective strategies:
  - "Set Clear Learning Goals: Define specific learning objectives to guide your learning journey and measure your progress, aligning with your career aspirations and industry demands.
  - "Create a Dedicated Learning Environment: Find a quiet and distraction-free workspace to focus on your studies, adapting to the unique home and study environments in India.
  - "Engage Actively with the Course Materials: Participate in discussions, complete assignments, and actively engage with the course content, leveraging the interactive elements available.
  - "Seek Additional Resources: Supplement your eLearning courses with relevant books, articles, and online resources in English and Hindi to deepen your understanding, catering to the linguistic diversity of India.
  - "Apply Your Knowledge: Practice applying the acquired knowledge in real-world scenarios or personal projects to solidify your understanding, connecting theoretical concepts to practical applications in the Indian automotive sector.
  - "Seek Feedback and Support: Reach out to instructors, peers, or mentors for feedback and support to enhance your learning experience, building a support network within the Indian automotive eLearning community.
- A Spectrum of ASDC eLearning Courses
  - The automotive industry in India encompasses a wide range of disciplines, and eLearning courses cater to this diversity, offering a rich selection of learning opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ASDC took proactive steps to facilitate remote learning by launching digital courses in collaboration with TCS on their TCS iON platform. With a notable shift in focus towards Electric Vehicles (EV), there emerged a critical need for industry professionals to acquire the necessary knowledge. Recognizing this, Toyota Kirloskar Motors joined forces with ASDC to introduce their e-learning program, xEV Shiksha. This initiative serves as a valuable resource, offering auto profes-

sionals and students the opportunity to stay abreast of the latest developments in the realm of hybrid and electric vehicles, and all of this comes at no cost.

In a collaborative effort, Eicher Motors and ASDC have introduced self-paced e-learning courses. Designed to be accessible to participants at their own pace, these courses cover the fundamentals of automobiles, providing a pathway for individuals to become proficient auto service technicians, specifically for commercial vehicles. Notably, these courses are available in both Hindi and English, enhancing accessibility for a broader audience.

Future of eLearning in the Automotive Industry

The use of eLearning in the automotive industry is set to grow in the coming years. As technology continues to evolve, so will the ways in which it is integrated into the industry. The adoption of eLearning is expected to play an increasingly important role in training and development, allowing for employee training when face-to-face, classroom environments are difficult or impossible. It also enables customer education both pre-sale in choosing the perfect vehicle and as part of after-sales care to help improve customer satisfaction and reduce the burden and costs related to service teams.

The future of eLearning in the automotive industry is aligned with the industry's ongoing evolution and growth. As the sector continues to embrace new technologies, sustainability initiatives, and innovative practices, the demand for specialized training and skill development will increase. eLearning will play a pivotal role in meeting these demands, providing a flexible, accessible, and engaging platform for professionals to acquire the knowledge and skills required to thrive in the dynamic automotive industry.

In conclusion, Automotive Skills Development Council plays a crucial role in the development of eLearning courses in the automotive industry in India. The council offers various training and certification programs that help individuals acquire the necessary skills and knowledge required to excel in the industry. The council's eLearning courses are designed to be engaging, interactive, and flexible, allowing employees to learn at their own pace, at any time, and from any location. The courses are developed by subject-matter experts from around the world, ensuring that the content is relevant, up-to-date, and aligned with industry best practices. The ASDC's eLearning courses are an essential tool for the ongoing development and success of the automotive industry in India.