

# DEEP SEA MISSION SVAMITVA Property Card: A Gateway to Monetizing Rural Assets

India's deep-sea exploration ambitions have taken a significant leap forward with the launch of its Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) and the Samudrayan project, aiming to explore and harness the resources of the deep ocean. Initiated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India's deep-sea mission focuses on advancing scientific research, exploring new marine ecosystems, and tapping into oceanic resources for economic and environmental benefits.

The primary goal of the mission is to explore and conserve the oceanic ecosystem while developing technologies for sustainable ocean resource management.

One of the major objectives is to explore the vast resources of the Indian Ocean, including minerals, hydrothermal vents, and rare earth elements. The mission seeks to identify and quantify the mineral deposits on the ocean floor, such as polymetallic nodules, cobalt-rich crusts, and marine minerals that could support India's growing demand for critical materials used in technology and energy.

The mission will investigate the diverse marine life in India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), particularly in deeper regions like the continental slope and abyssal plains. This includes documenting new species, understanding their role in the ecosystem, and studying their adaptation to extreme conditions such as low temperatures, high pressure, and total darkness.

A key focus of the mission is to develop cutting-edge technologies that enable deep-sea exploration. This includes advanced submersibles, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) that can operate at depths of up to 6,000 meters. India's MATSYA 6000, an indigenously designed submersible capable of reaching 6,000 meters depth, is a significant technological milestone in this endeavor.

The mission also aims to enhance understanding of the role of oceans in regulating climate, including the ocean's carbon sequestration capacity, its effect on global weather patterns, and its role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The Samudrayan project is a pivotal part of India's deep-sea mission. Under this initiative, India plans to send human missions to the ocean depths. The MATSYA 6000 submersible is central to this program, designed to carry a crew of three to depths of 6,000 meters. This initiative will make India one of the few countries capable of deep-sea manned exploration.

With global interest in oceanic resources rising, India's technological advancements and research capabilities will play a crucial role in international marine research and conservation.

■ DR. BIJAYA KUMAR BEHERA



In a landmark initiative to empower rural India, the SVAMITVA Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2020. Aimed at providing "Record of Rights" to every rural household owner in inhabited areas, this transformative scheme is unlocking the economic potential of rural assets and driving comprehensive village-level planning. The scheme, in its phased implementation, is revolutionizing land governance and fostering economic self-reliance in rural communities.

Land serves as the cornerstone for most economic activities, forming the bedrock of growth and prosperity. However, the inhabited areas (Abadi land) of rural India have long remained untouched by significant reforms. With limited surveys conducted and no accurate maps available, these areas faced issues like presumptive property ownership, unresolved disputes, and lack of access to institutional credit.

This gap in land governance left rural residents dependent on non-institutional lenders who charged exorbitant interest rates, further perpetuating poverty and financial insecurity. Recognizing these challenges, the SVAMITVA Scheme was conceptualized to issue property cards backed by state revenue or Panchayati Raj Acts. These cards provide formal documentation of ownership, paving the way for financial inclusion and sustainable rural development.

The SVAMITVA Scheme was first rolled out in a pilot phase across six states: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh. On 11th October 2020, the Hon'ble Prime Minister distributed physical property cards to approximately one lakh property owners in 763 villages. Following the successful pilot, the scheme was expanded nationwide on 24th April 2021. To date, 31 States and Union Territories have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Survey of India, ensuring a coordi-

nated effort in surveying rural inhabited areas.

The adoption of advanced drone technology underpins the scheme's success. High-resolution maps of Abadi areas are generated, enabling precise property delineation. This technological intervention ensures accuracy, transparency, and efficiency in documenting rural properties.

The issuance of property cards is unlocking untapped economic potential in rural areas. Property owners can now monetize their assets by accessing bank loans to expand businesses, invest in better housing, or improve agricultural productivity. This shift is reducing dependency on informal lenders and fostering a culture of financial independence.

Moreover, the availability of accurate land records is mitigating property disputes, which have historically burdened rural communities and clogged judicial systems. By reducing conflict, the SVAMITVA Scheme is fostering social harmony and enabling smoother community interactions.

Beyond financial empowerment, the SVAMITVA Scheme is driving structured village development. The creation of detailed maps supports spatial planning and the introduction of Development Control Regulations (DCR) in Panchayats. These measures formalize unorganized development and ensure optimal land use. The establishment of Building Permission Systems further enhances safety standards and promotes aesthetically and structurally sound construction.

The scheme's contributions align with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which emphasizes "Sustainable Cities and Communities." By encouraging planned growth and sustainable practices, SVAMITVA is nurturing rural areas as hubs of economic activity and improved quality of life.

The SVAMITVA Scheme strengthens the role of Panchayati Raj institutions in rural development. Accurate land records serve as a foundation for better governance, enabling data-driven decision-making and efficient implementation of government schemes.

Additionally, the revenue generated through the Building Permission System and other initiatives contributes to the Own Source Revenue (OSR) of Panchayats, bolstering their financial autonomy.

As of now, millions of property cards have been distributed across the country, demonstrating the scheme's wide-reaching impact. These efforts underline the government's commitment to economic decentralization and grassroots empowerment. On this day of 27.12.2024, the Hon'ble Prime Minister will create history by launching e-distribution of 58 lakh Property Cards across more than 50,000 villages in 12 States / Union Territories on a single day achieving another milestone of generation and distribution of more than 2 crore property cards under Scheme. This fulfils the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, representing a significant push towards revitalizing the rural economy and showcasing India's commitment (Sankalp) to financial inclusion, self-reliance, and the creation of opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment, and business establishment in Grameen Bharat. The monetization of rural assets through the SVAMITVA Scheme stands as a testimony to the transformative power of technological interventions, empowering rural households and reinforcing their pivotal role in Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

SVAMITVA is more than a scheme; it is a vision for a self-reliant rural India. By providing villagers with the tools to capitalize on their assets, it fosters entrepreneurship and innovation. As rural areas become more economically vibrant, they contribute to the nation's overall growth trajectory.

The success of the SVAMITVA Scheme calls for its continual evolution. Expanding awareness campaigns will ensure that every eligible rural household benefits from property cards. Collaboration with financial institutions can further simplify access to credit, while integrating new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) can enhance data analysis for rural planning.

Furthermore, the scheme's framework can

be a model for other nations grappling with similar land governance challenges. India's leadership in this domain positions it as a global pioneer in leveraging technology for rural development.

The SVAMITVA Property Card initiative is more than just a documentation drive; it is a gateway to monetizing rural assets, fostering financial independence, and enabling holistic village development. By addressing long-standing challenges in land governance, it is empowering rural communities to break free from cycles of poverty and embrace opportunities for growth.

As the scheme continues to unfold, it stands as a testament to the transformative power of innovative policymaking and technological intervention. Through SVAMITVA, the vision of a prosperous, self-reliant rural India is steadily becoming a reality.

Driving Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship

With the issuance of SVAMITVA Property Cards, millions of rural households now have a recognized financial asset. This has opened avenues for: (i) Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to thrive in rural India, (ii) Rural households to secure bank loans for education, housing, or starting businesses, and (iii) Improved household income and economic independence. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, property owners have successfully utilized SVAMITVA cards to secure bank loans, invest in housing infrastructure, and support family-run businesses.

Unlocking the Potential of Rural Assets

The SVAMITVA Property Card is not just a document - it is a key to financial independence, self-reliance, and socio-economic empowerment. By leveraging technology-driven solutions and participatory governance, the scheme has unlocked the economic potential of rural assets, creating opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment, and improved livelihoods. As the initiative continues to evolve, it stands as a symbol of India's resolve (Sankalp) to build a resilient, empowered, and economically vibrant Grameen Bharat.

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## Dogri Maanta Diwas

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is apt to start this write up with the dogri quote, "Methe de Dogri ni boli "Ta Khand methe Log Dogre" meaning Dogra language is so sweet and sweeter than that are the Dogras. India is a mosaic and repository of hundreds of languages and dialects and it is a country of rich cultural legacy, traditions ,customs and rituals .Every language is holy and essential to communicate and express ideas. Different languages are preserved, protected and are the means of transmitting ideas and education, besides being the vehicles of interaction and communication. Dogri is one fine language which is mostly talked, written ,understood and communicated in the Jammu region of the Jammu and Kashmir. It is the pleasant and most sweet language used and understood by the Dogras and other People residing in Jammu region .It is pertinent to mention that dogri language had been enlisted in the eight schedule of the constitution of India on August 18, 2003 through the 92rd Amendment Act and on 22rd December Dogri was officially added and recognized as a scheduled language .The 8th schedule of our constitution names 22 languages which are indeed some of the major languages of India to mark this multilingualism .But the constitutional

recognition to dogri language had been possible only after the strenuous struggle of Dogras for the last over 70 years .Dogri Maanta Divas or Dogri Manta Divas is observed since 22 December 2003 every year to commemorate the inclusion of Dogri language in the Eight Schedule of the constitution of India .Various function at the government level and private level have been organized on 22rd December to commemorate the inclusion of Dogri language in the constitution of the country .LG,Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people of J&K ,Dogri speaking focks of the UT in particular .The LG observed that a language is a cultural identity ,heritage ,and promotion of any language needs our collective efforts .The growth and development of the culture of any linguistic group is directly related with the promotion and preservation of its language and cultural legacy and language is the distinctive identity and individuality of any community and so efforts should be made to promote ,preserve and develop languages and Dogri language is no exception .On this solemn occasion of Dogri Manita Divas ,we should not only take pride in dogri language but resolve to promote ,preserve and transmit it to our future generations .Let us make it a habit to talk in our mother tongue dogri and

encourage children who are our future leaders to talk in dogri language .LG has said the development of any region shall also be measured with the development of local culture ,literature ,and language .To achieve the desired results on the ground ,the government is making determined efforts for the promotion of Dogri and other local languages of J&K .He further stressed that not only government ,but every stakeholder must come together for the promotion and preservation of Dogri language and heritage and must pay attention to use of local languages for the protection of the cultural identity .Pertinently ,Dogri has already been included in the official languages of the UTB of Jammu and Kashmir.Dogri Language is being taught as a elective subject at plus two level .On Dogri Maanta Diwas,a special program was organized at Shiv Sena office wherein Shiv Sainiks raised placards with slogans "No Hello ,No Namaste -only Jai Duggar ."While addressing the gathering ,Shiv Sena ,J&K President Manish Sahni stressed the need to communicate in mother tongue .On the occasion of ,20th Dogri Maanta Divas ,various organizations held special programmes to commemorate the day.In a function in this regard Nami Dogri Sansthan -NDS former deputy chief Minister Kavinder Gupta

was the chief guest while senior journalist Nishikant Khajuria presided over the event .Nidhi Dogra Sharma ,Patron Dogri Samaj Trust Mumbai ,and daughter of the late Girdari Lal Dogra ,was the guest of honor and Parveen Sharma ,Chairman of the Citizens Co-operative Bank Ltd. Jammu was the special guest .Prof Anuparma Sharma ,Patron NDS ,Capt Lalit Sharma Convener NDS ,and Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila ,resident NDS ,shared the dais .On this occasion ,four senior journalists ,namely Surinder Sagar ,Ritesh Gupta ,Rajinder Kitchloo and Jangh Singh Verman were felicitated for their outstanding services in the field of journalism in general and for propagating the cause of Dogri language and culture in particular .In his address ,Kavinder Gupta stressed the need to encourage all ,particularly children to start speaking Dogri in their homes .Nishikant Khajuria said that new generation has started associating with Dogri and our rich heritage .Moreover functions on this day were organized by educational institutes ,degree collages ,Jammu university ,MVDU and other institutes where light was thrown on the importance of Dogri Maanta Divas and the need to communicate in Dogri language and to preserve and promote dogri and Dogra culture .The biggest

function to commemorate Dogri Maanta Diwas was held at Abhinav Theatre which was attended by Dr Jatindra Singh MOS ,PMO ,Scienc, Space technology ,Personnel and Pensions etc. and a galaxy of thinkers and Dogri intellectuals and lovers of Dogri language and all stressed the need and importance of promotion ,preservation and transmitting dogri to the young generation .On this occasion Dr Singh said ,drawing strength from the rich Dogra legacy .He called upon the youth of the dogra community to come out of the old mindset of sarkari Naukri and take the advantage of the startup system envisioned by Prime Minister Modi and be part and parcel of a bright future and career .The MoS further said it is time now to make a mark in global world of which India has already become an essential part after 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over .Addressing a programme organized to observe "Dogra Diwas" commemorating the inclusion of Dogri language in the Indian constitution and the "International Dogra Legacy Excellence Awards 2024 Dr Jitendra Singh said there was a rich Dogra legacy from the earlier times which has even after partition ,produced some internationally acclaimed icons like the famous Space Scientist and Founder ISRO Prof

Satish Dhawan and renowned singer of the Indian Sub-Continent Malika Pukhraj or musicians like Shiv Kumar Sharma and Ustad Allah Rakha ,though this may not be a very widely known fact in some sections .He added while celebrating the legacy gives us inspiration and confidence ,nevertheless to keep the legacy alive for posterity and prosperity .It is equally important to carry it forward to next generation and destination in today's context ,would imply Dogra contribution in making of Viksit Bharat of 2047.He observed that in the last 10 years during the Modi rule ,there has been the resurgence of Dogra pride and it is mainly attributable to some of the long awaited decisions taken by this government including declaring of holiday on the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji ,observing the Accession Day of J&K and inclusion of dogri as an official language. Exhorting Dogra community especially youth to be part of mainstream growth story of India .He said there is no dearth of talent or potential in Dogra youth but what is required is to change of mindset and liberation from the obsession for "Sarkari Naukri." Let me conclude this article with a dogri song Bhala Sipahiya Dorgariya. Jai Hind,Jai Dugger and Jai Dogri.

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

## The Teacher as a Gardener: Cultivating Minds and Shaping the Future

■ DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

Education is the foundation upon which the future of any nation is built, and at the heart of this foundational process stands the teacher. A teacher is often likened to a gardener-nurturing, shaping, and cultivating students to become thoughtful, capable, and responsible individuals. Just as a gardener tends to the soil and plants, ensuring they grow strong and healthy, a teacher plays a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual, moral, and social development of their students.

The metaphor of the teacher as a gardener offers profound insights into the role of educators in society. Just as a gardener patiently nurtures the seeds, carefully tending to them with love and care, a teacher provides the necessary guidance, encouragement, and discipline to help their students flourish. These students, much like young plants, require the right environment, attention, and care to develop into well-rounded individuals who will eventually contribute to the growth and prosperity of society and nation.

The Teacher as a Shaper of Character

A teacher's responsibility extends far beyond the delivery of academic content. Much like a gardener prunes and nurtures plants to remove any weaknesses and encourage healthy growth, a teacher cultivates the values and virtues that form the foundation of a student's

character. Teachers impart moral lessons, instill discipline, and guide their students in the right direction, helping them evolve into responsible citizens who uphold integrity, kindness, and respect.

Values such as honesty, empathy, respect, and compassion are essential ingredients that a teacher must nurture in their students. By imparting these virtues, a teacher not only ensures academic excellence but also contributes to broader social goodness. When students embrace these values, they become capable of making positive contributions to society, thus perpetuating the cycle of goodness and progress.

The Role of the Teacher in National Development

The role of a teacher extends far beyond the classroom. Teachers are the architects of the future, as they help shape the minds of the future citizens who will go on to build and lead the nation. They are the unsung heroes who lay the groundwork for national development by educating the young generation. Without education, society would stagnate, and progress would be halted.

A nation's growth depends on the education of its people. Teachers are the ones who light the path to knowledge and opportunity, enabling their students to think critically, solve problems, and contribute to the betterment of society. As the guiding force in a student's life, a teacher plays an instrumental role in steering the nation toward a brighter,

more prosperous future.

The Teacher as a Role Model

Teachers, in addition to their educational duties, are also important role models. They set the standard for behavior and conduct, providing students with a living example of how to lead a life grounded in ethical principles. The impact of a teacher extends far beyond the classroom walls, as students often look up to their teachers for guidance on how to live their lives and build their career. A teacher, therefore, must embody the very values they seek to impart to their students.

For a teacher to inspire and lead, they must demonstrate patience, perseverance, and commitment. A good teacher is one who leads by example, showing students the importance of hard work, discipline, and compassion. In this way, a teacher's influence is not limited to academic achievement alone but encompasses the overall development of their students into well-rounded individuals.

Teachers: The Pillars of Society

The significance of teachers is immense, as they are the cornerstones upon which society rests. They are responsible for transforming young minds into capable, responsible citizens who are equipped to face the challenges of the world. Teachers create the future leaders, thinkers, innovators, and problem-solvers who will drive social progress and contribute to the well-being of the nation.

In a world that is constantly evolving, the teacher's role becomes even more crucial. As new challenges emerge, it is the teacher who prepares students not only for academic success but for the complex world outside. Whether in the classroom, the playground, or within the community, teachers instill qualities of leadership, teamwork, resilience, and empathy, all of which are essential for navigating the demands of modern life.

The Selfless Dedication of Teachers

One of the most remarkable aspects of the teaching profession is the selflessness with which teachers devote their lives to their students. A good teacher does not expect anything in return for his efforts, except the satisfaction of seeing his students succeed. Teachers take pride in their students' achievements, finding joy in their progress, no matter how big or small. This selfless dedication sets teachers apart from many other professions, making the role of an educator uniquely noble and essential.

The teacher's contribution is not measured in material rewards, but in the profound impact they have on the lives of their students. They inspire, motivate, and help students overcome obstacles, providing them with the tools to succeed in life. For teachers, the true reward is not the salary but the knowledge that they have shaped the lives of future generations.

Teachers: Builders of a Better Society

At the heart of every significant societal change, there lies the influence of a teacher. A teacher is not only responsible for academic growth but also for the broader social transformation. Through education, teachers help address the root causes of social problems like poverty, inequality, and corruption. They instill the critical thinking skills necessary for citizens to challenge injustices, contribute to societal development, and foster a culture of integrity.

A teacher's impact ripples outward, creating a positive chain reaction that can lead to the elimination of societal issues and the creation of a more just and equitable society. The intellectual and moral development of individuals, facilitated by teachers, is key to solving the challenges that face nations. As students grow into responsible adults, they, in turn, pass on the knowledge and values imparted to them by their teachers, continuing the cycle of progress and improvement.

The Teacher as a Creator of a Nation

In many cultures, the teacher is often compared to a divine figure-a creator of nations. Just as God is considered the creator of the universe, a teacher is seen as the creator of a great nation. Through education, teachers enable individuals to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the world around them. They mold minds, shape destinies, and lay the founda-

tion for a better future.

The value of teachers cannot be measured merely by academic achievements. Their true worth lies in their ability to inspire students to think critically, act responsibly, and work for the common good. Teachers plant the seeds of knowledge and values that grow into strong, capable citizens, who are then able to take their place as leaders in society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, teachers are the unsung heroes who shape the future by nurturing the minds and hearts of the next generation. Through their unwavering dedication and selfless commitment, they create a society where knowledge, values, and virtues flourish. Just as a gardener tends to their plants with patience and care, teachers tend to their students, helping them bloom into responsible, compassionate individuals who are equipped to build a better world.

As already said, teachers are not only educators but also role models, mentors, and the guiding lights that lead us toward a brighter, more prosperous future. A nation's growth and progress depend on the education provided by its teachers, who, through their wisdom and dedication, empower the leaders of tomorrow. Therefore, it is essential that we continue to respect, appreciate, and support teachers, for they are the creators of a better, more enlightened world.

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