e have been seeing this since childhood, that road accidents often happen due to negligence. We are taught from childhood that we should: help everyone in need. The rules made by the government should be followed. But as we grow up, we see that our elders are not following this thing. We need to make all the people aware about this.

People often accuse the government that the government has imposed a fine of so much rupees for not wearing a helmet. It is necessary to pay a fine of so much rupees for not wearing seat belt, but has anyone ever thought that why the government does this? It does this only to save our future and us. According to us. wearing a helmet and wearing a seat belt is not a big deal, it is only for our safety.

If all the precautions are taken while driving, then the stories of road accidents will be reduced in our India too. In our India, more than 1.5 lakh road accident cases come to the fore in about 1 year.

The biggest reason for road accidents is that people do not have discipline. If rules and regulations have been made for us, that we have to wear helmets. If you are not wearing a seat belt, then why don't we follow those rules and regulations?

If we do not follow the rules and regulations, then it is obvious that we will be prone to accidents, and we will definitely get serious injuries, maybe even we will lose

Shivaji won against British Royal Navy in the Battle of Khanderi

hhatrapati Shivaji built under his naval commander, Kanhoji Angre, a naval force composed of valiant Hindu Nishad-Kewat community residing on the seashore. Along with sea-forts Shivaji built cargo and war ships too. Built in Konkan, the ships were capable enough to be ferried up to Europe; and warships, equally advanced to match out any assault. And in the Battle of Khanderi it was even proved by the defeat of British Royal Navy, which even the commander WilliumMinwinadmitted 'It is due to Shivaji that built the Sangmeshwari fleet of 20 ships with 32 guns to be stationed on them that we lost the battle. ('Shivaji and his times': Sir JadunathSarkar)

In the medieval period of history, when other Hindu kings couldn't even think of lifting their eyes before Aurangzeb, the Mughal king, Shivaji was the one to initiate fearsome attack on him. Notwithstanding extremely adverse circumstances with numerically small army and minimum of resources, he gave defeats to the armies of Aurangzeb and British many a time, adopting guerilla- warfare and cleverly drawn strategies. One of the most notable defeats he dealt to British navy was in the Battle of Khanderi, mentioned

Shivaji had known it too well that if anything that threatened Hindvi- Swaraj [Hindu self-rule] most was the menace of European invasion from the sea-front. To deal with any such kind of eventuality he therefore decided to build a fleet of warships in Bhagwati river, close to the western coastal border. So the service of 400 Portuguese naval specialists was taken to fulfill the entire operation. They were paid whatever money they demanded for their service. Knowing the fact that Portuguese, being the foreigners after all and therefore couldn't be relied upon blindly, Shivaji deputed a crew of equal numbers of selected Marathas of sharp intellect with them so that they could learn the technique of warship-building. And, few days later, what Shivaji suspected came true. At the very crucial moment when the British were to launch the attack on the Marathas, Portuguese dismantled the fleet and slunk away from there. But thanks to Shivaji's farsightedness that till then Maratha-crew had become well-versed in the technique of building the fleet them-

And, soon a new fleet named Sangmeshwari got ready Reverse Engineering through which imported technology is improved on to make the use of it according to the local condition; Japan is said to be far ahead in this mode of technology.

The fleet thus built by the Shivaji's men proved far better than the one to be built through foreign technique. Western border of India thus got to be well defended. So much so that in the battle with British, Maratha emerged victorious.

OBEY TRAFFIC RULE Forest Fires, Causes, Control and Protective Measures

ccording to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) 2019 report, about 21.40% of forest cover in India is prone to fires. The Forests in the NE-region and central India are most Vulnerable. The finding has emerged from a study carried out by the FSI along forest fire points across the country from 2004 to 2014.

Fire-Prone Extremely fire-prone areas account for 3.89% of total forest cover, Very highly fire prone areas account for 6-01% and Highly fire prone areas for 11.50%

In J&K, the fire most commonly engulf periodically the "the shivalik ranges" from lakhanpur to the last tip of the border touching Poonch comprising mostly of scrub forest with chirpine as the most economical species. Nature has itself provided chirpinewith thick bark for its susceptibility but it is more prone to fire. Admittedly man made big strides in modern days information technology and other allied fields, yet so far no fool proof method could be devised to counteract this malady which strikes very year with the onset of summer spells. In the higher stretches of forest where chirpine, blue pine, deodar, and spruce exist, the incidence are far lesser but once it engulfs those forests, it is havoc. The ground flora is burnt to cinder, off shooting crown fire which spreads swiftly thus making the situation grave and uncomfortable.

Forest fire-it nature

Though the modern days man has made scrupulous advancement in science and technology, construction of road bridges, hydel projects and the like and all these factors such as road links provide a smooth ground for the

man, in, his pleasuring travels throw cigarette which ignites the dry needles of springing wild fir which uncontrollably engulfs big chunks of forest. Man by virtue of nature has born with greed as the saying goes, nature can fulfill man's need but not its greed" goes true .So does the man and in almost 80 percent cases, he is responsible by putting the forest ground fire for the yield of the rich and flourishing grass to fulfill grass requirements for cattle. A man in the street raises accusing a finger towards forest department which is not so. This is baseless, unfounded and uncalled for as the forest department over the years has by all dints protected and preserved the forest at the cost of their life.

There are glaring examples on record where in most of cases the forest officials had to play with their lives in encountering forest fires. It does not go without saying that a poor forester is helpless and ill-equipped to counter the menace without local cooperation whereas the forest laws provide that in the event of forest fire, it is obligatory on the part of locals to render all possible assistance under law. They are supposed to assemble at the site of fire give/record their attendants in extinguishing forest fire and make all efforts with forest officials. However, invalids, old persons and female have been exempted from this purview of law and that's why, the local inhabitants are granted concessions in the issuance of concessions of timber/ other within the concession zone besides the glazing of domestic animals in the open forest except those prohibited under law en vogue. But ironically, the case is otherwise as the local some to face the situation by the department single handedly.

Preventive measures:

Debris burning. All the dead dying and diseased fallen material left after the exploitation by the state forest development cooperation agency are breeding grounds for spread of fire whereby healthy crops are inflicted and more so with the unset of dry spell, this material provides empties for further inflammation to the fire. The solution, therefore, lies in the disposal of such remnant material by debris burning under the close surveillance of the department or to issue such timber to the local concessionist.

Fire lines: In forestry parlance a wild strip is being laid down in the forest most vulnerable to fire, the nature/density of the crop and the extent of vulnerability. All unwanted bushes, poles and even trees are cut and removed to make it into a wide passage so that in the eventually of fire it does not get an occasion to cross adjoining part of forest. The fire lines formations are warranted.

Control burning with the onset of autum there is leaf litter fall particularly both in the deciduous/conifer forests which almost cover the forest floor with inflammable material. In order, therefore, to safeguard the forest from fire, it becomes imperative to collect all such leaf litter and remove to safer places for control burning under the supervision of forest department.

Fire-fighting equipment: As is invogue with the fire service department, necessary infrastructure such as fire beaters, pick axes, bill-hooks, fire proof jackets, hats and

Disposal of the department. This is imperative and warranted.

Construction of watch towers this is most helpful aspect and the watch towers need to be constructed at equidistance for close surveillance and regular monitoring so that as an where fire occurs, rapid action can be

taken instantly to combat and control

Firefighting squad, Forest protection force is an independent wing provided with wireless sets and all communicative infrastructures. This wing has a long role to play with to combat fire hazards. The force further needs to be invigorated and fortified to safeguard the green wealth.

Construction of water ponds such constructions help in extinguishing forest fires in much needed areas besides fulfilling multi purposes and can go a long way-in combating the fire hazards with the advancement of modern technology, most of the European/advance countries are pressing into the use of foam gaswhich grips/ control the fire, the CFC (Chlorofloro Carbon) and halogen gases are further he most useful gases in extinguishing fire. These technologies as well needs to be introduced in our country.

Conclusively, therefore, it is quite pertinent to work out fool proof strategies if at all we humans have to live over this precious mother earth which has bestowed upon us by the almighty Godand let us be fear of

> (The author is former Deputy Conservator of Forest, J&K).

Guru Purnima: Honouring enlightening presence of Gurus in Guru-Shishya Parampara

DARSHAN BHARTI

uru Purnima, a revered tradition observed by followers of Sanatana Dharma, including Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and others, holds great importance as a day to honor and express gratitude to academic and spiritual Gurus. This sacred occasion, celebrated on the auspicious Full Moon day (Purnima) in the Hindu month of Ashadha (June to July), carries deep significance in vari-

Guru Purnima is also known as Vyasa Purnima, as it commemorates the birth anniversary of Veda Vyasa, the revered sage who compiled the Vedas and authored the epic Mahabharata. It is a time to pay homage to the profound contributions of enlightened Gurus who have illuminated the path of knowledge for generations.

According to ancient scriptures, Guru Purnima marks the momentous occasion when Lord Shiva, the Adi Guru (the first Guru). bestowed the wisdom of Yoga upon the Saptarishis, the seven sages. This divine transmission symbolizes the sacred connection between the Guru and the disciples, as the enlightened teachings are passed down through

With its profound significance and rich cultural heritage, Guru Purnima continues to inspire individuals to honor their Gurus and embrace the timeless wisdom passed down through generations. It serves as a reminder of the eternal value of the Guru-Shishya parampara, fostering a deep sense of gratitude and reverence for the enlightening presence of Gurus in our lives.

The Guru-Shishya parampara, the sacred tradition of the Master-Disciple relationship, holds immense significance in the Indian Vedas and Puranas. This ancient tradition emphasizes the transmission of knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual teachings from the Guru (teacher) to the Shishya (disciple). The Vedas and Puranas, the foundational scriptures of Hinduism, contain



numerous references to the importance of this parampara

The Chandogya Upanishad states, "The disciple who has a Guru obtains all virtues." This highlights the belief that through the guidance of a Guru, the disciple gains not only intellectual knowledge but also imbibes virtuous qualities that shape their character and lead them towards spiritual growth.

The Mundaka Upanishad stresses the essential role of the Guru in the path of self-realization, stating, "To those who have duly approached and served the enlightened Guru, the knowledge reveals itself. "This verse emphasizes the idea that through sincere devotion and humble service to the Guru, the disciple becomes eligible to receive the profound knowledge and insights necessary for spiritual awakening.

The story of Ekalavva from the Mahabharata exemplifies the significance of the Guru-Shishya parampara. Ekalavya, a tribal boy with a deep desire to learn archery, approached the renowned Guru Dronacharva to become his disciple. However, due to societal barriers,

Dronacharya denied him formal education. Undeterred by this setback, Ekalayva created a clay idol of Dronacharya and practiced in its presence. His dedication and self-learning led him to become an exceptional archer. This tale underscores the importance of the Guru's blessings and guidance, even if received indirectly, as a crucial factor in the disciple's journey towards mastery. In the Puranas, the story of Lord Shiva as Dakshinamurthy serves as another powerful example of the Guru's significance. Dakshinamurthy, the embodiment of Lord Shiva as the supreme Guru, sits under a banyan tree, imparting profound spiritual teachings to his disciples. This depiction highlights the role of the Guru as the source of divine knowledge, illuminating the path of enlightenment for the seekers. The Guru-Shishya parampara not only fosters the acquisition of knowledge but also nurtures a deep bond of trust, respect, and love between the Guru and the disciple. Through this sacred relationship, the disciple not only gains intellectual wisdom but also imbibes moral values and spiritual insights. It is believed that the

Guru's grace and blessings are instrumental in the disciple's spiritual progress and eventual liberation. In conclusion, the importance of the Guru-Shishya parampara in the Indian Vedas and Puranas cannot be overstated. It is a sacred tradition that acknowledges the pivotal role of the Guru in imparting knowledge and guiding seekers on the path of self-realization. Through quotes and examples found in these ancient scriptures, we are reminded of the profound impact of the Guru's wisdom, grace, and blessings in the spiritual journey of the disciples. The Guru-Shishva parampara continues to be revered and cherished as a timeless tradition that upholds the values of learning, humility, and spiritual growth.

Furthermore, Guru Purnima holds a special place in the hearts of followers of Sanatana Dharma, as it signifies the invaluable role of Gurus in imparting knowledge and guiding seekers on the path of self-realization. It is a time to acknowledge the selfless dedication of teachers and the transformative impact they have on their students' lives. In contemporary times, where technology and modern education methods dominate, the celebration of Guru Purnima assumes even greater significance. While the mediums of imparting knowledge may have evolved, the essence of the teacher-student relationship remains timeless. Guru Purnima inspires educators to adapt to the changing needs of students while upholding the core values of wisdom, compassion, and guidance.

In conclusion, Guru Purnima, celebrated with immense enthusiasm across India. It is a time to honor the influential role of Gurus and the sacred bond they share with their disciples. As the world progresses, Guru Purnima stands as a steadfast reminder of the eternal connection between Gurus and students, fostering an atmosphere of gratitude, respect, and lifelong learning. Let us embrace this sacred occasion and express our heartfelt appreciation for the enlightening presence of Gurus in our lives.

Moves for Grand Alliance

OMKAR DATTATRAY ifteen opposition parties have recently met and discussed and deliberated on the important and much needed subject for opposition unity and it is so good that positive efforts are on for cobbling a grand alliance to take on the arrogant and mighty BJP in 2024 general elections.

The opposition parties and their leaders have understood and appreciated that BJP cannot be fought severally but could be countered and shown the door through having opposition unity.

For the opposition unity, Sharad Pawar of the NCP, Nitesh Kumar the chief minister and president of JDU, West Bengal Chief Minister and Supremo of TMC Mamata Banerjee, Lalu Prasad Yadav and last but not the least the main opposition party leader the scion of Gandhi-Nehru parivar Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge have spearheaded the unity move in the opposition parties and had made the Patna meeting of the opposition parties possible as well as successful and at the conclusion of the meaningful opposition unity meeting the leaders of the main opposition parties have reiterated that the unity move will continue and next crucial opposition meeting will be held in

It is important that more regional non BJP parties should be included in the grand alliance which is in the offing and this will give broader meaning and scope to the opposition unity.

The opposition parties should forget and forgive their differences and continue to join hands to form a grand alliance well before the general elections of 2024 so that the BJP can be fought jointly and secular

image of the country will be saved and congress leaders Rahul Gandhi has rightly commented in the meeting that BJP had attacked and assaulted the very base and foundation of India and the unity move is the ideological battle to remove the BJP from again forming the government at the national level after the Lok Sabha elections

All the meeting partners and parties should shun the individual differences and come closer to fight jointly the crucial battle of 2024.

It is so good that at the initiative of Nitish Kumar, Sharad Pawar and Mamta Benerjee the majority of opposition parties numbering 15 have met and discussed threadbare the need and importance of having unity in opposition parties without which it is not humanly possible to fight the 2024 general elections and defeat the BJP.

It is very important that all non-BJP parties should come closure and forge a working and functioning alliance and forget their differences in order to make it easy to fight the hegemony and monopoly and misrule of the BJP in 2024 polls as if the opposition works as a divided house, it will become easier for the BJP to again rise to power in 2024 through defeating the congress and other opposition parties.

The important and crucial meeting of the opposition parties and its success is not digestable to the BJP and its leaders are uneasy and are having sleepless nights and so have they mocked at the move of the opposition unity.

The Union Minister Simriti Irani, BJP National President JP Nadda and high profile minister of youth welfare, sports and broadcasting and the deputy chief minister

of Maharashtra Devendar Fandnivs all have made fun of the opposition meeting in Patna as there is ache in the belly of these and other BJP leaders and they are afraid of opposition unity as this opposition unity will make BJP's win in 2024 elections difficult and increase the prospects of gaining electoral dividends in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024.

Patna has become first battleground before 2024. The BJP seems to be so afraid of the opposition unity that it has flooded Patna with posters decrying the meet, while opposition leaders marked it as a day to reconnect and reminiscence.

With the opposition leaders from across the country pouring into Patna, it has turned into battleground, with BJP going on an overdrive flooding the city of Patna with posters branding the meeting as gathering of thugs and its leaders have criticized the opposition move as a move to protect the dynastic politics and to save such dynastic parties and their defective and selfish agen-

The opposition parties choose Petna as a venue for its crucial unity meeting for two reasons-neutral ground distinct from Delhi and 1974 call of total revolution by Jayaprakash Narayan that toppled Indira Gandhi's majority government.

Former deputy chief minister and BJP Raj Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi scoffe at the opposition and singling out congress, he said, "The one who imposed emergency in the country and put Jaiprakesh Narayan in iail ,murderer of democracy, curbed the freedom of press are coming in Bihar and crying out for democracy."

Democracy, he said, was not in danger, it was the family members of the opposition

parties who find themselves in peril.

"They are engaged in saving politics of respective families" he added. Unperturbed by the BJP's buzz and blitz against them, for the opposition leaders was a day to reconnect and reminiscence before cold headed negotiations begun.TMC leaders and west Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abishek Banerjee, directly went to 5, Deshratna Marg, after landing in Patna and met RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, praising him for his tenacity to fight against BJP on spite of all odds, including prolonged Jail term.

She called the opposition a family and sidestepped the questions on AAP leader and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's assertion that Delhi ordinance should be discussed first.

But that is not the only tricky problem the opposition has to negotiate.

When the pressmen asked her how would the congress ,the CPIM and TMC settle the electoral equation in West Bengal she said. "Let us see what happens in the meeting tomorrow June 23, after that we will talk." The opposition meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere at the official residence of chief minister Nitesh Kiumar. PDP chief and former chief minister J&K Mehooba Mufti and former chief minister J&K and NC leader Omer Abdullah also participated in the meeting and discussed many unity and political issues.

It is important that the political parties should shun their minor differences and contradictions and work for the opposition unity without which their regional parties will land in danger and it will benefit the BJP at the end of the day so all opposition parties should take the steps with caution

and care and become pillars of the opposition unity.

Leaders of the opposition parties in Patna addressed a press conference on the completion of the meeting convened by the Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar in Patna.

In press brief that was skipped by Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the opposition made scathing remarks against the

In a joint statement the leaders claimed they would put up a united fight against the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

However no consensus was reached in Patna meeting and another crucial opposition meeting will be held in Shimla.

Earlier in the day before the start of the meeting, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had said that all opposition parties were going to defeat BJP in 2024 general elections unitedly. Meanwhile, the BJP has hit out at the opposition meeting calling it a photo session. RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav addressed a press conference after the opposition meeting and said, "Lord Hanuman thrashed BJP with his mace in Karnataka and made Rahul

Gandhi's Congress party win." He said Lord Hanuman was with opposition and it was certain that BJP would face a massive defeat in the coming polls. It is so well that the unity move of the opposition will continue and next meeting of the opposition for forging a grand alliance will be held soon at Shimla under the chairmanship of senior NCP leader Shrad Pawar and after political churing Amrit-nectar will come out for the opposition and it will be able to cobble a united front to fight the BJP in gener-

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