

DIKSHA PLATFORM

DIKSHA is the platform for providing quality e-content for school education in States/UTs and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform). DIKSHA complies with World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA. This enables people with visual impairments to access the website using assistive technologies, such as screen readers. Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired is developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/YouTube. While giving reply to a question in Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Education, Annpurna Devi informed that 3,520 textbook based ISL videos have been recorded, out of these 597 textbook based on ISL videos are uploaded on DIKSHA. A 10,000 word ISL dictionary has been uploaded on DIKSHA and 3,474 audio books chapters have been developed and uploaded on DIKSHA. NISHTHA 2.0 (Secondary Level) -online on DIKSHA for secondary/senior secondary level teachers was launched on 29th July, 2021. The training programme covers around 10 lakh teachers and School Heads at Secondary Level across all States and UTs. NCERT has developed a package including 13 Online Courses with 12 Generic modules and 56 subject specific modules for NISHTHA 2.0 and as on date 33 States and UTs have initiated this training programme in 10 languages. S Autonomous Organisation under MOE, MOD & MOTA has also adopted the same. NISHTHA 2.0 Online on DIKSHA portal has been developed encompassing twelve generic courses and seven pedagogy courses. Accordingly, 68 Modules have been developed including: Curriculum and Inclusive Education; ICT in Teaching, Learning and Assessment; Personal-Social Qualities for Holistic Development of Learners; Art Integrated Learning; Understanding Secondary Stage Learners; Health and Well Being; School Leadership Development; Vocational Education; Gender Issues in Education; Initiatives in School Education; Toy Based Pedagogy; and School Based Assessment. State can contextualize these modules in line with their state specific needs. NISHTHA 3.0- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in online mode on DIKSHA platform for teachers and school heads of pre-primary to class V were launched on 7th September, 2021. The NISHTHA 3.0- FLN envisions covering nearly 25 Lakh Teacher and School Heads at Pre-Primary and Primary Level across all states and UTs. A special package consisting of 12 online modules have been developed by NCERT for this purpose, as per objectives of NIPUN Bharat Mission. So far 33 States/UTs has initiated the programme in 11 Languages and the same has been adopted by 5 Autonomous Organisation under MOE, MOD & MOTA. NISHTHA 3.0 Online on DIKSHA portal has been developed with the aim to help teachers design experiences for holistic development of each child and comprises of 12 Modules namely: Introduction to FLN Mission; Shifting towards Competency Based Education; Understanding the Learner; Transacting 3 months Play Based School Preparation Module for Grade I Children and Balyatika; Foundational Language and Literacy; Foundational Numeracy; Learning Assessment; Involvement of Parents and Community; Integration of ICT in Teaching, Learning and Assessment; Multi lingual Education; Toy Based Pedagogy; and School Leadership. All the online material under NISHTHA programme is available on the NISHTHA portal of NCERT under the following link: <https://itpd.ncert.gov.in/>.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Cause of Misery

Once a wealthy man gave some food to an old beggar who happened to come at his door. Incidentally, the beggar began to turn up every day. The wealthy man became upset and he rebuked, even tried to hit the old man. While he was on to it, one of his old relatives intervened and somehow proved to him that this old beggar is none other but his lost father.

One can easily conclude the change in the situation after the said revelation. The said change occurred only after the relation between the wealthy man and the beggar was revealed.

Likewise human beings have forgotten about their eternal relation with Supreme God.

Sri B V Vishnu
Maharaj

■ PURAN CHAND SHARMA

'M'atre Devo Bhav, Pitre Devo Bhav' has been the hallmark of Bhartiya Sanskriti. Our scintillating cultural practices and prominent moral values being cultivated in the family have been recognized and admired all over the world. However, the scenario has changed upside down in the deluge of unbridled modernization and globalization. Joint family system has suffered serious erosion; focus has shifted from basic moral training in the families together with formal Education in the schools, colleges and universities to job oriented professional courses facilitating students to devour the highest and lucrative package in the multinational companies. Parents cheerfully lead from the front in making the best of investment in terms of money and other resources coupled with worldly love and attachment with a deep rooted emotion of return gift of fulfilling the filial obligations in the fag-end of their life. Barring few exceptions, the society as a whole has been experiencing bewildering and harrowing tales of apathy and moral turpitude of the highly qualified and abroad settled dear ones raising serious question marks on the modern education and hollowness of human civilization. Beyond an iota of doubt, our beloved siblings, after having received the best of education available in the current times by dint of their unflinching resolve, persistent hard work, profuse blessings and timely financial support coupled with kudos and buck ups, succeed in embracing the pinnacle of prosperity and glory, which is a soothing joy for one and all in the family but in the din and mesmerizing glamour of materialistic ecstasy, they forget their roots, get swayed and end up into abysmal moral bankruptcy which is a matter of grave concern. Let us try to understand through the medium of true story pertaining to an Army officer residing in Lucknow with his wife and two well-qualified sons settled abroad-

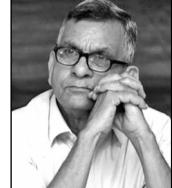
"An army officer painstakingly imparted the best of

Pray to God that your attachment to such transitory things as wealth, name, and creature comforts may become less and less every day. -Ramakrishna

EDITORIAL

Historic clarification on who could be voters in J&K rattles 'autonomy-wallas' in Kashmir

■ PROF HARI OM



On August 17, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Hirdesh Kumar explained away the ongoing electoral exercise in J&K UT while addressing a press conference in Jammu. He cleared all the cobwebs of confusion, including about the Rohingyas and other illegal aliens residing in Jammu province since 1990s. He made it absolutely clear that no illegal alien will be enlisted as a voter in J&K as those responsible for updating the voters' lists are fully aware of the issue. At the same time, however, the CEO made a statement of great historical importance. He, inter-alia, announced that "non-locals, including employees, students, labourers or anyone from outside who is living ordinarily in J&K, can enlist his or her name in the voting list, and cast vote in the elections in the Union Territory". "After the abrogation of Article 370, many people who were not enlisted as voters in the erstwhile State of J&K are now eligible to vote and in addition anyone who is living ordinarily can also avail the opportunity to get enlisted as a voter in J&K in accordance with the provisions of Representation of the People's Act," Hirdesh Kumar further said. Not just this, the CEO also declared that "there is no need for a person to have a domicile certificate of J&K to become a voter". "An employee, a student, a labourer or anyone from outside who is living ordinarily in J&K can enlist his or her name in the voting list. The documents will be scrutinized by the Government officials concerned who will take a decision after being satisfied about the claim," he said in this regard. He also added that "like in the past, many residents of J&K who are working in the past, many residents of J&K who are working in armed forces and paramilitary forces and are

posted outside the Union Territory have an option to get themselves registered as service voters and can avail the facility of postal ballot to register their choice at the time of the elections". He didn't stop just there. He further said, "Likewise those from different parts of the country who are posted here (read J&K UT) have the option that if they are posted in a peace station they can enlist themselves as voters. Jammu is a peace station and anyone from outside posted in armed forces in the city can avail the option to enlist as a voter". The CEO also took the opportunity to tell all the concerned that "they are expecting around 25 lakh new voters to be enrolled in the Union Territory as the Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls is being held for the first time after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019". In other words, he said that there would be around one crore fifteen lakh voters, who could vote in the first-ever assembly elections in the J&K UT as and when held. He didn't hint as to when the elections would be held in J&K. What the CEO said was what has been in vogue in almost all the states and Union Territories, including Delhi and Chandigarh. And, all must welcome what he said and what the concerned laws provide for. It was expected that what the Chief Electoral Officer said in Jammu would rattle the ardent believers in the concepts of theocratic dispensation, separate nationhood, greater autonomy or limited accession to India, self-rule, Indo-Pak joint-control over J&K, demilitarization and porous Line of Control and International Border in Kashmir and it did happen. NC Vice-President former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, PDP Chief and former Chief Minister, PC president and former minister Sajad Lone, J&K People's Democratic Front (JKPDF) chairman and former minister Hakeem Mohd Yaseen, to mention only a few, all in one voice denounced Narendra Modi

Government and described the whole exercise as dangerous and BJP-centric. Omar Abdullah asserted that the BJP is using the ongoing exercise to improve its poll prospects and that's the reason that it wanted non-locals to enlist their names in the voters' lists" and added that voting rights only to the original inhabitants of J&K will mar the poll prospects of the BJP. In fact he tweeted and it read like this, "Is the BJP so insecure about support from genuine voters of J&K that it needs to import temporary voters to win seats? None of these things will help the BJP when the people of J&K are given a chance to exercise their franchise". Mehbooba Mufti also said almost the same. Accusing the Narendra Modi Government of snatching Article 35A and Article 370 from Kashmiris and reducing J&K to the UT status and describing as anti-democratic and unconstitutional the announcement made by the CEO, she asserted that the voting right to non-locals will only help the BJP and improve its poll prospects, dis-empower Kashmiris and help New Delhi rule J&K by force". "The BJP is not going to change the country into Hindu Rashtra, but in BJP Rashtra... The way Article 370 was removed unconstitutionally and Indian constitution was subverted, it is all in the interests of BJP as after the decision, the party sold J&K plot in rest of the countries. Similarly, voting rights to the non-locals is aimed at conducting fraud elections to allow the BJP fascist local to rule here," she, in effect, among other things, said. In addition, she contacted NC president and Gupkar gang chief, Farooq Abdullah, to convene an all-party meeting to decide the future course of action on the issue of giving voting rights to non-J&K residents stating that "it has now gone beyond elections". Sajad Lone termed as "dangerous" what the CEO said and warned that any failure on the part of New Delhi to appreciate the

Kashmiri view would only culminate in Kashmir what the nation witnessed in Kashmir in 1987. (The NC and Congress had rigged wholesale assembly elections in 1987.) What Lone said read like this: "This is dangerous. I don't know what they (Narendra Modi Government) want to achieve. This is much more than a mischief. Democracy is a relic especially in the context of Kashmir. Please remember 1987. We are yet to come out of that. Don't replay 1987. It will be disastrous". As for Hakeem Yaseen, he, among other things, said, "The intention of the government clearly shows the game plan to change the demography of JUK. This conspiracy would be disastrous for the special identity of J&K and would cause more alienation among the people".

The Resistance Front (TRF), which is responsible for killings of many innocents and attacks on the symbols of Indian State, too, has reacted. It has held a threat through many posters, opposed voting right to all those from different parts of India working in Kashmir and warned that they will not allow the Modi Government to change the Kashmiri's demography and that they will not spare even non-Kashmiri beggars. What does all this show? It shows the contempt for non-Kashmiris living, serving and working in J&K, especially Jammu province, since years. It's their fundamental right to exercise their franchise in the areas they study, work and serve. It is hoped that the Modi Government will apply the rule of law to J&K UT in its entirety and act like it acted on August 4, 5 and 6, 2019. They just can't be allowed to insult, abuse and threat the fellow countrymen living in J&K. At the same time, the Modi Government would do well to use what the critics of voting rights to non-Kashmiris as an opportunity to segregate Jammu from Kashmir. It's a must to break the backbone of separatists and half-separatists in Kashmir:

Bhagwad Gita: Shri Krishna's gift to mankind

■ ER PRABHAT KISHORE

Yada-Yada Hi Dharmasya, Glanir Bhavati Bharata; Abhyutthanan Adharmasya, Tadatmanam Srjanyamah; Paritranaya Sadhunam, Vinashaya Ch Duskratam; Dharmasanthapanarthaya Sambhavami Yuge-Yuge' (Whenever & wherever there is decay of Dharma and there is the escalation of unrighteousness, then I Myself come forth, for the protection of good, for destruction of evil-doers, for the sake of firmly establishing righteousness, I incarnate myself in the human form from age to age.)

Krishna Jannashthami marks the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Krishna, the 8th Avatar of Bhagwan Vishnu, which falls on Ashtami Tithi of Krishna Paksha of Bhadra month. Shri Krishna is the epitome of love, faith, friendship, and peace. He is the deity of protection, compassion, and tenderness. Ideal friend, wise teacher, far-seeing statesman, devout yogi, and invincible warrior; He harmonizes in His character the various conflicting activities of life.

Shrimad Bhagwad Gita, popularly known as Gita, is the pious gift of Shri Krishna to the mankind. It includes collection of his counseling to Arjun on various segments of life, like Dharma, Karma, Theistic Devotion, Yogic ideals, salvation, knowledge etc. It shows the way to spiritualize life and illuminate even its drab and gray phases with the radiance of the spirit. The three Vedic scriptures, namely- the Upnishads, the Brahma Sutras, and the Bhagwad Gita, is called PrasthanTrayi (three points of commencement for understanding Vedic thoughts). There are 'Mantras' (Mystical rubries) in the Upnishad, 'Sutras' (aphorisms) in the Brahma Sutra, and 'Shlokas' (verses) in the Bhagwad Gita. The Upnishads are of use & value for deserving only, and the Brahma Sutras (also called Vedant) are of use &

importance for men of erudition & learning but the Gita is for; one and all. It narrates, "If the whole Vedantic philosophy is a cow, then the milk is the Holy Gita. Those people, who are really thirsty & seekers of truth, drink this nectar & become immortal."

The message of Gita came to humanity because of Arjun's unwillingness to do his duty as a warrior. Its entire 700-shlokas (verses) are immortal discourse between the Supreme Bhagwan Krishna and his devotee-friend Arjun and it occurred not in a temple, a secluded forest, or on a mountain top, but in the middle of a battlefield on the eve of Kurukshetra Dharma-Yudha of Mahabharat. Arjun's dilemma was in reality, universal dilemma. Every human being faces dilemma, big or small, in their daily life when performing their duties. Arjun's dilemma was the biggest one, as he has to make a choice between fighting the war and killing his Guru, relatives, & many innocent warriors or running away from battle-field for the sake of preserving peace & non-violence. The Gita is a Yogashashtra. The word "Yoga" denotes the union of individual soul with Universal Soul. It takes into consideration the different types of human minds - the active, the philosophical, the emotional, and the psychic - and profound for them, respectively, the path of work (Karmayoga), the path of knowledge (Gyanayoga), the path of love & devotion (Bhaktiyoga), and the path of concentration & self-control (Rajayoga). Besides these, there is description of Yagya (Sacrifice), Dan (Charity), Tap (penance), Dhanyoga (Yoga of meditation), Pranayam (Control of breath), Hathayoga (austeres discipline of body etc.), Layayoga(Yoga of rhythmic unison) etc.

The Gita is called Brahmanavidya, the science of Absolute and Mokshashashtra, the scripture dealing with liberation. The

aim of Krishna's teaching is to remove the doubts and delusions that overpower man in everything, great or small; but these can be removed only through a realization of Truth. In the Gita, Shri Krishna emphasizes Swadharma, once own Dharma. Actually, the word "Dharma" is untranslatable and 'Religion', 'duty', 'righteousness' or other equivalents give only a partial meaning . It signifies the attitude behind a man's action or duty that sustains him in his present stage of evolution. If a man performs his duties, surrendering the fruits to God and discarding all selfish motives, he gains purity of heart and achieves ultimate liberation. The ultimate aim of Gita is, in a word, the attainment of the Highest good, characterized by the complete cessation of relative existence and its cause. One must learn to give up lust, anger, greed & establish mastery over the six senses (hearing, touch, sight, taste, smell & mind) ; and also keep in mind that all works are done by energy of nature and he/she is not the doer but only an instrument. One must strive for excellence in all undertakings but maintain equanimity in success & failure, gain & loss, and pain & pleasure. Even if success does not come to our life, a little attempt will lead us one- step further towards the divine life. The Bhagwad Gita is universally renowned as jewel of world's spiritual wisdom. It has ignited a spiritual revolution for thousands of years which is still burning. The Gita is not originated with any specific 'ism' or belief, in view e.g. Dvaita, Advaita, Vishishadvaita, Dvaitadvaita, Vishuddhadvaita, Achintya-Bhedabhedha, nor any cult, creed or doctrine. Its supreme objective is that man's salvation must be ensured in any circumstances.

(The author is a Technocrat and Educationist).

PROGRESSING J&K
Rolling out of A3P to make J&K self-sufficient, boost pulses' export

In order to make Jammu and Kashmir self sufficient and subsequent boost pulses export, Department of Agriculture recently rolled out Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P). A senior official of the department informed that the scheme would come up as biggest contributor of pulses in the country which otherwise has become heavily dependent on outside states and countries for its pulses requirements. J&K has huge pulses requirement and dependency on outside states is more and the A3P scheme will not only make J&K self-sufficient in terms of pulses, but will also help the UT to become a major exporter of the pulses production for national and international markets. The move would help to improve the production level of pulses in J&K and subsequently help in doubling the economy of farmers.

The official said that outside J&K, pulses have a good market and J&K fortunately can give satisfactory production of pulses than national level due to its good weather conditions. He added that J&K has more opportunities due to better weather conditions and better soil quality which can boost the several measures to accelerate the production of pulses. Notably, Bad-e-Nambal area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district never use any chemical fertilizer due to favorable soil for production and has distinction of producing a top variety of Rajma due to its fertile soil. 1 Kg Rajma produced in the area can fetch price of 5 Kg of rice.

According to a senior official in administration, the scheme is aimed to demonstrate plant nutrients and plant protection centric improved technologies and management practices in compact units of 1000 hectares each for five major pulse crops viz. Bengal gram, Black gram (Urd-bean), Red gram (Arhar), Green gram (Moong-bean) and Lentil (Masur). The scheme is funded by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and implemented under the NFSM-Pulses. The official added it has been conceptualized to take up the active propagation of key technologies such as Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The Department of Agriculture Cooperation and farmer welfare is implementing this program through Commissioners/Directors of Agriculture of pulse producing states, and the Central Government Institute of ICAR-NCIPM.

Who was at fault...?

education to his sons by dint of his available resources during the period of his active service. They studied in top most schools and colleges of the country. The father left no stone unturned to settle his sons in life and even facilitated them to have access to highly lucrative jobs leading to comfortable settlement in a foreign country of their choice. Subsequently he superannuated as Colonel from the Indian Army and settled in Lucknow with wife. The journey of life went on smoothly; both the boys entered into married life and got engrossed in their own families. Periodical visits to parents stopped with the passage of time. Telephonic contact too became irregular and one-sided as only parents used to make courtesy calls. Life was just moving on for parents in the hope that our siblings would sometimes visit to meet us in Lucknow but all in vain. Rightly said, "Time and tide wait for none." Mother could not reconcile with the changed behaviour of her progeny, so lovingly nursed and nurtured in the childhood. Struggling with a grim situation of hopelessness, she slipped into acute depression and kept on murmuring 'Mujhe Apne Beton Se Mila Hai, Unko Bulao'. Father tried his level-best through mobile contact to urge his dear ones to come to see their ailing mother for the purpose of fulfilling her last wish but in vain. In due course of time, the condition of mother gradually deteriorated with no hope of recovery. Her pampered sons kept on saying, too busy on account of extreme work pressure, relax, would come soon on normalization of work constraints which never happened. The terminally ill mother had no time to wait. Ultimately, on a fateful day she left for her heavenly abode. The desperate father communicated the sad news to foreign based sons. Accordingly, only younger son arrived for last rites. Struggling with pangs of departure of his beloved life partner; father just enquired from his younger son as to why your elder brother did not come to participate in the last journey of his mother who was deeply concerned about both of

Paying tributes to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services

The 19th August day is celebrated as World Humanitarian Day (WHD) in order to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. Martin Luther King a Civil Rights Activist has said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" This day brings attention to the millions of civilians affected by armed conflict every day. As humanitarian workers deliver aid, and medical workers treat the wounded and sick, they are directly targeted, treated as threats, and prevented from bringing relief and care to those in desperate need. These workers often battle violence, local diseases and hunger while attempting to save lives and provide relief to those most in need. Killings, kidnappings and attacks are daily risks in a world where 80% of humanitarian aid is being delivered to civilians caught up by conflict. On this day, it is imperative to remember thousands of humanitarian workers who are risking their lives to try to deliver assistance to those suffering the effects of terrible conflicts. The world should show zero tolerance to those in conflicts who flagrantly fail to respect and protect humanitarian workers in accordance with international humanitarian law. WHD is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit of people helping people. The day is dedicated to recognizing those who face danger and adversity to help others, regardless of whom they are and where they are. Despite all the money and aid that is being given for humanitarian relief, it is still estimated that one-third of all global humanitarian needs are not being met. By helping others, many people sacrifice their most precious possession: their life. World Humanitarian Day pays tribute to those who have perished in humanitarian service globally. Everyone can be a humanitarian. People affected by disasters are often the first to help their own communities following a disaster. Responding to emergencies is only one aspect of humanitarian work. For decades humanitarianism has captured and shaped the dreams of the populations of the global North, dreams of a better world, of a common humanity, of goodness, of solidarity, and of global healing. Attacks on humanitarian workers hinder the ability of people in desperate need to receive lifesaving assistance. WHO has a specific mandate to protect the human right to health, especially for people affected by humanitarian emergencies. Daniel D. Palmer a Founder of Chiropractic has rightly said "The most wonderful study of mankind is man. Relieving human suffering and diffusing universal knowledge is humanitarian." On World Humanitarian Day, let us honour the heroic aid workers who rush bravely to help people in need. It's a day to pay tribute to those who help the world's most vulnerable people and to redouble efforts to provide emergency aid to global victims of crises. Let us remember their sacrifices, and recognise the millions of people who count on humanitarian workers for their very survival. Let us honour the fallen by protecting those who carry on their work - and supporting humanitarian relief operations worldwide.