


ORGANIC POTENTIAL

In a move towards harnessing export potential of naturally grown, organic certified fresh pineapples of North-Eastern Region (NER), centre, through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organized an in-store export promotion programme in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) for Manipur's pineapples among consumers. The 'in-store promotion show' of organic certified fibre rich Kwe variety of pineapples from Manipur, was organized at the Lulu hyper market, Dubai's largest super-market in association with Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) of Government of Manipur. This event is part of government's strategy to promote locally produced agricultural products in the international markets. The Manipur pineapple, which is showcased with the support from APEDA, is fibre-rich sweetener from North Eastern Region (NER). The showcased pineapples are procured from Thayong Organic Producer Company Ltd in Imphal East district, Manipur. At the in-store export promotion show, consumers were offered Manipur pineapple to taste the sweetness of the fruit. Northeast pineapple is one of the most important tropical fruits grown in the NER and the fibre-rich fruit is cultivated in almost all the region. With a production of 134.82 metric tonne (MT) in 2020-21, Manipur ranks sixth in pineapple production having a share of 7.46 per cent in total production in India. The top ten importing countries of Indian pineapples are UAE, Nepal, Qatar, Maldives, USA, Bhutan, Belgium, Iran, Bahrain and Oman. A quantity of 7665.42 MT of pineapples valued at USD 4.45 million was exported in the year 2021-22. With the intervention of APEDA, there has been a significant increase in the export of agricultural produce from NE states like Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya in the last few years. Besides pineapple, the APEDA has also decided to take forward the promotion of other locally grown unique horticultural products from Manipur to the international market. The other unique products from Manipur are tamenglong orange, kachai lemon, black rice, etc. Tripura was the first North Eastern state to export its 'queen' variety of pineapple to Dubai and Doha in 2018. Tripura's pineapple was also exported to Bangladesh in 2020. Assam also made a debut in pineapple export to Dubai in 2019. The NE region witnessed an 85.34 percent growth in the export of agricultural products in the last six years as it increased from USD 2.52 million in 2016-17 to USD 17.2 million in 2021-22. The major destination of export has been Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Middle East, the UK and Europe. In the last three years, APEDA organised 136 capacity building programmes on export awareness across the different parts of NER. Highest, 62 capacity building programmes were held in NER in 2019-20, while 21 in 2020-21 and 53 such programmes were organised by APEDA in the year 2021-22. Apart from capacity building initiatives, APEDA facilitated 22 International Buyer-Seller Meets as well as trade fairs in NER in the last three years.



OFF 'D' CUFF

The True Messiah

As per natural phenomenon, man has to link his soul with God, and his body with the physical world. The mind wanders wherever the eye goes. God being invisible to the naked eye, man readily links his mind with the mundane world in the name of worshipping God. With this short-circuiting, religion, like the white light of heavens, breaks into many coloured fragments and loses its gravity. Instead of uniting, it becomes a major dividing force.

Apostles, scholars, scientists, sociologists and philosophers, all agree that God is one and that man's first duty is to realise Him. If man loses faith in God, he loses faith in himself. It spells crisis of character, resulting in shocking crash of human values followed by chaos and widespread violence. Only a Messiah, true master, can redeem the weary world!

When a child is born, he ipso facto gets a right in the parental property. Spiritually, he gets a right to God realisation, an opportunity to attain salvation during his lifetime. Ironically, our lifespan is totally uncertain. Saint Kabir says Kabir nagara kooch ka baajat hai din raat — 'that day and night, every breath sounds like a bugle, cautioning man of approaching death.' But caught in the cobweb of this mundane world, man chases willo'- the-wisps at the heavy cost of ignoring God-realisation.

It is often argued that just as all roads lead to Rome, all modes of worship lead to God. This comparison is very odd. Rome is a fixed place for which different roads can be followed to reach it. But God is not confined to any one fixed place. He is omnipresent and the whole world is stationed in Him. In Him we live, we move and exist. He is there even in a needle hole. It is the prerogative and jurisdiction of the living true master to reveal Nirankar, formless God to the seeker. True Master is also called sadhguru, brahmjnani and

-C L Gulati

You make the hay while I make the sun shine

■ MANMOHAN DHAR

Politics and Political power is now becoming the tool to execute the modus operandi for making the hay while the sun shines. Someone at the helm of affairs takes the charge of holding the sun to shine longer while someone close to him finds ways to make the hay. A collective and foolproof operational technique with almost zero or less loopholes to amass wealth by befooling the common man keeping him busy in enjoying the pleasure of freebies. This is a very delicate and fragile way of indulging in corruption and obviously needs some team work, education and cunningness for handling it with care. The one at the top plays the "Good Guy" while the one very close plays the "Bad Guy" in a shadow of pretence along with his flock of "Bad Sheep".

Not all politicians are corrupt. There are politicians who hold the values and ethos very high in their way of life. They think in terms of benefit to the needy and follow a clean path in their entire political career. But, some think the other way round. For them politics is the gateway to becoming wealthy because politics gives them a free ticket to indulge into corrupt practices at the cost of a common man. In order to get yourself a berth in the political world you can either start on your own or can just hold somebody's hand just to be a reason to pave your way to the desired goal. And sharp minded, cunning and greedy people who possess an endless lust for power and wealth, know how to start and whom to make their God father. So, what they do is start their campaign of corruption on the shoulders of someone who is popular and is respected in the society. Once they

succeed in making their place in the heart of some Apolitical Guru or an honest and sincere social activist, they start their journey of deceit and endless hunger for wealth. They know the journey can be long and hurdle some but the destination is going to be as per their wishes because they possess the required skill set needed to befool and loot the common man. Being a cunning, vicious and fail safe corrupt politician is beyond anybody's capability unless they are well versed with the basic education about the tricks of trade. You may have to even sacrifice your job as well. Because big ambitions warrant big sacrifices and you have to be ready for that. You have to even pledge publicly that you will never even enter the field of politics as it is dirty and not fit for a common man like you. You may even have to swear upon your children to make people believe that all you are doing is for the good of people and not for entering the politics. You can even go to the extent of showing your extreme apprehension that even if through your honest efforts you clear the chair off corrupt politicians you won't be sure as to whosoever sits on the chair after them, won't turn corrupt too. This element of " concern" will make you more credible among the masses. Once you feel all is set to hit the roads your first and foremost step towards this malicious campaign is "Agitation". Agitation path is the most handy tactics to go against the Govt. and that too when the agitation is spearheaded by a very reputed, established and popular social activist on your back. Another most important requirement happens to be "Fearlessness". You have to pretend to be bold and fearless. You have to dare calling the top leadership corrupt. You

have to make the people believe that whatever exposes you bring to the lime light are true and that everybody in the system is corrupt. You have to make the people believe that you are the common man and are not mad after luxuries of life. For that matter you may have even to sleep on newspaper pages on the roads in the open, shine or rain. Through your speeches and statements you have to assure people that you have caught the bluff of the administrative machinery and shall follow a legal path to bring them to book. You may have to even risk your life on account of some hunger strikes here and there so that the belief that you are building in the mind of a common man gets stronger and you are being looked at as the messiah of masses. A well wisher who can risk everything for the cause of a common man. And once the sympathy gained looks to be sufficient to set yourself on the actual voyage, you can very easily part ways with your mentor and Guru and just on the changed lines as per the hidden agenda you start preaching that unless you don't jump into the filth you cannot clean it up. And on this very plea you announce a political party of your own and enter the fray. Poor and innocent voters who got fooled vote for you to be their saviour. And, you come to power. This is where you kick start your journey towards a well planned and amply thought of agenda of entering the politics to be the actual players of the game which could change your fortunes for all generations to come. Once in, you will have to show some more patience and go through a phase of connecting your " sacrifices then" with "sacrifices now". Because initially you will have to make some more sacrifices with respect to your

mode of transport, living style and every luxury of life. Now, all you need is " A Hand". A trust worthy hand, a good friend who is artful, expert and masterful to manipulate and handle every financial skillfulness. A confident who can withstand the heat as and when there is a crisis. Who can always be at your beck and call. So, with everything in place your journey towards accomplishment is already on. Now it is here that your skills of pretending and impersonating have to be at their best. In the shadow of your cunningness and skillfulness you have to make the sun shine for longer so that the person at the job of making the hay gets ample time to execute his tricky plans to embezzle and misappropriate. A fool proof way of doing corruption. Not every one's cup of tea. Only focussed and learned politicians can dare to risk such dangerous practices on the basis of their mischievous and dangerous knowledge and education. But, all said and done, there is always another side of a coin. If on one side someone is deceiving the common man, there is bound to be someone to safeguard him. So, let it be known to all those whose only aim to enter politics is corruption, that a new era has begun in India and a drive against corruption is already in place. Someone has pledged to free his country from the clutches of corruption and nepotism. So, if caught don't pretend to be honest and don't even try to become more aggressive, blunt just to show that you are innocent. And for the sake of God, please don't play the victim card as your last resort, that too with ease. Because your days of dirty, ugly and corrupt politics are over: No room to make hay while the sun shines.

Teacher: A model for students

■ DR. VIKAS SHARMA

Without teachers, there is no lawyer, no doctor, no IAS officer, no researcher, and no astronaut. Teachers support us and guide us through our path towards a brighter future. In all over a world, the mother comes first as the teacher for her children. From every childhood, the children learn to speak from their mother. She is the great idol of her children. On the next, the teacher come in every student's life for teaching to them.

The students are deeply affected by the teacher's love and affection, his character, his competence, and his moral commitment. A popular teacher becomes a model for his students. The students try to follow their teacher in his manners, customs, etiquette, style of conversation and his get up. He is their ideal. He can lead them anywhere. Therefore, as a token of love, respect, regards, admiration, appreciation, and honor, Teacher's Day is celebrated across India and world. In our country, Teacher's Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who served as the first Vice President of India. "A nation comprises of the children way more than adults. The children are the future and the teachers are the ones who are getting them ready for their task. With optimum education, wisdom, exposure and resources, the teachers are building the nation for tomorrow brick by brick and the foundation is so solid that the nation will only grow upwards. Teaching as a profession is probably the most challenging because it combines all the other professions in order to help a child grow. One has to have good communication skills, managerial skills, reading and writing skills, storytelling skills, everything. The teachers have selflessly and courageously chosen the path where they will always be working for the mankind and for its good. Not everybody has the heart to do it. The leaders of today are getting the leaders of tomorrow ready". During their early education, the students tend to determine their aims in life and their future plans, in consultation with their teachers.

Teachers, therefore, have to play a cardinal role in the building up of the character of the next generation. It is a fact that a civilization cannot rise out of a skeleton of mere ideas and abstract concepts. Civilization finds a concrete shape in the practical behaviour of a nation, based on these principles and concepts. Once the practical aspect is gone, the civilization also disappears and can only be studied through its remnants preserved in museums and chronicles. This necessitates the provision of a learning atmosphere throbbing with life in our educational institutions through the presence of the teacher, with a view to infuse confidence in our students and to enable them to be proud of their culture, to respect their national character and national emblems, and to ornament themselves with societal conduct and morals. They should stand firm on the centuries old foundations of their cultural tradition and at the same time should establish standards of excellence in their academic performance. The essence of the teacher as a nation builder cannot be over-emphasized. Good teachers need to be themselves constantly seeking knowledge, be of good character, have high motivation and be creative, innovative and effective in the teaching strategies. The good deeds of teachers are great; because of them, we will grow to become knowledgeable people who will be of use to society, religion and our nation and country. Teachers are no less than an engineer or architect of our society as a whole. Teachers are the pillars of society. They are the building blocks of the nation's future. They inspire us to bring about the best in ourselves and serve the country. Teachers are one of the best trainers to complete the ambition of students' life by learning a good way. Teachers are only one who prepares the children to become great citizens of tomorrow. Chanakya has rightly stated, "Teacher is the maker of nation" So for the development of the country, it is very important to have good teachers and good teachers can be produced only if we have a good system of teacher education and dedicated and efficient teacher-edu-

cators. The teacher can be rightly called a nation builder. Teachers through their perseverance love and sacrifices have shown us the right path in which great men have built our nation. It is our dear teachers who mould our character, our personality and show us the right direction which leads us to our final destination. Flourishing national development and a society truly prosperous with knowledge all begins from its teachers. This is why everyone should put efforts into seeking as much knowledge as possible and appreciate the teacher's importance in guiding us and the generations to come, to become knowledgeable and morally upright people. The Knowledge received without a teacher's guidance can be compared to a blind man walking without his stick. Teacher is a maker of man and is foundation of all Education, and thus of the whole civilization of mankind, present and future. Therefore, the teacher is a representative of the society who inculcates moral precepts. In the development of a country, great attention has to be paid to education and learning, as well as good morals, and nobody is more suited to assist in this process than the humble teacher. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to quote "A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart." I, once again, extend my heartiest gratitude and respect to all the teachers who have helped in every step of our lives directly or indirectly. Thank you teachers for always being there for us, motivating us, and pushing us beyond our limits to relish the success. Teachers are the only ones who remembered throughout life. Everyone should do respect their teachers; it will be ideal for life. Today is the day to acknowledge each teacher of our lives. They taught us how to fight and stand once again when we fail. Without teachers, both knowledge and morals would suffer. The role of the teacher is a multifaceted one comprising academic, pedagogical and social roles.

(The author is President Teaching Association SKUAST-Jammu).

Celebrating Teachers' Day

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Every year 5th of September is celebrated as the teachers' day in India to honour and appreciate the contribution of teachers in developing the nation. On this day we express the gratitude and respect to our beloved teachers who selflessly work to build the future of millions of students. This day is a very special occasion especially for the students and teachers and is celebrated with a great joy and enthusiasm in the schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions across the country. The reason behind the celebration of teacher's day on 5th of September is the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the ex-President of India. The birth anniversary day of our earlier President has been dedicated to highlight the nobility of the teaching profession as well as contributions of our teachers in the society and country development. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a great personality who was highly devoted towards the education and is well known as the scholar, diplomat, Vice - President of India, President of India and most importantly the great teacher. Dr . Radhakrishnan was a great believer of education and was a renowned scholar. After his selection as the President of India in 1962, he was requested by the students to get permission to celebrate his birthday on 5th of September. He replied that, instead of celebrating 5th of September as his personal birthday, it would be better if it is dedicated to the whole teaching profession and 5th of September should be celebrated as teachers day across the nation to pay reverence to the teaching profession. After his statement, 5th of September is celebrated as the Teachers Day in India. He was highly devoted towards education and most importantly was a great teacher who spent around 40 years of his life in teaching

in the teaching profession. He started his career as the Philosophy teacher at the age of 21 in Presidency College, Chennai in 1909. He taught Philosophy in many famous universities in India and abroad like Kolkata, Chennai, Banaras, Oxford in London etc. He was committed towards the teaching profession and was also appointed as the Chairman of University Grants Commission in 1949. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was the Vice-President from 1952-1962 and President of India from 1962-1967. He was the first ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1949-1952. Indian Teacher's Day is dedicated to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a genius advocate of education and one of the greatest scholars and teachers of all times, apart from being the first Vice-President and the second President of India. As a mark of respect to this phenomenal teacher, his birthday is observed as the Teacher's Day across the national. He was a great educationist, philosopher and statesman. He interpreted India's philosophical and religious traditions to west. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born in Tiruttani, then in Andhra Pradesh and now in Tamil Nadu on 5th of September, 1888 in the poor Brahmin family. After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 he was very instrumental in the Indian politics immediately. He was serving as a teacher before plunging in to politics and that is why the Teachers' Day is celebrated on his birthday. Teachers' Day is like an occasion and opportunity for the students in India to pay tribute and gratitude to their beloved teachers for their continuous, selfless and precious efforts in shaping the future of our society. Teachers are helpful to enrich the students with the knowledge with quality education among their students and continue this process without getting tired. Teachers are

very important in our life. Our country teachers never consider us less than their own children and teach us with full zeal and enthusiasm. We get inspiration and motivation from our teachers. With education they tell us how to keep knowledgeable, cool, calm and patience. They encourage us to make strenuous efforts to achieve our dreams and bring optimism in our life. A good teacher is like a candle who consumes itself to light the others. The true teacher always defends his students and inspires them for good deeds. On this day Best teachers' awards are given to the outstanding teachers. On this day, students present gifts and momentos to the teachers. Different functions are organized in the schools, colleges and universities on this special day and students present dance performances, dramas and various other activities to entertain their teachers. Students and teachers have a healthy interaction on this day. On this particular day, tribute is given to the teachers for their hard work and devotion throughout the year to educate the children. On this day, students wish their favourite teachers by giving them gifts, greeting cards, sweets, pen, diaries etc. Students also wish their favourite teachers by sending them audio messages, emails, video messages, written messages through face book, twitter etc. Some just wish orally to their teachers. Teachers play the significant role for the quality education and shaping the student's life. Teachers give us the future vision, knowledge, skills and experience. Teaching profession is a profession of great responsibility than many other jobs. Teaching has a great significance on the growth, development and well being of the students and society. Teachers are the only source of knowledge and skill in our society and they help us to develop confidence in ourselves. We also have

responsibilities towards our loyal teachers and we all need to be obedient to them. We all need to thank them for their selfless service to shape our lives. This day gives us an opportunity to spend a day for them. Teachers are said to be the future building blocks of the country as they shape the life of the students who are the future of the nation. Our teachers teach us not only our subject but also improve our personality by improving our traits, knowledge and skill. They encourage us to tackle the difficulties of life. Teachers are said to be the back bone of our society because they have immense contribution in building up our characters, shaping our future and help us to be ideal citizens of the country. Teachers are the pillars of any nation. They shape the destiny and future of their students. Teaching is the noblest profession in the world. Teachers have their precious contributions in our study as well as towards the society and the nation. Teachers are really the holders of knowledge through which they enlighten our lives. Our success is directly associated with our teachers. Our teachers keep their profession on priority and teach us even by facing different constraints in their lives. We hardly thank them for their priceless job. On Teachers Day we should recognize their hard work and say thank to them. Teachers always promote us to do every impossible thing possible with the devotion. Every year we should realize the necessity and value of our teachers and pay homage for their hard work. We should be grateful to our teachers. Teachers mould our mind towards the success. We should pledge to respect our teachers in our daily lives as without good teachers we all are incomplete.

(The writer is Sr. Scientist and Head of KVK Reasi SKUAST-J).

YOUR COLUMN

Inequality in 'National Income'

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your esteemed paper I like to highlight the inequality in 'National Income' in India that has taken center stage in public debate as the wealthiest people have seen their share of the economy soar relative to that of others. Inequalities have

been increasing recently to record levels. India is among the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and an affluent elite (World Inequality Report 2022). The bottom 50% has only 6% of the wealth, while the top 1% has 33% of the wealth. While the bottom half of India's population earned Rs 53,610 on an average, the top 10 percent earned 20 times higher, roughly Rs 11, 66,520. The richest 10 percent of the country owned 76 per cent of the total wealth, holding 57 per cent of the national income in 2021, while the

share of the bottom 50 per cent went down to 13 per cent. Wealth inequality is a major cause of unequal living standards As India is home to about 18 percent of people in the world; this is clearly a matter of urgent concern. Public sector has suffered big setbacks, almost an onslaught, with a rapid trend towards privatization linked to benefiting leading business interests. Hence a review of these disturbing trends is urgently needed.

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