


NURTURING THE TALENT

Any individual can possess talent of any type in any aspect, as per his choice or interests. Some are interested in various Art forms while there are many who have the capacity to excel in sports for bringing laurels to nation. It is not that one can achieve success and reach pinnacles of success only through academics as there are several other fields in which an individual can earn name and fame. The only requirement is to provide adequate platform for nurturing these talents, so that they can be guided in the right direction. The ruling Government has always tried to take every possible step for nurturing the budding talent in every field, by ensuring provision of all necessary facilities and opportunities to them, in every field. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has today opened entries for '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow'. The segment is an annual platform at the International Film Festival of India held in Goa, to identify, encourage and nurture young creative talents from across various aspects of film-making. The initiative is in its second year, having been launched in 2021 to mark the 75th year of India's independence as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. The number of filmmakers being recognised is symbolic of the years of Indian Independence. It is envisioned that in the coming years the number of youths participating in Creative Minds will increase by one to keep the spirit of the endeavour alive. The 75 creative minds will be shortlisted and selected on the basis of their submissions by an eminent jury, under the aegis of the National Film Development Corporation ahead of the 53rd edition of International Film Festival of India. This program identifies young budding film makers and provides them a platform to interact and learn from national as well as international film makers during the period of IFFI, Goa. This is a one-of-a-kind platform, with the largest gathering of young creative minds being selected through a competition at any premier film festival the world over; it was conceptualised in 2021 by Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports to provide a platform and connect young talent with the masters of industry from the media and entertainment sector.

During festival event in Goa, the selected '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' will also attend workshops and sessions especially curated by the masters of cinema. Further, each team will take part in a group competition to make a short film in 53 hours. The themes of the short film will be based on the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav wherein the teams will showcase their idea of India@100. The selected creative minds will be made part of seven teams in consultation with Shorts TV, the programming partner of this initiative. The films produced by the seven teams will have a theatrical screening on 24th November 2022 at IFFI following by an award ceremony to celebrate the winning Film. All participants shall be recognised for participating in the competition challenge. The initiative also is another step in the direction of making India a content and post production hub for the world, by identifying, nurturing and up-skilling young talent and making them industry connected as well as ready. The initiative is nurturing as well as building an ecosystem of young filmmakers allowing them to network as well as collaborate from an early stage. The Ministry has planned to introduce productive interventions so that the participants can utilize this opportunity for gainful employment in the Media & Entertainment space.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Free Will Vs Destiny

Do humans have free will and choice or does determinism prevail in this world? When we look at this problem, we feel we have the freedom to choose what we like or deem suitable in our lives. But many instances and situations in our lives force us to realise how subdued are we by the circumstances. Naturally, we begin to wonder if we truly have the freedom to make choices in our lives.

Suppose, we want to open our locker protected by a password. There are two options. Either we receive an OTP sent by the controlling agency and enter the same to get access or enter a number of our choice previously set by us as the password. Lower level organisms are like those of us who opt for an OTP. They have to simply accept and key in the OTP received by them from the controlling agency to proceed further. The lives of lower level sentient beings are controlled by Nature. Their choice is limited to accepting what is given to them by the unseen power.

On the other hand, humans are like those who have the choice to enter the password set by themselves. This number, which could have been any number, was chosen by them in the past. At the time of choosing the password, the person has the freedom to choose any number. But once it is set, he is restricted by the choice he previously made. Similarly, when we begin a new chain of karma, the choices are unlimited. But owing to our propensities, which were the results of our past actions, we tend to make a particular choice.

This choice we make restricts our possible future options and we are forced to work in a particular way only, owing to our tendencies. Thus, our choices narrow down as we continue with our propensi-

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Teachers are in fact the human engineers and architects who are the builders of the nation as they build and mould the human personality and make humans fit for performing their roles in a democracy. Thus it is the teachers who modify the human behavior and so it can be safely said that the teachers are the human engineers and architects' who build the human personalities so that the citizens are prepared to man the important positions in the society .So it is the teachers alone who are the builders of the nation as they provide the society with the people who have all the required qualities and attributes which can contribute to the building of the vibrant and dynamic democracy. Therefore, it is the teachers who perform the complex job of building necessary personalities for the democracy and the country. The Teachers' day is celebrated every year on 5th of September which coincides with the birth anniversary of the great philosopher and politician late Dr Saravapalli Radha Krishnan who was the first Vice-President and second president of Independent India. He was an acclaimed teacher and a great thinker therefore the Teachers' day is celebrated to honour the memory of India's first Vice-President and to commemorate the importance of teachers in our lives. The day is dedicated to the teachers who are the builders of the nation and who mould the personalities of the pupil and transform them into worthy and responsible citizens of the democracy. The teachers are in fact the human engineers who do not build the buildings but build the personalities of the people and therefore it can be said with certainty that the teachers are the human engineers. The work and duty of the real teacher is difficult as the teachers have to deal with the human beings who are psychological and social beings & to deal with the humans and mould them into worthy citizens for the democracy is the function which no one else than a teacher can perform. Therefore, the teacher's job is not only a difficult but is very interesting also and those teachers are successful who are able to nurture and develop human personalities which are necessary for the working of a dynamic and successful democracy. The Teacher's day is

celebrated every year on 5th September with great fanfare and enthusiasm. Many functions and programmes are held on this day to remember and pay tribute to the best teacher and the second President of India Dr S. Radhakrishnan who had done excellent contribution in the education sector and to the teacher's upliftment in the society. On the occasion of teacher's day, functions are organized to throw light on the role of teachers who plays a vital role for the development of the human personality and for the development of the country. On 5th September the work of the teachers is appreciated and the best teachers are given awards to recognize their contribution. Many programs and functions are held throughout the country on the governmental and private levels to honour the best teachers. Therefore 5th September is the solemn occasion to appreciate and resolve to respect and revere the teaching community. In ancient India teachers were respected and revered by the society and the teacher's profession is a noble profession and the contribution of the teachers towards the development of the society and the nation cannot be exaggerated. It is the teacher alone who is able to modify the human behavior and provide the worthy citizens to the country who are in a position to work as the agents of progress and change. Not only this, it is the teacher who provides the responsible and worthy citizens for the successful working of the democracy. Therefore, the teachers' role is next to none in a country and especially in a democracy because the responsible and qualified citizens have to be provided to the country and this is the job which is done by the teaching community. So it is the bounden duty of all of us to respect and honor the teachers as the teacher's job is a noble one and his contribution to the building of an egalitarian society and for the nation building cannot be denied or overlooked. It is in the fitness of things to mention that S. Radhakrishnan was an Indian philosopher and politician who served as the second president of free India from 1962 to 1967 and first vice-president of India from 1952 to 1962. He was the second ambassador of India to Soviet Union from 1949 to 1952 and fourth vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

from 1939 to 1948. As an educationist, he was an advocate of edification and was a distinguished envoy, academician, and above all a great teacher. Despite all his achievements and contributions, Dr. Radhakrishnan remained a teacher throughout his life. Thus he was an acclaimed personality, a best teacher and philosopher who had done enough for the betterment of the teaching fraternity and therefore this day is celebrated in his honor and for respecting the teaching community. On this day we resolve to revere and respect the teachers as they are the builders of the nation. Unarguably, teaching is the most influential job in the world. Teachers are known to shape the mind of youth and without knowledge no one can exist in this world. Teacher imparts good values among children and turns them into responsible citizens. As the common adage goes, the future of a country lies in the hands of its children, and teachers, as mentors, can mould students into future leaders who shape the destiny of India. They play an important role in our lives in helping us become successful in career and business. They help us to become good human beings, a better member of society, and an ideal citizen of the country. Teachers should be respected and honoured. In India, on the eve of Teachers' Day, i.e. on 5th September, the National Teachers Awards are given to the meritorious teachers by the President of India. The awards are conferred as public gratitude to praiseworthy teachers working in primary schools, middle schools, and secondary schools. Even according to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Teaching is not a profession, a way of life". Teaching is not a profession but "Jeevan Dharm" (a way of life) and asked teachers to understand changes happening across the world so that they can prepare the new generation to face them. In fact, it is a divine responsibility to guide and enlighten the people. He also said that India should regain the status of 'Vishwaguru' (leader in education) by giving high respect to teachers whom he asked to encourage students to think critically about issues concerning the nation. Teacher's determination and sincerity will shape the destiny of the nation as they are laying the foundation and the building

blocks of the society. It is worthwhile to mention here that Teachers' Day is also celebrated to acknowledge the challenges, hardships, and special roles that teachers play in our lives. So, almost every country celebrates Teacher's Day and in India, we celebrate this day on the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

He was a man of many good qualities and a favorite teacher among students. It was his request that his birthday should be celebrated as an honorable day for all the teachers in the country, in case someone is wishing to celebrate his birthday at all. So, in a nutshell, we celebrate Teacher's Day because teachers have been the architects of the society and without them no society can walk in the path of progression. Moreover, a book written by Dr. Radhakrishnan titled "Political Thinkers of Modern India" in which he signified the importance of teachers and education in a country like Democratic India which was still in its early years of development. According to him, there is a huge role of teachers in nation building and for that sake teachers should be respected more. Apart from being a thinker and teacher he was also a philosopher. He once wrote a book on Bhaagwad Gita and there he defined a teacher as, "The one who emphasizes on presentation to converge different currents of thoughts to the same end". By the time he entered politics, most of the leaders of that time like Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, or Dr. Rajendra Prasad were his fans for this thinking in nation building.

His skills were proven in the arena of politics also. He had the political insight to recognize the impediments well in advance and also carried the required courage to scold party leaders for their procrastination and delinquency. Way back in 1947, he warned the former Congress people about the alarming consequences of nepotism and corruption. We are still dealing with it now! Such a man of course requires a standing ovation. So, to promote the values and principles of a true teacher, this day is celebrated. To conclude it can be said that the teacher is next to God and thus the teachers are worthy of respect and deserve it from the society.

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

Polluted Devika Clamoring Attention

■ J L BARU

As per Pauranic versions the marriage of Mata Parvati was solemnized with God Shiva at Chenani Sudh Mahadev. Immediately after entering into wedlock Maa Parvati became intolerant because of the presence of Ganga being the co-wife (Soutan). In a mood of annoyance Mata Parvati went underground leaving the household and thus Shiva was left with no option except to go in search and make her agree to return back. After a long chase, God Shiva saw Mata Parvati appearing at Udhampur; but when the Goddess observed God Shiva there she again went underground. Thus this hide and seek game continued at places like Jindrah, Sagoon etc. Finally she appeared at 5 km ahead of Purnamandal- "Indreshwar Dham". Here at "Indreshwar" God Shiva managed to convince Devi Parvati on the assurance that her status will be superior to Ganga in all respects. Devi Ganga will be treating Parvati as her elder sister. All the sinners of the world will be going to Ganga for washing away their sins but Devi Ganga for washing all those sins washed by the sinners will be going to her (Paarvati) every year. In Kaluga anybody taking bath or taking last breath on Devika river banks will attain salvation without performing any Japa or Tapa. On the assurances granted, Maata Parvati agreed to manifest in the form of a river namely Devika on the condition that wherever she moved God Shiva will accompany her on the river banks. Thus God Shiva appeared at eight locations along River Devika in the form of eight Shwet Lingas from Purnamandal to Utterbelni. Since Umapati Linga i.e. Purnamandal is most common among these eight lingas as such the whole area is called Umapati Kshetar with religious sanctity like that of Kashi/ Haridwar and as such called Chhota Kashi of North India. Purnamandal a place carrying such a Pauranic background with

undoubted religious sanctity is presently prone to undesired pollutions relating to air as well as water source. Devika Waters once considered as Ganga Jal generally taken to homes by devotees in bottles filled for use on all important occasions, stand today polluted to such an extent that anybody feels hesitant to even touch the same mainly because of performing cremations in the river bed amid Shiva Temple Complex and ages old heritage structures besides drainage of the used water of the locality to the water body. Untrue it may sound but a fact that despite imposition of complete ban on performing of death related rituals including cremations at undesignated locations in Devika River Bed, the same are continuing till date under the very nose of the District Administration as well as the local Police. Even the Panchayat Representative responsible for making "Swachh Bharat Mission" of the Prime Minister a success seem to be watching the whole show with eyes shut. As learnt, the verification/ monitoring of the quality of Devika waters as carried out by J&K Pollution Control Board now Committee reveals the quality of Devika waters as Class "B " with Colour as Odor; i.e. not up to mark mainly due to discharge of untreated sewage to the water body besides burning of solid waste being health hazardous to the public. Series of notices stand issued to the District Administration, Rural Development Department as well as the Surinars Mansar Development Authority by JKPCB but nothing on the ground. Pursuant to all what has been stated above, it is high time for the authorities to come out of the deep slumber and plug all loopholes encouraging pollutions, particularly the cremation of dead bodies beneath Shiva Temple Complex so that true value of Crores of Rupees being pumped today on developmental activities is realized in reality.

(The writer is a social-activist).

Everyone can be great...

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

In order to commemorate the anniversary of passing away of Mother Teresa 5th September is also celebrated as International Day of Charity. 'Charity begins at home', is the famous phrase which completely suits to those people who have forgotten the real preferences in their life like family, closed relatives, society, community or their own country. We all are aware that poverty persists in all countries regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, particularly in developing countries. Every year, charities all over the world help to save and improve people's lives, fighting disease, protecting children, and giving hope to many thousands of people. To honour the important work that these many charities do, in 2012 the United Nations decided to nominate an annual International Day of Charity as an official day of recognition and celebration. Charity is an attitude of kindness towards others especially suggesting generosity as it pertains the goods or money to the needy. The phrase 'Charity begins at home' is having a deep essence of life. A person who is willing to help others should first assure the wellness of his or her family members. First pri-

ority of a person should be always his or her family and friends, if they are not in well situation then the helping and kind nature towards others of that person is useless and unworthy. September 5 is the day as it commemorates the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa who worked tirelessly to overcome poverty, distress and suffering of the poorest in the world. To celebrate this special day every year, the work of different charities all over the world is publicised and celebrated, and people are encouraged to donate money and time, to carry out charitable works. Charity is not easy to practice. Man is by nature egotistical. Whatever is most unlike him naturally rouses his ill will. That is why there is so little of tolerance and so much of faultfinding in the world. A true person who is in favour of charity will always take care of his loved ones first and then help others physically or financially. Being polite, humble and generous to your family is the real meaning of charity begins at home. Good person has always left good impression on others and their good actions like charity are counted as noble act and an inspiration for others. Feeling of real charity means a soft desire of a person, who wants to offer something to the needy people, while meeting the needs of his family first. A country's primary responsibility is its own people. It can do good to the whole world only after it has met the requirements of its own people. If our society needs us and we are going to help people of other society or other city then our all the efforts are useless; for example, in current time most of the youth generation prefer to go foreign countries for job purpose in spite of doing service for their own country from where they got education. Such type of self-centred people need to understand the real meaning of Charity begins at home! Charity is important as it allows us to reach out into wider society, and help those that are in need of our support. One must be charitable to the whole world, because as Upanishads say, 'Udara Charitanam Tivasudhaiva Kutumbakam'; i.e., for those who're known as magnanimous, the entire world constitutes but a family. Helping others instead of taking care of your loved ones is just a nature of selfishness which requires to be improved. A true charitable person always helps others including understanding the need and demand of his family and friends too.

YOUR COLUMN

Listen to plea of PM package employees

Dear Editor,
The PM Package employees are protesting from the last 112 days for the fulfillment of their only and genuine demand of relocation/attachment to the Relief Commissioner's Migrant Office Jammu. Due to recent incidents of targeted killings and worsening security scenario in Kashmir valley, the PM package migrant employees feel very apprehensive about their safety and security as the situation is not conducive for their living and working in Kashmir. It has been seen that thousands of package employees fled the Kashmir valley and have migrated to Jammu in view of prevailing security situation of Kashmir. Since martyrdom of a

PM Package employee Rahul Bhat, the package employees are protesting peacefully under the banner of AMEAK and appealing to the Government to address their only and legitimate demand of relocation/shifting to Jammu division till the situation in Kashmir limps back to total normalcy. However, the agitating package employees are struggling for the 'Right of Life' and survival as guaranteed by Article-21 of Indian constitution. Moreover, Kashmiri Pandit package employees are caught between two stools as they are unable to decide between life and livelihood & their future seems to be bleak. It is high time now that the LG's administration should accept their only demand of relocation outside valley, so that they are saved from the mental trauma and agony.

Vivek Koul,
Gole Gupral, Jammu.

PROGRESSING J&K

Road connectivity in rural areas improved during last three years PMGSY-III yet another milestone for rural connectivity

People in Jammu and Kashmir are reaping the benefits of road connectivity which they were deprived of for past seventy years. The insensitivity of earlier regimes in road connectivity had deprived many areas of development and prosperity so and so that many hamlets in the Himalayan region were forbidden.

The road construction in Jammu and Kashmir picked up pace after 2019 with focused attention of the Government on major highways in three years and thereby travel time between major destinations across the Union Territory has reduced considerably.

During the last two years, road and tunnel infrastructure has been prioritized and around one lakh crore is being spent to build a robust road network. Last year, Jammu and Kashmir has set a new record of constructing 6,450 kms of road length and Jammu and Kashmir achieved third rank in the target of longest road length in the country.

Earlier, 6 Km of road length was constructed per day which has increased to 20 Km per day from last few years. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Jammu and Kashmir ranks fourth in the country.

In the last two years, a total of 169 bridges have been constructed to strengthen the transport system and in the last financial year, 7610 km of road length has been macadamized which used to be around 2500-3000 km previously.

Travel time between Jammu and Srinagar has been reduced from 12 hours to 7 hours.

In 2022, for the second consecutive year that J&K maintained its national ranking as J&K was once again ranked among top three performing states/UTs at the national level for construction of road length per year under the PMGSY.

Udhampur district bagged the top position at the national level for successfully implementing the PMGSY for 2020-21.

The district remained on top for constructing roads of 560.49 Km.

Currently under PMGSY, an average 9 Km road length is constructed per day, which is higher than the achievement for the year 2020-21.

Notably, the Union Ministry of Rural Development had sanctioned 3,347 schemes under the PMGSY-I to be executed in 12 phases envisaging construction of 18,432.79 km roads costing Rs 1,19,646.76 crore to provide connectivity to 2,148 habitations. Under the PMGSY-2, 107 schemes (704.55 km) have been sanctioned costing Rs 790.49 crore.

Last week the Union Ministry for Rural Development approved PMGSY-III for 1,276 km costing Rs 1,357 crore for J&K with an aim to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations for sustainable and inclusive growth.

There is no doubt in saying that the PMGSY-III is yet another milestone in the rural connectivity of J&K. The Central Government is supporting the efforts of J&K Government to improvise the rural infrastructure so that the connectivity can be enhanced and the rural population can get the benefits for ease of living.

J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh for granting approval to PMGSY-III and termed it as yet another milestone in the rural connectivity of J&K. "It will provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitats for sustainable and inclusive growth", he added.