

SAVE FUEL

Nature has gifted us many things. He created the world and our planet Earth. On earth, we humans undoubtedly depend on various things. We are also dependent on fuel. Fuel is something from which energy is produced.

We need various things to keep ourselves alive, the most important of which is food. We need fuel for cooking. Therefore, fuel is very important and its role is very important. For example, food acts like fuel in the human body. It gives energy to the human body as well as helps in maintaining the growth and life of human and animals.

Due to increasing population the demand for fuel is also increasing day by day. In view of the increasing need of fuel for the production of goods and other facilities alike, there is a need to find new means. Otherwise, the way we are using fuels unnecessarily, the day is not far when these natural fuels will be exhausted from the earth. And at the same time, the balance of nature will also deteriorate due to this.

Teacher And Teacher's Day

MOOL RAJ

Humans are social beings. Therefore society plays an important role in shaping our personality and career. Our society or any society for that matter is made up of relations. As we are born, we become part of our society and are introduced to many relations. For example, father, mother, brother, sister, friends etc. Maximum of the relations mentioned have a clear cut function. But there is one relation, which is a combination of all relations and that relation is a student-teacher relation.

Importance Of Teacher In Our Life

A new born child has an empty mind or we can say that his mind is a blank slate. Whatever a teacher teaches him, it becomes his/her personality. The primary aim of the teacher is to impart education. He/she tries his/her best to teach and impart education to students. He has to adjust according to the needs of the students and sometimes has to teach and perform with less or practically no resources. In order to maintain quality of education, a teacher has to prepare notes, do research etc. All in all he works very hard. Teachers are the real holder of knowledge, enlightenment and prosperity using which they nourish and prepare us for our life. They serve as source of lighting lamp in our lives. It is our teachers who stand behind our success. Our teachers too have lots of daily routine problems just like us and our parents but they always keep their teaching profession at top and attend schools or colleges to complete their job responsibilities. It is very difficult to write the importance of teachers in one's life because for maximum of us they are the whole world. Nobody say them thanks for their priceless job. So, we as students have some responsibility towards our teachers at least we can say them thanks once a year.

Importance Of Teacher's Day

Teachers' Day is of utmost importance. It is a day to respect and value the efforts of the teachers who work tirelessly all year round. Teachers' job is one of the toughest jobs in the world as they are given the responsibility to nurture young minds. They are given a class full of students. Each student is unique and has a different calibre. Some students may be good in Sports others could be Maths genius while others may show keen interest in English. A good teacher helps the students explore their interest and identify their capabilities. She/he encourages the students to hone their skills in the subjects or activities they are interested in and at the same time ensures they do not neglect other subjects or academics as a whole. We should realize the necessity and value of our teachers in our lives and celebrate Teachers' Day every year with great fervour to pay them homage for great job. Teacher's day is a great occasion for celebrating and enjoying the relationship between teachers and students. Now a day, it is celebrated with the big enthusiasm and joy in the schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions by both students and teachers. Teachers are given lots of wishes about long life from their students. In the modern time the celebration strategy of the teacher's day has been standard. Students become so happy at this day and plan for the way of wishing their favourite teachers. Some students wish their favourite teachers by giving them gifts, greeting cards, pen, diaries, etc. Some students wish their teachers by sending them audio messages, emails, video messages, written messages, through online chat, social media websites like Facebook, twitter, etc. Someone just say "Happy teacher's day" orally to wish.

I as a teacher

Basically being a teacher by profession - I feel emulated, enlightened, passionate and victorious being a teacher. When I became a teacher on March 1 1997, I could feel a sense of honour and privilege. Due to my passion, energy, perseverance and dedication towards teaching - the impact created have been huge.

Conclusion

We should realize the necessity and value of our teachers in our lives and celebrate Teachers' Day every year with great fervour to pay them homage for great job. Teachers are more than our parents who mold our mind towards success. They become happy and get their success in life only if their dedicated students go ahead and spread teachers name all over the world through his activities. We should follow all good lessons in our life taught by our teachers.

(The author is Environmental Science Lecturer from the Village Bhagota Doda).

RECRUDESCENCE OF COVID CASES

According to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday, India has logged in 403 fresh Covid cases. The recrudescence of Covid is concomitant of the vaccination drive put on halt. Complacency has set in probably all over the world on this dreadful disease which claimed heavy tolls in the second wave. Enthusiasm to administer vaccine has come down to zero level as if this dreaded disease has been totally wiped out. Children below 5 years have not been administered vaccine. Children are most susceptible for diseases because they come in close contact with each other in class rooms and they eat junk foods. Authorities all over the world seem to have forgotten that the children are the budding citizens who are the torch-bearers of the nations. It is poor consolation that the active cases have decreased to 4972 which is 0.1 per cent of the total infections whereas the recovery rate has been recorded at 98.80 per cent. Death toll has been put at 5,31,864 with addition of five deaths. The covid cases tally has been recorded at 4,49,89,744. As per ministry's website 220.66 crore doses of covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive. What has been done so far is undoubtedly a significant achievement. But giving jobs to the needy should be the continuing process. Covid has not been confined to a few pockets of a country. The whole world is the victim of the disease. It is the collective responsibility of all the nations to work for the total eradication of the disease. World Health Organization must take initiative in educating the nations to take the matter seriously. It must be a fight to finish. Deaths and disabilities on account of Covid are not only personal losses of the families concerned but they have already adversely affected the economy of the countries as a whole. Functions and programmes come to standstill. Free movement is obstructed. People violating the Covid protocol are faced with the problem of courting troubles from the police department. Vaccination drive must be resumed from where it has been left. Children have been neglected. Their safety is more important to the elderly family members. New crop of citizens including children must be given the jobs to prevent the spread of disease further.

K.V. Seetharamaiah

Primary Education System: Old and the NEP-2020

DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Under the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) in India, there have been a lot of changes to the education structure of primary education. It's important to note that the new policy emphasizes a flexible and holistic approach to education, so the specific implementation may vary across different states and regions which include.

a. Foundational Stage (Ages 3-8): Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for ages 3-6, with a play-based and activity-based approach to learning. Focus on developing cognitive, socio-emotional, and motor skills. Introduction to numeracy and literacy in an enjoyable manner. Multilingual and mother tongue-based education for a strong foundation.

b. Preparatory Stage (Ages 8-11): Grades 1-2: Focus on building foundational literacy and numeracy skills, along with experiential learning.

c. Grades 3: Intensive efforts to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy. Middle Stage (Ages 11-14)

d. Grades 4-5: Introduction of subjects like arts, crafts, vocational skills, sports, and more.

f. Holistic and multidisciplinary learning approach. Promotion of critical thinking, creativity, and analytical skills. No rigid separation of curricular, extracurricular, or co-curricular areas.

The NEP-2020 also encourages the use of technology for learning and emphasizes continuous and comprehensive assessment to gauge students' progress and understanding. The policy emphasizes flexibility and choice in subjects, allowing students to explore their interests and talents. It's important to mention here that NEP-2020 aims to shift away from a rigid and compartmentalized education system and encourages a more integrated and holistic approach. The policy envisions a system that promotes not only academic excellence but also the overall development of students' personalities, skills, and abilities.

Aims of primary education under NEP-2020

The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) outlines several key objectives for primary education in India. These objectives are designed to transform and improve the quality of primary education to ensure a strong foundation for lifelong learning and holistic develop-

ment which include:

a. Universal Access and Equity: Ensure that every child has access to high-quality primary education, regardless of their socio-economic background, gender, or location. The policy aims to bridge gaps in access and participation and reduce disparities in learning outcomes.

b. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy: Focus on foundational literacy and numeracy skills for all students by Grade 3. This includes a strong emphasis on improving reading, writing, and mathematical abilities in the early years of schooling.

c. Holistic Development: Promote holistic development by nurturing cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills of students. The primary education system should encourage creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and character-building.

d. Multilingualism and Mother Tongue: Encourage the use of students' mother tongues or local languages as the medium of instruction in the early years of education. This helps in better comprehension and foundational learning.

e. Experiential and Active Learning: Shift from rote learning to experiential and active learning methods. Focus on hands-on learning, projects, and activities that engage students and make learning more meaningful.

f. Integrated and Multidisciplinary Approach: Introduce a multidisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, breaking down the rigid separation between subjects. This allows students to explore and connect various disciplines, fostering a holistic understanding of knowledge.

g. Teacher Training and Professional Development: Provide continuous professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their pedagogical skills, subject knowledge, and understanding of child psychology.

h. Assessment Reforms: Revamp the assessment system to move away from high-stakes examinations and promote continuous and comprehensive evaluation. Assessment should focus on understanding and application of concepts rather than rote memorization.

i. Technology Integration: Integrate technology and digital tools into the teaching-learning process to enhance educational outcomes and provide stu-

dents with digital literacy skills.

j. Community Participation: Involve parents, local communities, and stakeholders in the education process to create a supportive and conducive learning environment.

k. Flexible Curriculum: Design a flexible curriculum that accommodates different learning styles and paces, allowing students to explore their interests and talents.

l. Inclusion and Special Needs Education: Ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities and special needs in mainstream primary education, providing them with appropriate support and accommodations. These objectives collectively aim to transform primary education in India to be more inclusive, learner-centric, and oriented towards nurturing well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the challenges of the future

Challenges in implementing NEP-2020 While the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) in India presents a comprehensive vision for transforming primary education, it also faces various challenges in its implementation which largely include:

a. Implementation at the Ground Level: Translating the policy's goals and principles into effective classroom practices and school operations can be challenging. Ensuring uniform implementation across diverse states and regions is a complex task.

b. Teacher Preparedness: The successful implementation of NEP-2020 relies heavily on teachers' ability to adapt to new pedagogical approaches, assessment methods, and curriculum changes. Adequate training and professional development for teachers are crucial.

c. Infrastructure and Resources: Many schools, especially in rural and remote areas, lack proper infrastructure, teaching materials, and technology necessary to support the implementation of a modern and holistic education system.

d. Assessment and Evaluation: Moving away from rote memorization and high-stakes exams to continuous and comprehensive assessment requires a shift in mindset and resources. Developing new assessment tools and strategies can be challenging.

e. Multilingual Education: While the policy encourages mother tongue-based education, there might be challenges in

developing appropriate teaching materials and resources in various regional languages.

f. Equity and Access: Ensuring equitable access to quality education across all socio-economic backgrounds, genders, and geographic locations remains a significant challenge. Addressing disparities in access and learning outcomes requires targeted efforts.

g. Community Participation: Engaging parents and local communities in the education process and encouraging their active participation can be challenging, particularly in areas with low levels of education and awareness.

h. Curricular Integration: Implementing a multidisciplinary and integrated curriculum might require a significant shift in teaching methodologies and coordination among subject teachers.

i. Teacher Workload and Incentives: Implementing new pedagogical approaches and active learning methods might increase the workload of teachers. Ensuring appropriate incentives and recognition for their efforts is crucial.

j. Special Needs Education: Inclusion of children with disabilities and special needs requires specialized training, resources, and support services that might not be readily available in all schools.

k. Digital Divide: While technology integration is emphasized, there might be challenges in providing equal access to digital tools and internet connectivity, especially in remote and underserved areas.

l. Change Management: Implementing such a comprehensive reform requires buy-in from various stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, parents, and students. Managing the change process and overcoming resistance can be difficult. It's important to note that addressing these challenges will require collaborative efforts among government agencies, educational institutions, communities, and other stakeholders.

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Manda Wildlife Sanctuary

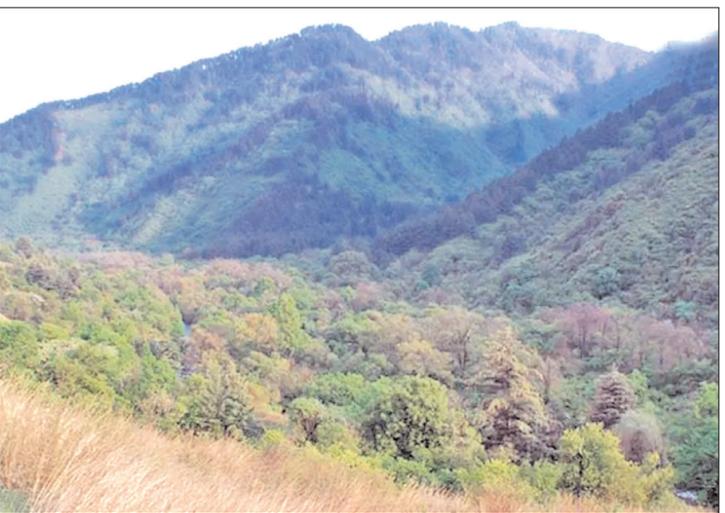
G.L. KHAJURIA

Very few cities are so fortunate as to have natural forests just literally at a stone's throw from the city center. Jammu city is one such fortunate to have an undulating sub-tropical forest named Manda. Kissing the National Highway, the sanctuary is a naturalists' delight.

Ever driven out to the wildlife sanctuary of Manda in the close proximity of the city of temples Jammu, One feels much akin to nature and its natural beings. At one point of time, not in the so remote past, a leopard was seen in wondrous nature, en route, Manda near Kar Nallah, which drains into the river Tawi.

With ever-exploding population, man's needs are ever increasing not just for his needs but more beyond greed's which are yielding a remorseful scenario. And strange enough, this piece of 'green gold' as we glimpse it today is well under the nose of every Jammite, least to talk of those who are at the helm of affairs, the wildlife department and the government at large. Though the department of wildlife is making all out efforts for the preservation and conservation of the green gold vis-à-vis the fauna which subsist therein, yet lot of funding is the dire demand of the day in boosting the entire scenario in its entirety and we all humans will have to imbibe that zest and zeal to bring up the historic piece of green gold conglomerated with a variety of kaleidoscopic wildlife of prominence to the mark of desired standardization.

In such a frizzled situation, nothing seems sentinel to the sensational scenario



of ghastly amplitude. Every one of us is well aware of the fact that by the turn of the day we are confronted with ever-mounting grave situation Viz. noise pollution, garbage menace, burning and charring of filth, mushrooming malls and many more of its allied and we are as such left with twin lungs, Manda and Mahamaya forests to refresh in the bee hours of morning and evening to inhale oxygen for sustenance. This golden sanctuary of Manda is the richest and abundant of the Himalaya golden eagles, the vultures, the Indian black partridges, the Himalayan

snow cocks, local cocks, the jungle fowls, jackals, the black neck cranes, doves, the war-headed goose, mongoose, duck, geese and swans, the beavers, chameleons, nightingale, Ladybirds, the spotted deer and not the least, Peacock-our national bird. And apart from the winged visitors, who flock in here with seasonal changes from across the greater part of the Himalayas for breeding etc.

There are as many as six protected Area Network (Wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks), amongst which, there is single park by name, "Kishtwar High Attitude

National Park" Covering an area around 425 sq kms and other five fall under wildlife sanctuary viz. Rannagar(Manda), Surinsar, Mansar, Nandini, trikuta wildlife sanctuaries.

Rannagar or Manda Wildlife sanctuary is having a coverage of 31.50 sq kms. Apart from these sanctuaries, there are three wildlife reserves in Jammu region. Insofar as Kashmir region is concerned, there are as many as nine wildlife sanctuaries of which Dachigam is in the top slot, having an area around 171.25 sq.kms with richest inhabitation of wildlife animal, birds and reptiles, hangul being the most prominent. In addition, there are 13 conservation reserves and nine wetlands areas.

Coming to Ladakh region, this part is encompassing as many as (12) protected areas and amongst those karakoram (Nubra) Wildlife sanctuary and Hemis high altitudinal National Parks are on the top-slot having areas around 5000.00 sq.kms and 4100 sq.kms respectively.

The Govt. should take all necessary steps to preserve the biotic diversity of Manda. Side by Side appropriate steps should be taken to promote it for ecotourism. A very welcome step, therefore, is to raise chain-link fencing of the height 6 feet and above and display of entry as well exit points and routes with least disturbance to the existing bio life and that way the spirit and sanctity of the Wildlife protection Act shall be carried out in full spirit and at the same time trekkers-will have the high time to enjoy the nature and its surrounds.

(The author is Former Dy. Conservator of Forest, J&K).

YOUR COLUMN Relief to Customers welcome

Dear Editor, The slashing of LPG price by Rs. 200/- by the Govt. has definitely come as a great relief to customers especially women. PM has decided to give out a gift on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. The move is surely going to ease the common man's life to certain extent, if not fully. This move is ascribed as wooing the voters before the election to five state assemblies this year and 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Whatever consideration, the Govt. might have in its mind; the crucial thing is that this has given some relief to the common man and middle class families. Any such relief coming to the common man is welcome and we expect that Govt. might consider slashing prices of LPG further to make it affordable to common man and middleclass families.

We need to understand that those in politics will always have eyes on electoral gains. Their actions and moves are primarily aimed at winning the hearts of people and veering them to vote for them at the time of hustling. This is a universal phenomena and applicable to all political parties whether in power or out of power. This is a big relief to consumers that must be hailed. If our common man is somewhat relieved from the scourge of price rise, it's certainly appreciable.

In case, everything goes on smoothly and the system of deciding prices of essential commodities on monthly

basis including LPG as well as petrol and diesel, then what issues would be left with political parties to woo voters at the time of elections? Thus, we need to be pragmatic and accept the reality of government functioning.

Is not opposition proposing to provide LPG Gas Cylinder at Rs. 500/- in case they return to power is a move aimed at wooing voters and bettering their prospects in the coming state or Parliamentary elections? Public welfare ought to be the priority of any Govt. as they are one hit the most owing to high prices of essential commodities of daily consumption/ use.

Ravi sharma, Dhariwal

Relevance of Teacher's Day

Dear Editor, Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5 to pay respect and tribute to the teachers of the nation who have contributed a lot towards the betterment of the society and by imparting education on us.

Teachers are reckoned as the backbone of the society who put all their efforts to shape the career of the students and help them become successful citizens of the country.

For the students, Teachers' Day is the most auspicious occasion where they get the opportunity to pay tribute, gratitude and reverence to their teachers for the extraordinary support and unselfish effort in shaping the career of the students and for enhancing the education system of the country with their unique learning processes.

A teacher is a friend, philosopher, and guide who holds our hand, opens our mind, and touches our heart. The contribution of a teacher cannot be ignored at all.

Teachers treat all students equally and take proper care of them and love them dearly as their own child. In real life, we usually owe them more than our parents. They play a crucial role in arousing the heart of all students and light it up with education and knowledge and help them in eliminating regret and ignorance.

Since children spend a lot of time in school in their formative and impressionable years, teachers wield a great influence on them.

In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated on September 5 to commemorate the birthday of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was a thinker, philosopher, academician, diplomat and above all, a great teacher.

Teachers' Day celebrations are meant to convey the message that we care for our teachers, just as they care for us.

On this day, students often dress up like their teachers and teach their juniors. Sometimes, teachers also sit in classrooms and act like students, reliving the time when they were students themselves. This creates a bond of understanding between teachers and students. It's not just on September 5 that we should remember our teachers but we should remember them all through the year for the role they play in moulding our career and our future.

Jubel.