

## Teachers' Day reminds importance of teachers in our lives

Imagine a world without teachers -- who would shape the minds of little children, help them, reach their full potential and fulfill their dreams if they didn't exist. Teachers' Day is not just a day of celebrations; it's a day to remind ourselves of the importance of teachers in our lives. It's a day to recognize their tireless commitment to education, their role in shaping the future and the positive impact they have on individuals and society as a whole. So, as the occasion approaches, let us take a moment to express our gratitude and celebrate the educators who inspire us every day. Every year on September 5th, the whole nation comes together to celebrate Teachers Day to recognize and acknowledge the contributions that teachers have made to society and the educational system. This annual occasion serves as a reminder of the importance of teachers in our lives and their invaluable contributions to the development of individuals and society as a whole. In addition, it provides a chance to honour Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a revered philosopher and educator who presided over India from 1962 to 1967. Finally, let's make the most of this day to thank the teachers who helped mould us and to motivate all educators to carry on with their amazing work. Remember that education is a lifelong trip that is made meaningful by the teachers who lead us on it. There is a saying that teachers are greater than the parents. Parents give birth to a child whereas teachers mould that child's personality and provide a bright future. Apart from academics, teachers stand by us at every step to guide, motivate and inspire us to become better humans.

## Celebrating Teachers Day: The Modern Teachers and Their Unspoken Struggles

■ BY DR. ASHAQ HUSSAIN

Modern teachers don't just impart knowledge; they light the way in the digital age, inspiring curiosity and creativity. Teachers' Day is a special occasion dedicated to honoring educators for their invaluable contributions to society. Celebrated on the 5th of September in India, this day holds great significance as it marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a renowned philosopher, scholar, and India's second President. Dr. Radhakrishnan's deep dedication to education and his transformative ideas about teaching continue to inspire educators across the nation. On this day, we not only pay homage to the memory of a visionary leader but also recognize the modern teachers who embody the spirit of teaching in a rapidly evolving world. Today, on this special day, it is essential to reflect on the changing landscape of education and how modern teaching skills are shaping the future of our students. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan once said, "Teachers should be the best minds in the country." His words underline the vital role teachers play in shaping the future of a nation. Dr. Radhakrishnan's emphasis on the role of teachers and their potential to inspire and guide students is as relevant today as it was in his time. Today, the field of education is constantly evolving due to advancements in technology, changes in societal norms, and the growing diversity of students. Additionally, modern teachers face an immense workload that often goes unnoticed. The demands of curriculum development, lesson planning, grading, and administrative tasks can leave teachers feeling overwhelmed and burnt out. With increasing class sizes and pressure to meet standardized testing requirements, the workload continues to mount, leaving teachers with limited time for personal and professional growth. But, to honor the spirit of Dr. Radhakrishnan, modern educators have adapted to these changes by embracing modern teaching skills to provide the best possible education to their students by advancements in technology, changing societal needs, and innovative pedagogical approaches, thus we find ourselves at the forefront of this shift, embracing new methodologies and adapting to the ever-evolving educational landscape.

Despite the importance of education, many teachers struggle with insufficient resources in their classrooms. Inadequate funding for teaching learning material often leads to outdated teaching aids, limited technology, and a lack of essential supplies. But still, modern teachers try their best to be resourceful and creative to provide quality education despite these limitations. Today, teachers utilize online platforms, multimedia resources, and interactive applications to make learning engaging and accessible. Virtual classrooms have become the norm, enabling educators to reach students worldwide, transcending geographical boundaries. Modern teachers understand that every student is unique, with different learning styles and paces. They strive to create personalized learning experiences that cater to individual needs, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject matter. This approach not only enhances student engagement but also promotes critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In today's knowledge-driven economy, creativity and innovation are highly prized. Modern teachers encourage students to think outside the box, explore their passions, and develop a creative mindset. They create an environment that nurtures curiosity, enabling students to become lifelong learners who continuously seek knowledge and innovation. The world is more interconnected than ever before, and modern teachers recognize the importance of global awareness. They incorporate global perspectives into their lessons, exposing students to diverse cultures, ideas, and issues. This broadens students' horizons, instilling empathy and a sense of responsibility towards global challenges. While academic knowledge is crucial, modern teachers also focus on nurturing essential soft skills like communication, teamwork, and emotional intelligence. These skills are vital for success in the modern workforce, and educators play a pivotal role in helping students develop them. So, everyone today knows and recognize that the spirit of teaching extends beyond the classroom and goes far beyond the mere transmission of information and as such teachers are essential contributors to society, yet they sometimes feel undervalued and unsupported. The lack of respect for the teaching profession is reflected in lower facilities compared to the education and experience required. Additionally, teachers may face criticism from parents, administrators, and policymakers, making it challenging to perform their duties effectively. Managing a classroom with diverse students and their unique needs is no easy feat. Many modern teachers encounter disruptive behavior, lack of discipline, and the increasing prevalence of mental health issues among students. Addressing these issues requires both patience and empathy, often without the necessary training or resources to do so effectively. At last, but not the least, Education policies, examination/evaluation patterns are changing frequently, affecting curriculum standards, evaluation criteria, and teaching methods. Teachers are often required and forced to adapt quickly to these changes, which disrupt their established teaching practices and lead to added stress and confusion.

On Teachers' Day, let everyone recognize the modern teachers who embody the evolving spirit of teaching by adapting to changing times, embracing technology, and inspiring students to become lifelong learners and responsible global citizens. As we honor their dedication and passion, let us remember that education is the cornerstone of progress and that modern teachers are the architects of our future. It's thus crucial for society, policymakers, and educational institutions to address their issues, provide support and resources, and ensure that teachers receive the respect and recognition they truly deserve. In doing so, we can help create a more nurturing and sustainable environment for both educators and students.

# EYE DONATION: THE GIFT OF SIGHT

■ DR NAZIA ANJUM

The cornea is a transparent, avascular, watch-glass-like structure that forms the anterior one-sixth of the human eye. The primary function of the human cornea is to act as a significant refracting medium and to focus the rays of light through the lens onto the retina. Corneal blindness is a group of conditions that changes the corneal transparency, leading to scarring. According to the World Health Organization, corneal diseases are among the leading causes of vision loss and blindness, following cataracts and glaucoma, among children and adults. The most common causes of corneal blindness in developing nations are corneal infections caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa, known as corneal ulcers. The other causes of corneal blindness include nutritional deficiency (vitamin A deficiency), inflammation, and genetic and degenerative diseases. The most frequent risk factors are eye trauma, contact lens wear, and unsupervised, over-the-counter use of topical steroids. These conditions cause disruption and damage to the cornea's structural integrity, eventually leading to blindness and decreased vision. Even if the diseases listed above are treated well, the residual scarring can lead to blindness. These corneal scars and opacities can be treated with corneal transplant procedures. The concept of corneal transplantation for treating blindness was first brought into vogue by Himly

in 1813. The first transplantation surgery was performed by Von Hippel in the year 1886 by replacing the cornea of a rabbit. Corneal transplants are one of the most commonly performed transplants of human tissue worldwide. These transplants have a reasonable success rate due to the avascular nature of the cornea. However, there is a significant backlog in retrieving donor corneas in our country, leading patients to suffer from blindness due to the non-availability of corneal tissue. One of the primary reasons for poor retrieval rates of donor eyes is the misconceptions and myths related to the topic. This article tries to bring about some facts related to eye donation.

Myth 1: The whole eye is donated and transplanted!

Fact 1: Only the anterior part of the eye, that is, the cornea, is retrieved during donation and transplanted to the recipient. The whole eye is not recovered from the donor, except in certain situations after obtaining the consent of the relatives.

Myth 2: Living persons can donate their eyes

Fact 2: The donation can be made only in cases of deceased people, but you can always pledge to donate while alive. Also, the eyes must be retrieved within 6 hours of the death

of a person.

Myth 3: Persons who donate the eyes will be born with empty sockets and facial disfigurement in the next birth!

Fact 3: According to scientific publications, this is not the case. Also, none of the religious scriptures mention statements like these.

Myth 4: Corneal donation by the aged, those with cataracts, and those who wear glasses are not worth it, as they have poor vision!

Fact 4: The corneas of old-aged donors or donors who used to wear glasses and have diabetes, are as helpful as a person with

perfect vision.

Myth 5: The donation process is lengthy and may delay the funeral!

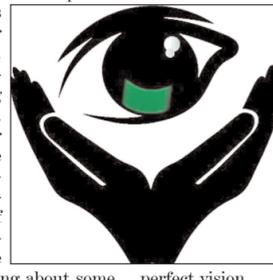
Fact 5: The process of retrieval of donor cornea will take 10-15 minutes and does not delay the funeral.

Myth 6: The donation of eyes will lead to the disfigurement of the deceased face!

Fact 6: The donation will not cause any facial disfigurement. The donor is treated with utmost dignity, and the lids are sutured so no bleeding or abnormality is evident.

Myth 7: The eyes donated may remain unused!

Fact 7: The donor eyes are preserved with utmost care in an eye bank and are used



within two weeks of the retrieval. Even the poorest of the donated tissue is used for research purposes.

Myth 8: The retrieved eyes may be sold!

Fact 8: The eyes are retrieved by a doctor and stored safely in an Eye Bank.

How can the eyes be donated?

The donor can pledge their eyes to an eye Bank while alive. Also, if the family decides to donate the eyes after the person has died, they should contact the nearest eye bank as soon as possible, as the retrieval must take place within six hours. Most eye banks have trained staff who can retrieve the donated eyes round the clock (24-hour call duty). No special room is required for retrieval. Anyone from the age of one year can donate the eye, and there is no maximum age limit.

Educating society about this noble act is the key to the success of any eye bank. This year, the national eye donation fortnight is being observed from 25th August to 8th September. The observance of the fortnight aims to create awareness about eye donation activities and to combat the menace of corneal blindness. To conclude, the need of the hour is to make people wiser about the eye donation protocols and motivate them to pledge to eye donation. Let us do our bit to enlighten the lives of the patients with corneal blindness, let us pledge to donate our eyes.

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# Mother Tongue Pogali and the Criticism

■ JUGESH SINGH THAKUR

Language is an indispensable vessel that carries the heritage, beliefs, and values of a culture. It serves as a mirror reflecting the unique worldview and historical journey of a community. Language acts as a bridge that connects individuals within a society, enabling the transmission of cultural norms, customs, and narratives across generations. The words, expressions, and idioms within a language often encapsulate deep-rooted traditions, rituals, and shared experiences that have shaped the culture over time. In essence, language is a dynamic force that not only reflects culture but also actively shapes it. Languages absorb impacts from encounters with different cultures as they evolve, resulting in linguistic borrowings and adaptations. This interaction results in a complex amalgam of cultural interchange that is retained within the language.

Language can also serve as a means of resistance and preservation. Language is frequently used by communities to fight external cultural influences and to protect their traditions from extinction. Efforts to revive endangered languages underline the importance of these languages in conserving distinct cultural heritages. To summarize, language shapes culture by serving as a reservoir of history, values, and collective experiences. It is the means by which culture is communicated, preserved, and evolved, promoting a sense of identity and belonging among those who speak it.

The mother tongue, a linguistic cradle nurturing our intellect, embodies our heritage and emotions. It's the conduit of culture, an eloquent vessel passing down wisdom through generations. Mother tongue, the language spoken by one's parents and ancestors, holds profound significance in shaping an individual's identity and cultural roots. It's more than just a means of communication; it's a vessel of heritage and belonging.

Firstly, mother tongue connects us to our family's history and traditions. It carries the stories, values, and wisdom passed down through generations. Speaking and understanding it nurtures a sense of continuity and shared experience.

Secondly, mother language plays an important role in sustaining cultural variety. Languages are collections of distinctive phrases, idioms, and ways of thinking that represents the diversity of various communities. When we appreciate our mother language, we contribute to the global culture mosaic.

Furthermore, mother tongue helps successful communication. It's the language in which emotions are most naturally conveyed, allowing for greater ties with loved ones. Proficiency in one's mother tongue improves cognitive ability and helps in the learning of other languages.

In the breathtakingly beautiful region of Jammu, nestled amidst the snow-capped peaks of the Pir Panjal Himalayas, lies a treasure more precious than any jewel: the Pogali language. Pogali or Pogli, is an Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in Ramban district of Jammu region, Jammu and Kashmir but it's coordinates are spread out in almost every corner of Jammu region beyond New Delhi, India. Pogali language nestles within the realm of languages of western Pahari group.

It is mother tongue to lakhs, Pogali is not just a means of communication; it's a living testament to the Area's rich history, culture, and identity. Pogali, with its roots dating back over thousands of years, has evolved through a fascinating journey. It's a member of the Dardic group of Indo-Aryan languages and boasts influences from Kashmiri, Sanskrit, Persian, we can call it as a fusion of languages. For the people of Pogal Paristan area, their language isn't just a means of communication; it's a bridge that connects them to their roots. Pogali is more than just words; it's

poetry, local Chans and ornamental traditions. The folk songs, called "Channa," echo the daily life and aspirations of the people.

Every person has immense devotion to his language. And this devotion arouses the emotions of every conscious human being. These sentiments can be helpful in checking each other's thoughts in writing or speaking and paving the way for mutual love. In order to meet the goal of the development and priority of each language, the writers consider it their duty to serve the language to bring the truth of the language to the public with the force of their pen, and slowly, slowly, all the stages of development. Pogali dialect is distinguished among the western Pahari dialects of Jammu province. This dialect is the common heritage of the Hindus and Muslims.

Criticism is part of human nature. It is this criticism that the ancient man started covering his body with leaves and slowly abandoned it and used the better material, skin. Used imagining less dreams and instead of living in caves, built a building that seems to kiss the sky. Criticism if it is criticism for welfare building can be beneficial otherwise it takes the shape of a slow hemotoxic venom which eventually clogs the functioning of heart and the head burdened over shoulders. If any aspect of development is mentioned, constructive criticism is necessary for it. In the same way different unhealthy ideas and speculations about the existence of Pogali language are floating in the market. The name has been around for centuries, how ignorant is it to criticize it jealously, to give favourable opinion about any aspect of existence enters the category of literature, where the ignorance can be unearthed. The idea of representing with other names is similar to calling white colour black.

It is true that Pogal Paristan was a part of the Kishtwar kingdom long ago. But it is also a fact that Pogal and Paristan was dignified as a Kingdom at different times, Pogali speakers migrated and settled in distant areas. In these areas, these people continued to promote the Pogali language by various means, by reciting poems and songs in the Pogali language and expressing their passion for the mother tongue Pogali. It is a matter of great fortune that great writers, poets, politicians and intellectuals of Pogali language were born in these areas.

It is impossible to name any of these reverent people. It was hoped that these people, with their high skills, would make a dent in the pogali language everywhere and work for the development and priority of the this language under one banner: But it is a matter of regret that a few people put on the lens of one's own charm, resilient and tried to cross this unity and devotion. An example of which was set by the Pogali language. The language that its speakers who live in different regions were strung like pearls in a single necklace. These few people tried to demarcate it over the streak plate. They used to wash their heads and criticize it's speakers with the word Pogali and tried to ornament many faces on one face they These few people take the reminiscence of Khash tribe and are endeavoring Pogali language with some different name. It is worth noting that ascribing the Pogali language to the name of the tribe is an admission of misrepresentation of history and is grossly unfair: Saying an unreal thing a million times can make it come true. On the basis of historical testimony, we can say that redressing any name to Pogali language, Pogali language will remain behind it, its body will be Pogali, its soul will remain Pogali, we have historical evidence cum research on this.

It is the dialect spoken in the middle of the streets and alleys, which linguist George Grierson made innocent of this name a century ago, he has mentioned the Pogli language in his book Linguistics Survey of India. Thomas Graham Bailey mentions

## YOUR COLUMN Simultaneous Elections

Dear Editor,  
In India, elections are almost a perennial feature. Every year, elections are held in one or two states or sometimes more. Holding elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies involves huge burden on country's exchequer running into crores of rupees. This all constitute non-productive expenditure. The idea of "one nation, one election" will enable ECI to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha as well as state reassemblies. This would certainly reduce expenditure on elections to a great extent besides saving time and avoiding frequent disruptions in country's development on account of implementation of Code of Conduct. Obviously, the country where millions of people still live below the poverty lines, many facing starvation, can't afford expending hundred of crores of rupees on elections.

The money saved could be utilised on welfare of poor and moralized people as well as on country's development. The idea primarily seems to be very robust considering it from the financial angle. However, there may be myriad challenges on the front of logistics, moving of EVM's and VVPAT'S, deployment of human resources as well as security concerns. Besides, will the voters be having clarity about issues and could make a right choice of their public representatives since state's and central elections issues differ. There would be other challenges of taking all the political parties on board, allaying their apprehensions of this present move being dangerous to democratic and federal structure of the country etc and convince them of the dire necessity of effecting these electoral

reforms. Providing level playing field to all political parties would be another challenge. The idea/ issue need constructive and thoughtful discussion in parliament, weighting all its pros and cons for the country, its people. Above all, the biggest challenge would be for the EC of India to ensure free and fair election in the simultaneous hustling in such a mammoth electoral exercise. Holding the expenditure on elections under check is definitely the need of the hour. Definitely, Challenges of synchronizing the Lok Sabha and Assemblies elections are umpteen, but let's see as to how things unfold in future. That would be watched anxiously by all citizens of the country.

Ravi Sharma, Dhariwal

## Role of Teachers

The birth day of Dr. Radhakrishnan, second President of India is celebrated as Teachers' day. A teacher is a sculptor who shapes his students into a beautiful icon. Every knowledgeable person cannot make a good teacher. Knowing is one thing and teaching is the other. A teacher trains the mind and a railway guard minds the train, goes the saying. A student starting from First Standard will be in a formative stage. That is the stage when a student can be moulded properly. If students do not get proper attention from the teachers, next only to parents, they swerve from right path. It is very difficult to resurrect the students who swerve from right path. There is a saying "a plant that cannot be bent cannot be bent when it grows into a tree". Phylip Wylie, an American writer of works ranging from pulp science fiction, mysteries, social diatribes and satire to ecology and the threat of nuclear holocaust, says "One good teacher in a lifetime may sometimes change a delinquent into a solid citizen". "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom", says Thomas Jefferson, an

American statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher, and Founding Father who served as the third President of the United States from 1801 to 1809. Really honesty and sincerity are the first chapter that a student has to begin with.

The onus of making a student honest and sincere in his life rests with a good teacher. To make it possible, a teacher should be sincere and honest. Once a man approaches a teacher who visited his village with a request to counsel his son to give up the habit of eating jaggery. The teacher takes 8 days time and asks the man to come with his son after 8 days. The teacher himself was addicted to the habit of eating jaggery. He took the time to give up the habit of eating jaggery by himself in the said 8 days. Later he advised the son of the man to give up the habit of eating jaggery.

Authority to advise others comes from the truthful life one leads. A teacher has to educate the heart. "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education, says Aristotle. One should pay heed to the advice of good teachers. Failing which it would be the beginning of the end of approach to correct path. An African proverb says "Ears that do not listen to advice accompany the head when it is chopped off". A good student with his good questions can make a good teacher to his teacher. If the teacher knows the answer, he will answer. If not, he will take time to go in search of answer before answering the student. Robert John Meehan says, "Your life as a teacher begins the day you realise that you are always a learner". It is literally true. A teacher need not be the only person who teaches in the class room. A good officer giving guidelines to his subordinates can also make a good teacher. First teacher in the life of any person is mother. And I am proud to be father of a teacher.

K.V. Seetharamalah