

## MOBILE MEDICAL PATROL

The Mobile Medical Patrol (MMP) is a transformative healthcare initiative aimed at enhancing medical access in remote, underserved, and rural areas. This innovative approach utilizes mobile clinics to deliver essential healthcare services directly to communities that lack consistent access to medical facilities. By overcoming geographical and infrastructural barriers, MMP plays a crucial role in improving public health outcomes, particularly in regions with limited healthcare infrastructure.

Mobile Medical Patrols typically consist of specially equipped vehicles, such as vans or buses, designed to function as fully operational medical clinics on wheels. These vehicles are outfitted with medical equipment, diagnostic tools, and essential supplies to provide a range of healthcare services. The services offered can include general health check-ups, immunizations, maternal and child health care, treatment of minor ailments, and preventive health education. The mobile clinic is equipped with diagnostic tools, treatment facilities, and necessary medications. Some advanced models may include telemedicine capabilities, allowing healthcare professionals to consult with specialists remotely. Each patrol is staffed by a team of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and technicians. Depending on the size and scope of the patrol, the team may also include pharmacists and administrative personnel. The mobile clinics follow a scheduled route, visiting designated areas on specific days. Communities are informed in advance of the clinic's arrival through local announcements, posters, and community leaders. MMPs often collaborate with local health authorities and organizations to ensure integration with existing health services. This coordination helps in managing patient referrals, follow-up care, and data collection. The primary benefit of Mobile Medical Patrols is the increased accessibility to healthcare services for populations living in remote or underserved areas. By bringing medical services directly to these communities, MMPs bridge the gap caused by the lack of nearby health facilities. MMPs play a crucial role in preventive care, including immunization campaigns, health screenings, and education on hygiene and disease prevention. Regular visits help in early detection and management of health issues, reducing the incidence of serious illnesses. In cases of natural disasters or emergencies, mobile clinics can provide immediate medical assistance and support to affected areas, often serving as a first line of response before permanent facilities can be established or restored.

By reaching marginalized and isolated communities, MMPs contribute to reducing healthcare disparities. They ensure that even the most remote populations receive quality medical care, which is vital for achieving overall health equity.

Ensuring the vehicle is operational and stocked with necessary supplies requires careful planning and maintenance. Additionally, navigating difficult terrains and adverse weather conditions can impact service delivery. Limited funding and resources can restrict the frequency and range of services provided by mobile clinics. Effective management and collaboration with stakeholders are essential to optimize resource use. Gaining trust and ensuring consistent participation from community members is crucial.

## India beats China in MSCI EM market index

India beats China in MSCI EM Market Index during September 2024, Morgan Stanley announced that the India had overtaken China in terms of its weighting in the MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (MSCI EM IMI). The weight of India in MSCI EM IMI stood at 22.27 per cent compared to 21.58 per cent of China. MSCI IMI consists of 3,355 stocks and includes large, mid and small cap companies. It captures stocks across 24 Emerging Markets countries and targets coverage of approximately 85% of the free float adjusted market capitalization in each country. While the main MSCI EM index (standard index) covers the large and midcap space, the IMI includes a more comprehensive range, encompassing large, mid, and small cap stocks. India's heavier weight vis-à-vis China in MSCI IMI stems from the greater small-cap weighting in its basket.

The rebalancing reflects broader market trends. While Chinese markets have struggled on the back of economic headwinds in China, India's markets have benefited from favorable macroeconomic conditions. In the recent past, India has posted a much superior equity market performance, driven by strong macroeconomic fundamentals of Indian economy as well as robust performance by Indian corporates. Further, the gains in Indian equity market have been broad based, reflected across large cap as well as mid-cap and small-cap indices. Key factors contributing to this positive trend include a 47% increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the early part of 2024, decreasing Brent crude prices, and substantial foreign portfolio investment (FPI) in Indian debt markets. Consequently, MSCI has been increasing relative weights of Indian stocks in its indices. This, apart from MSCI EM IMI, is also evident from the rise in weight of India coupled with the relative decline in the weight of China in MSCI EM Index. During Mar-24 to Aug-24, India's weightage in MSCI EM went up from 18% to 20%, while the weight of China has declined from 25.1% to 24.5% over the same period. Post this rejig in MSCI EM IMI, Indian equities could witness inflows of about 4 to 4.5 billion USD, according to analysts' estimate. In order to maintain its pace of desired investments for economic growth and development, India needs capital from both domestic and foreign sources. In this context, increase in weight of India in global EM indices gains positive significance. India overtakes China in MSCI EM IM Index During September 2024 , Morgan Stanley announced that India had overtaken China in terms of its weighting in the MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (MSCI EM IMI). India's weight was 22.27 per cent compared to China's 21.58 per cent . The MSCI IMI includes 3,355 stocks , covering large , mid- and small-cap companies. It covers stocks from 24 emerging market countries and represents approximately 85 percent of the ( free float adjusted) market available to investors in each country. Aims to cover capitalization. While the main MSCI EM index (standard index) includes large and mid-cap companies , the IMI is more comprehensive with large, mid and small-cap stocks. India has a higher weighting than China in the MSCI IMI , small-cap This is due to its higher loading capacity.Rebalancing reflects broader market trends. China's markets have been struggling due to adverse economic conditions in China , while India's markets have benefited from favorable macroeconomic conditions. In recent times , India has seen strong macroeconomic growth in the country's economy. The equity market has outperformed on the back of strong economic fundamentals as well as the stellar performance of Indian corporates. Moreover , the gains in the Indian equity market are broad-based , with large-caps as well as mid-caps and small-caps. This is also reflected in the indices. The key factors contributing to this positive trend include - a 47 per cent increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) by early 2024, a decline in crude oil prices and substantial foreign portfolio investments in Indian debt markets. Investment (FPI).

As a result , MSCI is increasing the relative weight of Indian stocks in its indices. Apart from the MSCI EM IMI , this fact is also evident in the relative decline in the weight of China as well as the increase in the weight of India in the MSCI EM Index. March-2024 During the period to August 2024, India's weight in MSCI EM increased from 18 per cent to 20 per cent , while China's weight declined from 25.1 per cent to 24.5 per cent during the same period.

According to analyst estimates , Indian equities may see inflows of about US\$4-4.5 billion following this change in the MSCI EM IMI. To maintain its pace of investment required for economic growth and development , India EM indices require capital from both domestic and foreign sources. In this context, the increase in India's weight in global EM indices has positive significance.



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

From the beginning of life on earth to the present, water has been the foremost pillar of continuous existence and development of the living world. In the future, the importance of water is remarkable for the socio-economic sustainable development of human beings, energy and food production, the entire environment and the existence of human beings themselves. As the world population is witnessing the fastest growth, water can be seen as a very important subject in densely populated areas of the world. It is vital for reducing the global burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations and could be seen as the primary source for the universal development of human beings.

History testifies that resource shortage has been the subject of many wars fought in the world. It would not be an exaggeration to say that in future the next war between the countries is for water. Even today, water disputes are seen between many countries. India is facing this issue both at the national and international levels. Whoever is understanding the importance of water today, believes that by properly conserving this resource, proper access to it should be ensured for all. This goal of water conservation can be achieved through the prevention of its pollutants, efficiency and improvement in the use of technology, reuse, reduction in exploitation etc.

Water is essential to our daily lives. Whenever water is used, there is a potential for conservation both inside and outside of your home or business. Fresh water is a limited resource, making water conservation an important factor for the environment. With population growth, expansion of industry, increasing levels of development activity, and the potential for climate change impacts there is increasing pressure placed on the province's water resources. Whether you are on a municipal or a private domestic water supply, water conservation is a wise practice.

The majority of indoor household water use comes from toilets, washing machines, baths, showers, faucets and leaks. Outdoor water usage for things like watering the grass, washing the driveway, and for recreational uses can also use significant amounts of water. What you can do to save water is fairly simple. There are numerous ways to decrease your water use and help conservation efforts:

Typically, water use increases in the summer as we try to meet water demand of lawns, vegetable gardens and flowers. Unlike most provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador uses more water in the winter months compared to the summer. This is mainly due to the risk of freezing water pipes during cold temperatures.

Water is one of the most essential natu-

## Water Conservation - Environment and Climate Change



ral resources for life on Earth. About 97% of the earth is surrounded by water with only 3% of this being fresh water, which can be used for consumption, agriculture and other usages. Water scarcity situation occurs when high rate of aggregate demand from all water-using sectors exceeds available supply, under the prevailing infrastructural conditions. From Cape Town to sub-Saharan Africa to Asia's teeming megacities, there's a global water crisis affecting millions of people. Water scarcity affects every continent and was listed in 2019 by the World Economic Forum as one of the largest global risks in terms of potential impact over the next decade.

As per UN estimates, globally, 844 million people lack access to clean water, rendering families and communities, locked in poverty for generations. Among this, women and children are worst affected - children because they are more vulnerable to diseases of dirty water and women and girls because they often bear the burden of carrying water for their families for an estimated 200 million hours each day. Recognizing the importance of addressing the global water crisis, The United Nations observes March 22, as the World Water Day every year.

India, the second most populous country in the world, has a diverse population that is three times the size of the United States but lives in one-third the physical area. The usage of water across various

sectors in India is on the rise, driven by a combination of population growth, socio-economic development and changing consumption patterns.

Geographically also, there is considerable variation within the country with respect to water availability. About 71 per cent of India's water resources are available to only 36 per cent of the area while the remaining 64 per cent has to make do with 29 per cent of available water (India's Water Future 2050; Verma&Phansalkar report). Irrigation perhaps the most important input in the agriculture production compared to all other key inputs like seed, fertiliser, etc. In fact, these inputs cease to realise their full benefit unless combined with irrigation. As with all countries with large agricultural output, excess water consumption for food production depletes the overall water table.

India has made massive improvements to both the availability and quality of municipal drinking water systems, however, due to increase in population and rapid growth in India's urban areas, water scarcity is a looming problem in most major cities across the country.

India's water demand is expected to continue increasing at a similar rate until 2050, accounting for an increase of 20 to 30% above the current level of water use. This can be attributed mainly due to rising demand in the industrial and domestic sectors. Moreover, as the overall popula-

tion is expected to reach 1.6 billion during the same time period, water scarcity situation, similarly, will further worsen in times to come. Therefore, sustainable management is essential to protect the water environment and to meet the increasing water demand in the future.

Many areas of India are fortunate to have a relatively wet climate, even in the most arid regions. In these areas, rainwater harvesting could be one solution for water collection. In India, rainwater harvesting has been in practice for more than 4000 years. It is basically a simple process of accumulating and storing of rainwater for drinking, irrigation, and water for livestock.

Rainwater harvesting and management hold tremendous potential for reducing rainwater runoff and reducing groundwater consumption, particularly in urban areas. These systems are acting as incredible support systems in many Indian cities by providing a superb alternative to the main water supply, especially during dry seasons.

Widespread installation of these systems is also revitalizing the natural properties of land, helping to improve the quality of groundwater, raising its level, and preventing wells and tube wells from drying up. Additionally, efficient deployment of rainwater harvesting systems is limiting surface runoff of water, which is reducing soil erosion, and increasing its fertility.

More or less all states in India, have made rainwater harvesting mandatory in government institutions, commercial complexes, and residential high-rises. Some of these laws have already come into effect, and others are soon to follow.

The Central Ministry for Drinking Water and Sanitation, in association with the Central Ground Water Board has prepared a conceptual document called the 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India'. The master plan envisages the construction of about 23 lakh rainwater harvesting structures in rural areas, and close to 88 lakh artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting installations in urban centres.

Conservation of water in the agricultural sector is essential since water is necessary for the growth of plants and crops. Only a part of the rainfall or irrigation water is taken up by plants, the rest percolates into the deep groundwater, or is lost by evaporation from the surface. In India's arid and semi-arid areas, the 'Tank System' is traditionally the backbone of agricultural production.

'Tank System' refers to large tanks are constructed either by bunding or by excavating the ground to collect rainwater, check water flow and accumulate the runoff. Simple techniques like these can be used to reduce demand of ground water for irrigation. Therefore, by improving the efficiency of water use, and by reducing its loss due to evaporation, agricultural water demand can be reduced.

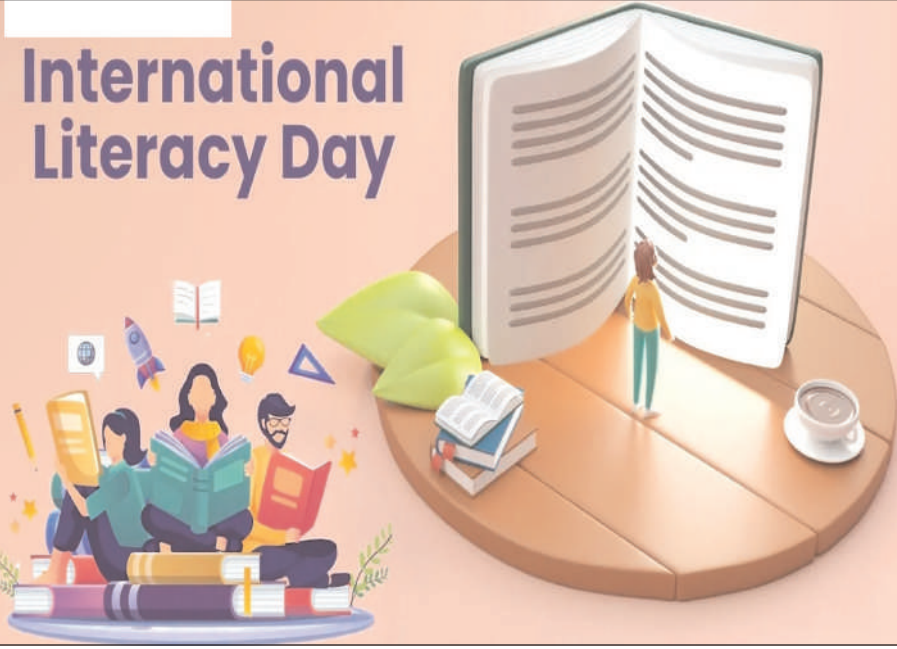
## International Literacy Day; Education for Mutual Understanding & Peace

■ DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

According to United Nations, Literacy is a basic human right. It is central to the creation of inclusive, sustainable and peaceful societies. Former President of United States Mr. Bill Clinton in 1994 had very aptly said that, 'Literacy is not a luxury; it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century, we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens.' The world today is focused on meeting the targets as envisaged in Sustainable Development Goals SDG 2030. The theme for the year 2024 gives us an opportunity to join efforts to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, especially SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 16 on Peace, justice and strong institutions. While doing so, it will also be ensured that the reciprocal relations between literacy and other areas of development get fulfilled.

Literacy is critical to economic development of a nation as well as well being of individual and community. A high literacy rate of a country gets reflected in various other human development indices. Literacy has traditionally been thought of as reading and writing, but it is more than that. What exactly is literacy? Miriam-Webster Dictionary defines literacy as 'the quality or state of being literate: educated...able to read and write.' It is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Alberta Education defines literacy as the ability, confidence and willingness to engage with language to acquire, construct and communicate meaning in all aspects of daily living. Literacy skills refer to all the skills needed for reading and writing. They include such things as awareness of the sounds of language, awareness of print, and the relationship between letters and sounds. Other literacy skills include vocabulary, spelling, and comprehension. Given the importance of literacy in creating just and fair societies, Sep. 08 every year is being celebrated as International Literacy Day all across the globe.

History of International Literacy Day (ILD): 'This world celebrates 'International Literacy Day' every year on September 8. This Day was declared as the International Literacy Day by United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



in its 14th General Conference which was held on October 26, 1966. Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.

Theme of ILD for 2024: This year this Global Day is celebrated with the theme 'Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace.' The theme very well emphasizes the importance of using multilingual education to foster mutual understanding, social cohesion, and peace. It highlights the cognitive, pedagogical, and socio-economic benefits of adopting a first language-based, multilingual approach to literacy development and education. The New Education Policy NEP 2020 has also placed multilingualism at the heart of its vision for inclusive education by advocating for a multilingual curriculum that incorporates mother tongue instruction, English and other Foreign Languages. The purpose of multilingual education programme is to develop appropriate cognitive and reasoning skills enabling children to operate equally in their native, state and national languages, starting in mother tongue with transition to second and third

languages.

Literacy Rate Statistics:

Globally countries like Luxembourg, Andorra, Green land, Uzbekistan have 100% literacy rate. The global literacy rate for all people aged 15 and above is 86.3%. If we see it gender wise, the male literacy rate is 90.0% and for females it is 82.7%. Burkina Faso with a literacy rate of 12.8% is the country with the lowest literacy rate in the world. Not just developing or under-developed countries but many developed countries are also facing the problem of illiteracy. China had a literacy rate of 99% for adult males while the same for women was 96% in the year 2022. India had an adult male literacy rate of 83% while women aged 15 and older had a total literacy rate of 69% in 2022. Kerala is the only state in India with 100% literacy rate. Bihar is the state with lowest literacy rate. The top ten states in India in terms of education are Kerala, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Haryana and Gujarat. The data by UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) states despite the steady rise in literacy over the past 50 years, there are still 754 millions illiterate adults around the world most of whom are women. Post independence the country has made remarkable progress in improving the literacy rate. The

Indian literacy rate has jumped from about 40% in 1940 to about 74% now. Literacy and Development: Many factors contribute to the development of a Nation and literacy is the most important of them. Literacy provides a platform to the individuals for their personal development only after which they can contribute towards the development of nation. Literacy is an essential tool for the empowerment of citizens. Literacy is directly related to development. When people will be more educated they will gain more knowledge and understand best things for them. The human capital will increase as a result the GDP of that country will increase. Literacy is the foundation of community and economic development. When everyone can read, whole communities thrive.

The Corona pandemic a few years back further deteriorated the literacy levels all over the globe. To contain the spread of the pandemic and given the highly infectious nature of the virus, many governments were forced to shut down their educational institutions. Schools were closed down in more than 190 countries. Studies reveal that it disrupted the education of 1.27 billion children and youth. It also affected 63 million primary and secondary teachers in about 165 countries. During Covid-19, in many countries, adult literacy programmes were absent in the initial education response plans, so the majority of adult literacy programmes that did exist were suspended with just a few courses continuing virtually, through TV and radio, or in open air spaces. But, the literacy cannot wait for anything.

The day reminds us of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and nations and also highlights the necessary requirements to help build more literate societies around the world. As the ILD 2024 is celebrated around the world, Let us make it platform for all of us including our teachers and adult literacy educators to reflect on and discuss how the multilingualism can be made a road to human progress and the means through which every man, women and child can contribute to mutual understanding and realizing peace all across the globe. The day also gives us an opportunity to come up with innovative and effective pedagogies and teaching methodologies that can be used in youth and adult literacy programmes to promote multilingualism.

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