

Embracing Swadeshi

In an era where globalisation has connected markets and societies across the world, the concept of Swadeshi-once the soul of India's freedom struggle-has regained relevance. More than just a slogan, Swadeshi today represents an economic and cultural philosophy aimed at strengthening the nation from within. As India strives to become a \$5 trillion economy and a global manufacturing hub, promoting Swadeshi goods and practices is not only patriotic but also practical.

Swadeshi, which literally means "of one's own country," was championed by Mahatma Gandhi as a means to break free from colonial economic domination. It empowered local artisans, revived indigenous industries, and created a sense of unity among the masses. Post-independence, however, the Swadeshi spirit gradually took a backseat as India opened its markets to foreign brands and products.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call for an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) echoes the very ethos of Swadeshi. It is not about isolating ourselves from the world, but about standing on our own feet and strengthening our domestic capabilities while engaging with the global economy on our terms.

Promoting Swadeshi means consciously choosing Indian-made products, supporting local farmers, MSMEs, artisans, and startups. It means valuing the labour and talent of our fellow citizens. When we buy a handloom saree instead of an imported fabric, or choose khadi over synthetic wear, we are directly contributing to livelihoods, preserving our cultural heritage, and reducing the import burden on our economy.

Swadeshi also has environmental and ethical advantages. Local products often have a smaller carbon footprint compared to imported goods, which are transported over long distances. Supporting domestic production also means better accountability, quality control, and ethical labour practices.

Consumers, too, must become more aware. Swadeshi cannot be a seasonal emotion but a daily habit. From the clothes we wear, to the food we eat, and the apps we use-every choice is a vote for or against self-reliance. It is time to stop seeing imported as superior and start recognising the power and potential of Indian products.

SWADESHI is not a regressive idea but a progressive movement rooted in self-respect and national development. It empowers our economy, safeguards our culture, and inspires innovation. As citizens, it is our collective responsibility to promote Swadeshi-not just as an economic choice, but as a moral and national duty. Only when we believe in our own strength can India truly become a global leader with a self-reliant soul.

■ DR. VIKAS SHARMA

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

The students are deeply affected by the teacher's love and affection, his character, his competence, and his moral commitment. A popular teacher becomes a model for his students. The students try to follow their teacher in his manners, customs, etiquette, style of conversation and his get up. He is their ideal. He can lead them anywhere.

Therefore, as a token of love, respect, regards, admiration, appreciation, and honor, Teacher's Day is celebrated across India and world. In our country, Teacher's Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who served as the first Vice President of India.

"A nation comprises of the children way more than adults. The children are the future and the teachers are the ones who are getting them ready for their task. With optimum education, wisdom, exposure and resources, the teachers are building the nation for tomorrow brick by brick and the foundation is so solid that the nation will only grow upwards. Teaching as a profession is probably the most challenging because it combines all the other

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, Giving Wings to Yuva Shakti

■ DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

India's growth story has always been written by its Shram Shakti-the millions of workers whose dedication and productivity have powered the nation's economy. The trajectory of India's economic progress has seen a remarkable arc over the past 11 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. From being the world's 10th largest economy in 2014, India today stands as the fourth largest economy globally. Bharat has carved out an enviable niche for itself in the global arena, and the strength of its human resource has had no small role to play in this journey.

Fueling this success story is the fact India's economic growth has been accompanied by an unprecedented expansion of employment. According to RBI-KLEMS, while only 2.9 crore jobs were created between 2004-2014, over 17 crore jobs were created in the decade that followed. Formalization has also accelerated, with EPFO data attesting to nearly eight crore jobs added in just the last seven years.

The real transformation, however, has been in social security coverage. In 2015, only 19% of Indians were covered under at least one social protection scheme. By 2025, that number has surged to 64.3%, reaching 94 crore beneficiaries, making India the second-largest social security system in the world. The International Labour Organization has acknowledged this achievement as one of the fastest expansions of coverage globally.

As we look ahead, it is clear that the future of the nation will be decided not only by the pace of GDP growth but also by the quality of jobs we create, the secu-

rity we extend to workers, and the opportunities we provide to our youth. Against a global backdrop of rising automation, uncertainties induced by Artificial Intelligence, supply-chain shifts and a host of other vulnerabilities shaping jobs worldwide, India stands at a demographic inflection point.

65% of our population is under 35 years of age, constituting a critical demographic dividend that gives our economy an edge as countries in the West reflect ageing populations. For years, India's demographic dividend-its Yuva Shakti-has been cited as its greatest strength. Yet, under earlier regimes, this potential remained underutilised. In Amrit Kaal, as we strive towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the task before us is clear: we must shift from "possibility" to "prosperity."

Employment, in this backdrop, is no longer just an economic indicator; it is the foundation of dignity, equality and national strength. It demands that we make our youth employable, integrate them into the formal economy, equip them with financial literacy, and ensure that they are protected by a robust social security net. Only then can our demographic advantage truly translate into a lasting national dividend.

It is to address this very challenge, and to bridge any gap between aspiration and opportunity, that the government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana. Initially put forth in the Union Budget 2024-25 and announced by the Prime Minister in his 12th Independence Day address, it represents a significant break from the past in both scale and design. With an outlay of

Teachers' Day-A Tribute to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

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

40 years of his life in teaching in the teaching profession. He started his career as the Philosophy teacher at the age of 21 in Presidency College, Chennai in 1909.He taught Philosophy in many famous universities in India and abroad like Kolkata, Chennai, Banaras, Oxford in London etc. He was committed towards the teaching profession and was also appointed as the Chairman of University Grants Commission in 1949.On this important day, Ex-President of India. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's was born on 5th of September,1888 at Tiruttani,Tamil Nadu. His birth day (1888-1975) is celebrated across the nation. He was the Vice- President from 1952-1962 and President of India from 1962-1967. He was the first ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1949-1952. Indian Teacher's Day is dedicated to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was a genius advocate of education and one of the greatest scholars and teachers of all times, apart from being the first Vice-President and the second President of India. As a mark of respect to this phenomenal teacher, his birthday is observed as the Teacher's Day across the national. He was a great educationist, philosopher and statesman. He interpreted India's philosophical and religious traditions to west. After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964 Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was very instrumental in the Indian politics immediately. He was serving as a teacher before plunging in to politics and that is why the Teachers' Day is celebrated on his birthday. Teachers' Day is like an occasion and opportunity for the students in India to pay tribute and gratitude to their teachers for their continuous, selfless and precious efforts in shaping the future of the nation. Teachers are helpful to enrich the students with the quality education in the country and continue this process without getting tired. Teachers are very important in our life. Our country teachers never consider us less than their own children and teach us with full zeal and enthusi-

asm. We get inspiration and motivation from our teachers. With education they tell us how to keep calm, cool and patience. They motivate us to make strenuous efforts to achieve our dreams and bring optimism in our life. A good teacher is like a candle who consumes itself to light the others. The true teacher always defends his students and inspires them.

Best teachers' awards are given on this day. On teacher's day, students give gifts and mementos to the teachers. Different functions are organized in the schools, colleges and universities on this special day and students present dance performances, dramas and various other activities to entertain their teachers. Students and teachers have a healthy interaction on this day. On this day, tribute is given to the teachers for their hard work and devotion throughout the year to educate the children. On this day some students wish their favourite teachers by giving them gifts, sweets, greeting cards, pen, diaries etc. Some students wish their favourite teachers by sending them audio messages, emails, video messages, written messages through face book, twitter etc. Some just wish orally to their teachers. Teachers play the pivotal role for the quality education and shaping the student's life. Teachers give us the proper vision, knowledge and experience. Teaching profession is a profession of great responsibility than many other jobs. Teaching has a great significance on the growth, development and well being of the students and nation. Teachers are the only source of knowledge and skill in our society and they help us to develop confidence in ourselves. We also have responsibilities towards our loyal teachers and we all need to be obedient to them. We all need to thank them for their selfless service to shape our lives. This day gives us an opportunity to spend a day for them. Teachers are said to be the future building blocks of the country as they shape the life of the students who are the

future of the nation. We hardly think for the role of the teachers and their contribution for the development of the society. Our teachers teach us not only our subject but also improve our personality by improving our knowledge and skill. They encourage us to tackle the difficulties of life.

Teachers are regarded as the guides and mentors who shape the character and future of their students.They the pillars of any nation.They not only provide academic instructions but also instil values such as discipline,dedication and truth in students. They shape the destiny of their students. Teaching is the noblest profession in the world. Teachers are said to be the back bone of our society because they have immense contribution in building up our characters, shaping our future and help us to be ideal citizens of the country. They have their precious contributions in our study as well as towards the society and the country. Teachers are really the holders of knowledge through which they enlighten our lives. Our success is directly associated with our teachers. Our teachers keep their profession on priority and teach us even by facing different problems in their lives. We hardly thank them for their priceless job. On Teachers Day we should recognize their hard work and say thank to them. Teachers always promote us to do every impossible thing possible with the hard work. Every year we should realize the necessity and value of our teachers and pay homage for their hard work. Teachers mould our mind towards the success. We should pledge to respect our teachers in our daily lives as without good teachers all are incomplete. We should be grateful to our teachers. On this special day ,I would like to thank all my teachers for their commitment, hardwork, patience and dedication. Let us all commit to respect and honour our teachers every day, not just on Teachers' Day.

(The writer is Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi SKUAST-J)

Let Us Honour a Teacher

■ SUNAINA MIR

It would be quite apt to label a teacher as a gardener. A gardener beautifies a garden by providing a safe, sheltered, and vigorous ambience to the plants. In a similar way, a teacher is also liable to foster a child for his overall development of body, mind, and soul.

As per physics law, an iron bar, in spite of having millions of electrons, is unable to conduct electricity unless and until it is connected by some external potential, because all these electrons move in random directions with zero resultant. In the same way, a society is unable to burgeon if it is devoid of teachers, because it is only a teacher who assembles the randomly moving thoughts of an innocent child and gives them one direction, one path. This path undoubtedly leads towards success and contentment in life.

To your revelation, this profession is one of the most ancient professions of the world. Almost in every age, man has fallen in dire need of a teacher. But there has arrived a drastic change in the mindset of our society at large regarding today's teachers.

Today's money-minded society has forgotten that teaching was the profession of Prophets. The private school mafia has turned this sacred job into a business of money-making. Different tuition centers, running across India, have reduced teachers into a commodity kept in the market for open auction. This atmosphere has formed a layer of insulation on the prudence of our students, which debars them from developing a sense of reverence and admiration for their teachers. In today's scenario, a student thinks that he or she can buy any teacher with money. In addition to this, there is a swift rise in the incidence of insolence towards teachers at the hands of students across the country.

On 8th July, 2015, students targeted a teacher outside the Senate Hall in Calcutta University. The Chancellor of the university expressed his concern over the worsening relations between teachers and students. In Kolkata, not even a single day passes without a teacher being assaulted. Even noted educationist Sunanda Sanyal said in an interview given to IANS: "What would be more unfortunate than seeing teachers being nothing but punching bags, whomsoever wants can punch and slap them?"

On the other hand, the government as well as society also hold only teachers guilty for spoiling the education standards of government schools. To your revelation, they are not the sole agency responsible for this. The following facts can prove it:

1. Government schools are crammed with the rejected lot of society. Students with sparkling minds are admitted in private schools by parents.
2. A government school teacher is not co-operated with by the parents of his students in making teaching-learning a successful process. The indifference of parents is the second biggest reason responsible for poor education standards.
3. A government school student is devoid of any definite base because there is no provision of admission in nursery classes in government schools.

Keeping in view the above-mentioned facts, I would appeal to the whole society to bless all teachers by following these blessings on the eve of Teacher's Day:

1. Four-sided criticism has lowered the confidence of a teacher. Build their poise by believing in them.
2. Admire teaching as a reputable profession and teachers as prominent and triumphant members of society.
3. A teacher should be given high esteem and first-rank salary, like in foreign countries where teachers are held in high regard and considered the most brilliant and blooming class of society. According to them, only a teacher can lay the foundation of a prosperous generation. This encouragement by government and society will enable them to prepare a generation that later brings revolution in the form of discoveries and inventions.

4. No doubt, the recent order of screening the degrees of Rehber Taleem teachers by the J&K Government is an appreciable step. But I am very apologetic to say that before teachers, the fake degree mafia must be put behind bars.
5. A teacher must not be dishonored in front of his or her students during checking of classes by high officials, because this would condense the deference of a teacher in the eyes of students and they would no longer abide by the teacher.

In the end, I would like to wish a happy Teacher's Day to all the teachers. May God facilitate them to recoup the vanished status of nobility, reverence, and high admiration in society.

