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TEACHER'S

PRIDE

A Reflection of the Bizzare Truth

Rs. 110

Ryan School in dock:

Who is responsible

for

the death of

6-yr-old

Divyansh?

Designed By-
Poyam Gupta



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The JNU is today a seething cauldron of political dramas following the police crackdown on the student leaders under the charges of sedition after they allegedly shouted slogans against India and in support of Parliament's attacker Afzal Guru recently. Since then the campus has been a theatre of political diatribes. Delhi Police arrested the university's students union president on charges of sedition and criminal conspiracy. The alleged anti-India slogans were reportedly raised during a protest march on the campus on February 9 against Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru's hanging.

The political practice in JNU has often been unique in its character. It has been a centre where the debates veer around to discussing the strengths and flaws of capitalism and socialism, the visions of nationalism, the necessity of individual freedom or empowering women's rights among others. Its culture of high level exchange of thoughts germinating from independent thinking and broad-based issues seems to be touching a new low.

One thing must be clear in every one's mind that nation is above every thing else, and in the pursuit of it, petty politics must never be allowed to compromise on national security, provide any kind of even silent support to any activity that undermines India's sovereignty or challenges any action taken after following the whole process of judicial system that is very complicated is tantamount to indulging in an act of sedition and treason with the nation in the garb of democratic freedom or fundamental right guaranteeing freedom of expression.

The BJP government's crackdown on those students, who shout slogans in support of the terrorists with placards pledging to complete the task Afzal Guru could not accomplish- to destroy India, is an act that any national government is supposed to take promptly.

The tragedy with the current generation of politicians is that their vision gets blinkered when they sense an opportunity to score political points over ruling party. They confuse politics with national integrity or national interests. They must learn to differentiate between the two and imbibe the virtue to stand united in the welfare of the larger interests of the state or the country. By behaving like what are they doing presently can only be construed that for them anti-BJPism comes first and nationalism later.



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CONTENTS



**CAUSING UNREST
EVEN AFTER
DEATH
PAGE-4**



**DEATH LESS
TRAUMATIC THAN
LIFE
PAGE-36**

MODI'S SKILL INDIA MISSION TAKES OFF
Page - 3

NATION FIRST, POLITICS LATER
Page - 4

HEALTHCARE ITSELF NEEDS TREATMENT!
Page - 6

EXAMINATION TIPS
Page - 8

MODI RAISING SKILLED FOOT SOLDIERS
Page - 9

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE REPUBLIC DAY ?
Page- 10

PARENT ANGLE TO NEW AGE SCHOOL
CULTURE
Page- 11

MODI'S MANTRA TO STAND UP & STARTUPS
Page - 15

A NATIONAL SANSKRIT BOARD IN OFFING!
Page - 20

PRACTICAL SKILL FOR SCENCE CONCEPTS
AT SCHOOL LEVEL
Page - 21

MODI BRINGS PAKISTAN ON ITS KNEE
Page - 23

INDIANS' DREAM TO STUDY IN US DIMS
Page - 25

KEJRIWAL LOOSES QUOTA BATTLE
Page - 27

A CORSE MAY CHANGE YOUR LIFE
Page - 31

RYAN'S DEATH OPENS UP A NEW CAN
OF WORMS
Page - 33

WHEN DEATH LOOKS BETTER THAN LIFE
Page- 36

JACKSON GETS GLOBAL RECOGNITION
Page - 40

SCHOOL TRANSCENDS TEXTBOOK
BOUNDARY
Page - 41

NATIONAL YOUTH CELEBRATION 2016
Page - 43

MODI'S SKILL INDIA MISSION TAKES OFF

DINESH KUMAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of turning a generation of Indian youths into a skilled work force seems to be taking a practical shape. Reiterating his resolve to make India a nation of maximum skilled man power at the ground level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed the Skill Development ministry to set up 7,000 new industrial training institutes (ITIs) within one year. This figure accounts for nearly half the number of all ITIs opened during last six decades in the country.

The government has an ambitious plan to achieve the goal of doubling its existing capacity. At present, the country has 13,105 ITIs, which train 1.86 million students in various skills like in electronics, fabrication and automobile industries among others.

Considering the fact that 65 per cent Indians are below 35 years of age, this move is sure to set up a mammoth pool of foot soldiers, especially for the manufacturing sector. Such a huge expansion of such institutes is critical to boost domestic manufacturing and provide jobs for millions of youngsters joining India's workforce every year.

According to sources, the target was fixed at a meeting between officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship in the fourth week of December. "But the skills ministry has to achieve it as it has come from the top," he said, requesting anonymity.

Keeping in mind the quantum of the target and the government's inability to open 7,000 institutes on its own, the skills ministry is exploring the possibility of wooing private players to open ITIs by providing soft loans, a ministry official confided. Apart from it, the ministry will also be trying to persuade big companies operating in their respective areas to adopt old ITIs or set up the new ones. If the soft loan

proposal takes final shape, the ministry may get higher funds in the Union budget. In the previous budget, the ministry got Rs.1,500 crore but for an individual scheme called Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

The significance Modi attaches to the skill development programme is borne out by the fact that he has turned it into a mission and to complement this move created a separate ministry for it in April last year itself. Till then ITIs fell under the portfolio of Labour ministry. Skill development minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy though confirmed the development, but refused to divulge more than saying: "Looking at the skills mission, we have to do something different to achieve a huge target."

Sources in the ministry claimed that it was considered a big achievement when the ministry opened 1,150 institutes in 2015. According to a highly-placed official, the ministry has got into action and talks are already on with some private education providers under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for exploring the possibility of opening ITIs.

In fact, in the last four years, central government ministries and departments together missed the skill development target thrice – in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2014-15. This failure does not augur well for a country that aims to impart skills some 500 million people by 2022, the second government official cited above said.

The National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), which has been tabulating skill training outcomes for last four years, provides the data by which 21 departments and ministries trained 7.6 million people in 2014-15, as against a target of 10.5 million.

NATION FIRST, POLITICS LATER

DINESH KUMAR

The temple of learning has turned into a den of holigans. The country is simmering with dangerous discontent on the petty issue of campus politics ending with slognaring aimed at mocking the national sovereignty and spreading treason with the motherland. against a few students of the JNU lead by its president Kanhaiya kumar Kumar's arrest came after Home Minister Rajnath Singh declared: "If anyone raises anti-India slogans, tries to raise questions on the country's unity and integrity, they will not be spared. Stringent action will be taken against them." He admitted to have ordered the Delhi Police to take "strongest possible action" against those who were allegedly involved in the episode. The protest was staged even though the JNU administration had revoked permission.

Within hours after Home Minister Rajnath Singh denounced the raising of alleged anti-India slogans in JNU, the police swung into action and arrested JNU president Kanhaiya Kumar for sedition. This incident ignited a chain reaction of protest from different quarters.

The politicians started flocking to the JNU campus in solidarity of pro-afzal agitators. Home minister Rajnath Singh declared: "If anyone raises anti-India slogans, tries to raise questions on the country's unity and integrity, they will not be spared. Stringent action will be taken against them." He later admitted that he had ordered the Delhi Police to take "strongest possible action" against those who were allegedly involved in the episode.

Later, the university administration also debarred eight students from academic activities. Apart from Kumar and Khalid, the students who have been suspended include Anirban Bhattacharya, Ashutosh Kumar, Rama Naga, Anant Prakash,



Aishwarya Adhikari and Shweta Raj. Ashutosh Kumar, Naga, Prakash and Raj are members of the Left-backed All India Students' Association (AISA). However, Kanhaiya submitted before the court saying: "I dissociate myself from slogans that were shouted during the event. I have full faith in the Constitution of the country and I always say that Kashmir is an integral part of India,".

Meanwhile, the administration said the varsity was not a platform for activities that violate constitution after barring entry to outsiders. But one can't indulge in any act that is anti-national even by implication. In the recent case, it was a conscious attempt directed against the nation in favour of the separatists, who openly threaten to destroy India.

Newly appointed Vice-Chancellor Jagadesh Kumar said "While the JNU community upholds the right to free debate on campus,



the university strongly condemns its use as a platform for activities that violate the Constitution and the laws of the land. However, there could be aberrations where fringe sections misuse the freedom provided,". This culture of debate has not just produced some of the country's best-known political leaders from the Left like Prakash Karat or Sitaram Yechury but it also nurtured ideological leanings for the Hindutva

protagonists. Even the RSS mouthpiece Organiser's Editor Prafulla Ketkar is from the JNU and has an ABVP background. Sangh Pariwar's students wing ABVP has been office-bearers including presidents of the JNU student union. By what standard commemorating a terrorist called Afzal Guru, who was hanged for indulging in the most daring and obnoxious terrorist attack on Indian Parliament, is an innocent action taken by a handful of students under the influence of those who want to destroy our country?

It is shame on those who sympathise with such elements and are actively supporting the anti-national elements agitating against the charge of sedition having slapped on those who were lionising separatists and terrorist.

The politics is in top gear as major opposition parties working over time in mobilising their resources in support of the leftist brigades, who are spearheading the agitation against the police crackdown on agitators shouting anti-India slogans and commemorating Afzal Guru's hanging as *shahid divas* (day of 'martyrdom'). The political parties of all hues are engrossed in raking up student's sentiments and extract political mileage.

Be it the Left and its off shoots or Rahul Gandhi of the Congress and other minor groups, the cause is common- fomenting anti-government sentiments with the utter disregard of the fact that their actions are totally misconceived and misdirected in the pursuit of petty politics they are compromising national interest and integrity by default.

It is shocking to find our national leaders congregating at JNU and extending overt support to separatist activities and supporting the preachers of treachery with the soil.

HEALTHCARE ITSELF NEEDS TREATMENT!

POYAM GUPTA

The Indian health system is made of two-tier system that includes public and private hospitals mainly. Though the Ayurvedic healthcare system is getting stronger by the day and has succeeded in denting the bastions of allopathic medicines as traditional Indian system of alternative medicine, yet it retains its hegemony as health care provider.

Besides metros, there is no dearth of good doctors or the quality hospitals in country's almost all major cities. The private hospitals are to be found in good numbers even in the medium-sized urban centres or kesbas that promise a standard quality of medical care, but the scenario in the countryside is despicable. Moreover, the poor living in urban centres and doing manual jobs often fall victims to the quacks, better known as jhola-chhap doctors.

Publicly funded government hospitals provide basic care only. They often lack adequate infrastructure, callous staff and remain often very crowded. You need huge amount of patience while visiting a government hospital. Worse, most of the government hospital are often understaffed, which is why a family member has to be around the patient during the entire period of stay in the hospital. Though the cost of care is less at these government hospitals, the standard is inferior compared to private hospitals.

On the other hand the services of private hospitals and clinics are far better and technically advanced. Private hospitals are modern and well equipped, and the doctors are highly qualified and often trained abroad. The cost of medical care is very reasonable compared to other countries.

People from affluent background never opt

for government hospitals which are often to be found in a shambles and thus go for the private health cover, either independently or as an employee benefit. Similarly, the foreigners essentially head for a hi-tech private hospitals or call a doctor whose fees are exorbitant. The reason behind it is simple: the quality of treatment and care is far better than a state-run hospital. Rather, there cannot be a comparison between the two in all forms of medical care and facilities offered by the two.

Apart from hospitals - be it government run or the private luxurious ones fall an army of general practitioners dotting every nook and corner of the country. They run clinics or are engaged in private practices. The best way to find a doctor is to ask for recommendations from friends, co-workers or neighbours.

So far as the availability of the pharmacies are cornered all types of prescribed medicines and health care products are available in Indian market at a reasonable cost. Even one can get a medicine on a competitive prices at places around big government hospitals. This benefit can be availed through out the country. Doctors provide prescriptions for certain medications but some pharmacies do not always ask for them.

There are hundreds of medical facilities across the country. Your health insurance provider will normally provide details of the options in your locality. The India government website provides details and directories of a number of health care. Health insurance only covers hospitalisation and emergency costs. Other care must be upfront, but , even privately it is extremely reasonable compared to other countries.



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EXAMINATION TIPS

KISHORE DERE

Indian academic community will very soon witness a season of examinations. It will begin with the Secondary and Higher Secondary School Board Examinations. These are very critical junctures for pupils as well as parents and the society. The board examinations are crossroads to enable the students choose their career paths. So, dear students you have prepared throughout the year for the examination season, and now we are approaching the moment of truth, the day of the exam.

At this stage you have studied almost all that you can study to be 100% ready for the big day. You have been planning, revising and studying and so there is little more you can do, right? However hard you studied in the run up to exams, the most important work is yet to be done. Regardless of how much you have studied, it is possible that your exam performance may not reflect your hard work studying for hours on end. That is why we want to give you a few tips to optimise your performance on the day of the exam.

Tips to Remember for examination:

- 1] Wake up early so that you do not need to rush through having breakfast and getting ready.
- 2] Check the venue and time of the exam to make sure that you have not confused the day/time/venue.
- 3] Have a balanced breakfast and eat nothing risky (probably not the best day to have a super-hot curry!). Bananas are always a good option.
- 4] Before leaving home, check that you have everything that you will need – ID, stationery etc.
- 5] Head to the exam with plenty of time. A lot of unexpected events can happen on your way there and you do not want to be late!
- 6] If there are people around who are panicking, avoid them. They are not doing you any favour!

7] Go to the toilet before the exam starts. Exams can be quite long and there is no time to waste.

8] Remember to write your name, roll number, subject, subject code etc. on the exam paper. You would not believe how many people have forgotten to do it!

9] Read all the questions carefully before starting and quickly plan how much time to allocate to each.

10] Start answering the questions that you feel most confident about. There is no need to answer the questions in order.

11] Write answer to every new question on a separate page. Clearly mention the correct question number.

12] Write in a legible manner.

13] Leave enough margin on both sides of the answer book.

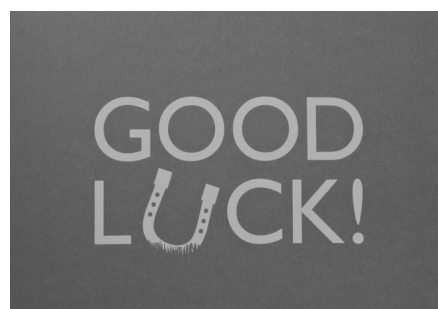
14] If your brain freezes, just start writing anything and you will soon start remembering more details.

15] Don't spend more time than you planned on a particular section/question or you might run out of time to answer other questions and gain those extra marks! Also, leave any questions that you are unsure about for the end.

16] Don't be afraid to ask the invigilator if you are not clear about a question.

17] Use every minute of the exam and if you have time left, review your answers before handing back the paper.

18] Stay calm, you have done your homework and have nothing to fear!



MODI RAISING SKILLED FOOT SOLDIERS

STAFF CORRESPONDANT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of turning a generation of Indian youths into an army of skilled work force seems to be taking a practical shape. Reiterating his resolve to make India a nation of maximum skilled man power at the ground level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed the Skill Development ministry to set up 7,000 new industrial training institutes (ITIs) within one year. This figure accounts for nearly half the number of all ITIs opened during last six decades in the country.

The government has an ambitious plan to achieve the goal of doubling its existing capacity. At present, the country has 13,105 ITIs, which train 1.86 million students in various skills like in electronics, fabrication and automobile industries among others. Considering the fact that 65 per cent Indians are below 35 years of age, this move is sure to set up a mammoth pool of foot soldiers, especially for the manufacturing sector. Such a huge expansion of such institutes is critical to boost domestic manufacturing and provide jobs for millions of youngsters joining India's workforce every year. According to sources, the target was fixed at a meeting between officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship in the fourth week of December. "But the skills ministry has to achieve it as it has come from the top," he said, requesting anonymity.

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respective areas to adopt old ITIs or set up the new ones. If the soft loan proposal takes final shape, the ministry may get higher funds in the Union budget. In the previous budget, the ministry got **Rs.1, 500 crore** but for an individual scheme called Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. The significance Modi attaches to the skill development programme is borne out by the fact that he has turned it into a mission and to complement this move created a separate ministry for it in April last year itself. Till then ITIs fell under the portfolio of Labour ministry. Skill development minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy though confirmed the development, but refused to divulge more than saying: "**Looking at the skills mission, we have to do something different to achieve a huge target.**"

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WHY DO WE CELEBRATE REPUBLIC DAY ?

KISHORE DERE

Although India obtained its independence from British colonial rule on 15 August 1947, it did not yet have a permanent constitution of its own; instead, it was based on the modified colonial Government of India Act 1935, and the country was a Dominion, with George VI as head of state and Earl Mountbatten as Governor General. On 29 August 1947, the Drafting Committee was appointed to draft a permanent constitution, with Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar as chairman. Unlike on Independence Day, Republic Day just celebrates the Constitution.

On January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India, drafted by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, came into force and replaced the Government of India Act, 1935, as the governing document of the country, completing the transition towards becoming a sovereign, democratic republic. The Constitution was passed on November 26, 1949. However, because the Indian National Congress had passed a resolution in 1930, fixing January 26 as the 'independence day', the Assembly, after passing the constitution, decided to wait till January 26, 1950, to bring it (the Constitution) into force.

This date was chosen as it was the anniversary of Purna Swaraj Day, which was held on January 26, 1930. Thus, 26 January 1950 was the first Republic Day. This year we celebrated the 67th Republic Day (or 66th anniversary of the Republic Day). It may be mentioned that the Preamble to Indian Constitution characterises India as sovereign socialist, secular and democratic republic, although 'socialist' and 'secular' were added to the Preamble in 1976 by the 42nd Amendment act during Emergency imposed by the government of the-then **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.**

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PARENT ANGLE TO NEW AGE SCHOOL CULTURE

SANDEEP KAUR

I am mother of a six year old and get to socialize with a lot of young others who constantly fuss over parenting decisions, hobby classes, hefty school fees, school boards (CBSE, IB or ICSE), school types (conventional, progressive or international), school practices, school co-curricular activities so on and so forth. While all of us might differ in our opinion about the afore mentioned aspects of school education for our children, yet there are certain common observations made by many- "The schools are not as good as the ones we had, "

The education system in the country has deteriorated ", "Our teachers were far more sincere and hard working than new age teachers". While the opinion of parents is valuable for the school administrators and educators, the validity of such negative proclamations about contemporary schools is questionable, as these seem nothing more than clichés.

In my opinion the education system has evolved a great deal from yesteryears. My son's school (he is a class prep student of Lotus

Valley International School, Gurgaon) terms the teaching methodology adopted by them as 'Progressive' and I have observed that their educational practices are geared towards building whole personalities. The programs undertaken by the school are in sync with the needs of the time. For instance, the school organizes 'MOWGLI GURUKUL' Classes to inculcate respect for all religions in the tiny tots.

During these classes, students are informed about the beliefs, symbols and practices of various religions. Inspiring stories about the life of saints, sages and gurus are discussed with the students. The school encourages kids to discuss facts about diverse sects with their parents, a colorful reinforcement sheet with brief description of the mowgli gurukul class discussion is also sent home. The enthusiasm with which my son talks about Gautam Buddha's love for animals, decorum to be followed in a Gurudwara and the exemplary friendship of Sudama and Lord Krishna, is heartening. It amazes me to see that only two interactive classes per week is all it takes to instill in



young ones the spirit of secularism, respect for every sect, understanding of the common thread that binds people of different religions, pride in the diversity of their nation and above all love for humanity. Mugging up the concept of 'Individual Differences and its Relevance for the Teacher' as a student of psychology many years ago and a student teacher more recently, I could never comprehend its practical implications. The reason could be my own school years. In the schools of our times, only privileged few (generally the academically sharp ones) got the taste of stage presentation or public speaking, rest of us were merely spectators.

The teachers rarely had the inclination to bring out the latent talent in us – the lesser mortals. But things have changed a lot in the modern age schools. Schools make conscious efforts to discover the potential and further hone the skills of each and every student. Julia Gabriel's 'EduDrama' classes are one of the methodologies employed by 'Lotus Valley International School' for this purpose.

The educators during the EduDrama classes use wide range of drama (improvisation, theatre, mime, puppetry, role-play, masks, story telling, reading aloud, dramatic poetry and creative writing) to engage and challenge children to express their ideas through speech, language, movement, art, writing and visual media.

Apart from sharpening the communication skills of the children, the classes like such imbibe key competencies including skill of team building, spirit of team work, courage, flexibility, resilience, passion for life long learning and innovation that are much needed to flourish in life. Drama is an effective way to constructively channelize the energy of the students as well. The young ones gain an insight into their emotional life and emotions

of others as well. It would help them develop better inter-personal and intra-personal relationships as they grow up. Every child plays to the best of his strengths in this creative form of story telling and learn valuable lessons of head and heart. "Why do we pay such hefty sums, when I have to prepare my child for the poetry recitation"? "The teacher's nowadays do nothing except for designing assignments that require parents to slog every day".

These are the discussions I hear every day. While young mothers complain about how much the progressive schools demand in terms of parental involvement, I see it as an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to your child's education. One of the regular features in the new age schools is 'SHOW and TELL' class. The students bring something from home (based on a pre-decided theme) and speak about it in the class for few minutes. This activity requires parents to send the object (which could be tricky as schools sometimes ask for a hand made craft item) and also practice a script about that object with their child.

Now, which parent would like to miss such an opportunity with their kids? I have had wonderful experience with my son during our preparation for show and tell activity. There have been quite a few heart-breaking revelations too (once while practicing for 'My favorite shirt' script, my son claimed that his father chooses better clothes for him. "Mummy ko girls type kapde pasand aate hain", was his complaint

At times I feel that we as parents come too heavily on teachers as well. Many of my friends are school teachers and the conviction with which they speak about the teaching practice employed by them is remarkable. For me a good teacher is ever enthusiastic about learning and works to

infuse his students in the same spirit. A lot of teachers that I have interacted with reflect this ideology. Uma, my neighbor and a young teacher, who teaches in Shalom Hills International School, Gurgaon keeps gushing about the new things she learns while teaching her Kindergarten students, "I could never believe how much one can teach with the simple story of thirsty crow.

My students learnt new words, concepts (up, down, increase, decrease), counting, elementary addition and subtraction from this story. I could see a development of problem solving ability as well because many of them tried to offer alternate ways of making the crow drink water. I would suggest the senior class teacher to take this story as basis for creative writing project and see how much imaginative kids could be".

A meeting with teachers like her and I know my child is in safe hands. Progressive schools are also adopting internationally acclaimed pedagogical practices to develop global citizens. Play way method, activity based learning, Montessori method are some of the teaching methodologies being successfully employed by schools. I know parents whose three old daughter goes to 'i Bambini' pre-school that employs Reggio Emilia approach of teaching.

The school's Pre-School program is designed to develop a wide range of skills within the children including thinking skills to become reflective thinkers, social skills to become caring and open minded, research skills to be knowledgeable and self-management and communication skills so that they can use and share their knowledge and understanding appropriately.

A theme (useful in every day life) is selected for the month and all the class-room activities including, vocabulary, numerical understanding, rhymes, art and craft and even

morning assembly is designed around it. I happened to analyze their activities centered on the theme of 'Insects'. The educators taught the vocabulary (names of insects, parts of insects and their habitats), shapes, rhymes, and craft activities (use of waste material to construct a caterpillar) around the aforementioned theme. Children are regularly engaged in role-plays pertaining to every day situations like supermarkets and are guided to appropriate social behavior. "The only thing that is constant is change".

The present day schools are in the process of re-inventing them and they deserve chance. No system is perfect and it is true for schools. A desire to improve and make a difference to world is important and the new age schools are committed to this idea. Parent school partnership is crucial for holistic development of child's personality. Parents must participate in school activities, as it will enable them to critically examine the school policies. Only then they would be able to render sincere appreciation and constructive criticism to the endeavors of the alma-matar of their wards.

OUR TAKE:

The observations made by the author are relevant and speak much about the modern day school practices. While the write up discusses, methodologies adopted by primary school educators, I would like to share a couple of progressive senior school educational strategies for the benefit of our readers. India Mock United Nations (INMUN): It is a student run simulation of the United Nations. Student delegates representing various nations address specific issues of current national interest. Through debate and negotiation student delegates attempt to resolve regional and international problems.

IMUN is open to all Secondary School students aged 14 to 19 years. A school

contingent normally comprises of 3 to 7 delegates and a teacher coordinator. I had the opportunity to attend an IMUN organized by DAV Public School as a world press teacher coordinator. The experience was exhilarating. It was delight to watch formally dressed students from schools across India playing the role of delegates from different countries. They participated with unflinching conviction and presented their case in committees.

The World Press room saw the usual hustle bustle and chaos of a media 'war room'. The students from various schools worked in perfect tandem with reporters bringing news and resolutions from different committee proceedings followed by write ups and designing by editors. Students of the host and participating schools managed the entire show with teachers lending guidance whenever required (read never).

IMUN provides an excellent platform to the students to put their skills of problem solving, conflict resolution, negotiation and decision making, to use. Students not only learn about the conduct of formal meetings and UN culture but also gain an insight into geographical, environmental, diplomatic, economic, educational and social issues pertinent in today's world.

School Enterprise Challenge:

This challenge is a unique international business competition for school students, aiming to identify and reward social entrepreneurs of tomorrow. Teachers get easy – to – follow lesson plans

and resources and students gain real life, business and transferable skills in practical and fun way. Schools that participate get international recognition as an entrepreneurial school and a chance to link with our schools across the world. Participants can earn extra income for their school and have the opportunity to win fantastic prizes.

Schools have to register online for the competition, present the business model of a social enterprise and get started with their project. A school- based enterprise is a business that is owned by a school but is led and staffed by its students. This challenges motivates students to learn business skills and gain practical experience in managing a business, as well as generating income. Students can utilize the profits gained in a number of ways including development of their school, financial support to students from disadvantaged background, helping out their community or a charity and diversification of the business.

KIIT World School, Delhi became the proud recipient of Social Enterprise Challenge 2013, profit award and 2500 USD for their successful, educational and innovative business enterprise- Nutri Café. The students took upon themselves to design a model, work out the modalities, delegate tasks and run a café that provided nutritious snacks to the school students. Their business idea won wide appreciation and complete support from parents, teachers and school administration.

Digital Evolution of Schooling

MODI'S MANTRA TO STAND UP & STARTUPS.

DINESH KUMAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked upon his ambitious plan to boost up a start up culture in the country. His vision, as he described in his speech, that 'every youth should think of being a job creator rather than a job seeker, took off recently when he offered the India's start-up a bouquet of lofty gifts. These included making the profits of the fledgling units tax-free for three years, the government funding of 10,000 crores spanned over four years. Similarly, hassles free business by ensuring no visits by labour inspectors for three years, and finally promising the quick and subsidised patent clearances. Addressing the first conference of start-up entrepreneurs, Modi announced an action plan to boost such ventures which are seen as key to employment generation and wealth creation.

In order to make the access to more funds easier for budding entrepreneurs, a INR 2,500-crore fund will be distributed annually over the next four years. "There will be tax incentives for government-recognised funds and they would be exempted from capital gains. The issue of fair market valuation and tax on investments would also be resolved," Modi said.

Tax exemption will be given on investments above the fair market value. Under the Income Tax Act, if a start-up receives equity funding which exceeds the firm's fair market value, then such excess consideration is taxable in the hands of recipients. Unveiling the 19-point start-up action plan, Modi said capital gains tax exemption will put start-ups at par with MSMEs. The government's 'Start up India' programme intends to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation with a view to driving sustainable economic growth and generating large-scale employment opportunity.

Calling upon youth to attempt solving some of India's unique problems – such as making health care easily affordable or improving farm supply chains so that fruits and crops do not rot. Modi was in his optimistic best when he exhorted the young entrepreneurs that if India had millions of problems, it is also endowed with over a billion of minds capable to solve them all. "Intellectual property is the main asset of new ventures, but sometimes it takes months to process a patent application," Modi rued.

He stressed at the need to merge the youth property with IP, so that such patents could be fast-tracked and give start-ups an 80 per cent rebate on the fees, while the government bearing the entire cost for facilitating quicker clearances. Taking a dig at the culture of red tape, he said: "If we decide not to do some things, then these youth will reach great heights in the next decade. The government shouldn't come in between ..."

He announced a moratorium on income tax payments on start-up profits and labour law inspections for the first three years of operations, and said compliance with nine environment and labour laws would be allowed on the basis of self-certification.

As per sources, the Government will also be helping startups with specific focus on important aspects like obtaining financing, feasibility testing, and business structuring advisory, enhancement of marketing skills, technology commercialization and management evaluation.

Modi promised a new mobile app to enable start-ups to register themselves within a day and apply for clearances online and easier exits for failed ventures with a provision for winding them up within 90 days under a proposed bankruptcy and insolvency law. A tax

is currently levied on all funding provided by domestic angel and venture capital funds to start-ups, with income tax authorities having the power to determine the valuation at which such investments are made on the basis of a "fair market value".

Industry had sought a review of this provision as it could lead to several tax disputes as start-up valuations are often subjective and linked to the power of an idea, rather than traditional valuation methods based on cash flows. These taxes are not levied on foreign financiers who account for over 90 per cent of funding for Indian start-ups. "If someone invests the gains from the sale of property into their own business, it will be exempt from capital gains tax," Modi said.

Here we provide a lowdown on significant initiatives to be initiated under the Modi's ambitious startups action plan that he spelled out at the seminar organized for the purpose.

1. 'Startups' Re-defined: Now, Startups will have its own classification and will not be known as a 'Business'. Till date a Startup was not separated in various policies of the Government. All were businesses. Now, we have definition for a startup and a clear direction for them from Government. Modi's purpose behind launching a mobile app and

the portal is meant for the startups to interact with the government and regulatory institutions.

The most encouraging aspect is that Government is now looking at startups as a serious growth engine for India and wants to help them achieve success.

2. Tax Exemption for 3 years: In what could be termed as one of the most positive moves, exemption for Income tax shall be given on profits generated by startups for a period of first 3 years.

3. Tax Exemption on Capital Gains: Government plans to provide Tax exemptions to persons who have capital gains during the year, if they have invested such capital gains in the Fund of Funds recognized by the Government.

4. Tax Exemption on Investments above Fair Market Value: Currently, only the -investments by venture capital funds in Startups are exempted from operations of provision under section 56(2). Now, the same shall be extended to investment made by incubators and angel investors in the Startups. Relaxed Norms of Public Procurement for Startups Going forward, norms for Startups will be relaxed when they are



"I see startups, technology and innovation as exciting and effective instruments for India's transformation."

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

applying for Tenders floated by PSU. Earlier, this was not possible as all tenders require either “prior experience” or “prior turnover”. Now, this will not be roadblock anymore. Option of easier Exits Government plans to make it easier for startups to close and exit their businesses incase they are winding up operations.

5. Mobile App and Portal to be launched: The Government is soon going to roll out a Mobile app that will help startups quickly get off the ground. The app features will include registering Startups with relevant agencies of the Government though a single form. The app will also have features like tracking the status of Registration, downloading registration certificate, filing compliances, obtaining clearances and approvals among other things.

6. Creating a platform for knowledge and professional advice: The Government is to create a single point of contact for the entire Startup ecosystem in order to enable knowledge exchange and easy access to funding. The startups will be working in a hub and will be collaborating with the Central & the State governments, banks, legal partners, consultants, Research & Development institutions among others.

7. Good Bye to notorious ‘Inspector Raj’: It is highly commendable that the Government has shown keen interest in reducing the regulatory burden on Startups and thereby allowing them to focus on their core business. The startups will be allowed to self-certify its compliance with rules and the environment laws. In a major relief there will be no inspections for a period of 3 years by the labour department. It seeks to do away with the Inspector Raj. The government has cleared a major bottleneck that has long been an irritant for a fresh starter by giving them the right of self-certification rather than getting clearance from government agency which at any time is a very tricky job to get

done.

8. Funding Support: while Government will not directly invest or fund startups, they will be doing it through Fund of Funds with a corpus of INR 10,000 Crore. The Fund of Funds shall be managed by a Board with private professionals drawn from industry bodies, academia, and successful Startups.

9. Credit-Guarantee Fund: In order to overcome traditional Indian stigma associated with failure of Startup enterprises in general and to encourage experimentation among Startup entrepreneurs, Government plans to provide credit guarantee comfort with flow of Venture Debt from the formal Banking System.

10. Startup Festivals: Govt plans to organize one national and one international startup festival annually for Showcasing Innovation and Providing a Collaboration Platform.

11. Launch of Atal Innovation Mission: Govt will provide a platform for promotion of world-class Innovation Hubs, Grand Challenges, Startup businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas. This will be done through Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

12. Harnessing Private Sector for Incubator Setup: Government intends to create a policy and framework for setting-up of incubators across the country in public private partnership. 35 new incubators in existing institutions will be setup along with funding support of 40% shall be provided by Central Government. The government will also provide grant of 50 percent for 35 new incubators established by private sector.

13. Research Parks: The Government plans to set up Seven new Research Parks at IITs based in Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kanpur,

Kharagpur, Gandhinagar and the IIT Delhi, apart from one at the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore. Every research park, to be modeled on the one existing at IIT Madras, has been allocated an initial investment of INR100 crore.

14. Promotion in the Biotechnology

Sector: To foster and facilitate bio-entrepreneurship, 5 new Bio-clusters, 50 new Bio-Incubators, 150 technology transfer offices and 20 Bio-Connect offices will be set up in research institutes and universities across India.

15. Programs for Students on Innovation

: In order to promote research and innovation among young students, the Government shall implement various innovation programs including Innovation Core, NIDHI and Uchhattar Avishkar Yojana.

16. Annual Incubator Grand Challenge:

The Government has plans to launch incubator grand challenge scheme annually. To build World Class incubators in India, The idea behind it is to identify the leading Incubators in India. Undoubtedly, the Government's initiative to provide stout supports to the startup ventures includes almost all aspects of India's Startup Ecosystem. With such big help from the Government, there is no doubt, our Startup ecosystem has the potential to be the best in the world!

17. Legal Support: To promote awareness and adoption of IPRs by Startups, the government has various plans to promote, protect and patronize the startups through various support systems like providing panel of facilitators to assist in filing of IP applications. And more than this the government is going to bear the cost expenses

incurred on it.

Highlights of Modi's mission to resurrect startups-

1. A liberalised patent regime is being brought to help start-up businesses register patents, for which the fee will be slashed by 80 per cent.
2. India, which has the third-largest number of start-ups globally, will also support the ventures by removing the criteria of experience and turnover for bagging government procurement contracts.
3. Modi said profits earned by start-ups will be exempt from payment of during the first three years of business.
4. To boost financing, a 20 per cent tax on capital gains made on investments by entrepreneurs after selling own assets as well as government-recognised venture capitalists will also be exempt.
5. An unencumbered easy exit option will be provided under the bankruptcy Act so that start-ups can exit within 90 days.
6. He said the objective of compliance regime based on self certification is to reduce the regulatory burden on start-ups. This self-certification will apply to laws like payment of gratuity, contract labour, employee's provident fund, water and air pollution acts.
7. A start-up India hub will be created as a single point of contact for the entire start-up ecosystem to enable knowledge exchange and access to funding.

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A NATIONAL SANSKRIT BOARD IN OFFING!

SAVITA SHARMA

A panel constituted by the Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry has come out with an unusual idea of setting up a national school board for Sanskrit and Vedic studies on the lines of the Central Board of Secondary Education. (CBSE). Currently, gurukuls (offering traditional form of education based on Vedas) and Vedic educational institutions do not have a certification procedure. "Though a few states have Sanskrit boards, this, if accepted, will be the first national school board which can affiliate traditional schools, conduct examination and grant certification," chairperson of the panel is reported to have disclosed.

The panel report has suggested that "the government also should prepare text books of mathematics and other subjects in Sanskrit, so that students from gurukuls and Vedic schools can take the open school examination."

HRD minister Smriti Irani had last year constituted the 13-member committee, to be headed by former Chief Election Commissioner and currently the Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, N Gopalaswami, to assess and review the present schemes for development of Sanskrit and Veda Vidya committee headed by Gopalaswami. The panel, which submitted its report to the HRD ministry on February 4, has made five major recommendations for the promotion of the ancient Indian language.

Among the key recommendations, a significant one is that the medium of teaching Sanskrit should be Sanskrit alone and not any other language like English, which has been in practice now a days. The committee has laid emphasis on the need to encourage a culture of collaborative research

on treatises, written in the ancient Indian language, and the modern sciences.

According to panel the recommendation has been made "to teach Sanskrit in its own medium like English or other languages when taught are also the medium of instruction. But this is not the case with Sanskrit and often another language is used for teaching Sanskrit." The panel wants this practice to be given a silent burial. Another key suggestion of the panel is that students should be given the choice to learn the language as per a three-language formula, which is implemented in several schools. As per this formula, many schools provide the option to learn English, their mother tongue and a third language of their choice.

No less significant is the suggestion that textbooks on various subjects like mathematics or science should also be made available in Sanskrit so that the students desirous of studying them in that language can do so. The panel has also recommended the need to encourage a collaborative research system involving the huge database of knowledge contained in Sanskrit manuals and modern knowledge.

Another landmark recommendation made by the Gopalswami committee is its advocacy of making Sanskrit manuals available Online. He reportedly disclosed that it has also been suggested (in his recommendations) that the treasure contained in Sanskrit manuals on various subjects like Ayurveda, science of construction or other areas should be made online. Undoubtedly it would make a significant difference in propagating and spreading the reach of India's most ancient language-Sanskrit.

PROMOTION OF PRACTICAL SKILL FOR SCIENCE CONCEPTS AT SCHOOL LEVEL

R. P. PRAJAPATI & RASHMI SINGHAI

In the last two decades the impact of science and technology is visible everywhere. These recent innovative ideas in science have influenced every aspect of existence - vocational, social, economic, political and cultural. Science is intimately related to the means of production and means of communication. The exposure to science that students in our schools normally get creates in them an impression that science is a well settled body of facts, principle and theories. Even the laboratory work which they sometimes do consist of experiments set to a pattern, leading to results that are already known.

With a little modification in approach however, the teacher can so design the experiences, that this weakness is removed from learners. The National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986, stresses the importance of science education, in these words, "science education will be strengthened so as to develop in the child well defined abilities and values such as spirit of enquiry, creativity, objectivity, the courage to ask questions and an aesthetic sensitivity". According to NCF-2005 teacher should act as a facilitator and not as a transformer of content where they can think, realize, analyze and develop their own way of learning which something beyond the text book .

PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR SCIENCE CONCEPTS:

Laboratory skill is an integral part of school level science curriculum. If properly planned and conducted, practical skills can provide a first hand experience of the various activities that comprise science. Practical skills are meant to (i) develop the skills required to perform the experiments and (ii) to strengthen the understanding of the theoretical concepts pertaining to the experiments done in the laboratory. The important skills required in

science practical are meant to assist the learners to learn and develop the skills of Manipulation- involve the correct and skillful handling of the apparatus by the experimenter. Observation- involve the use of senses Hearing, sight, touch and smell to detect changes/reactions. Reading- refer to the ability to comprehend written or printed information. Recording- entails writing down, for example, measurements or statements of facts or other details for reference. Computation- the use and application of mathematical knowledge on the data collected. Interpretation- studying the data collected and drawing conclusions based on the established science principles/theories. Success achieved by following these skills not only trains one in these abilities, but also increases confidence in the method of science.

Encouraging learners to carry out practicals would also help develop in them the scientific attitude with its emphasis on objectivity and open mindedness. The idea for practical skill may originate from something that has been taught in the class or reading a book or from of the general surroundings. Science can be learnt efficiently by experimentation. Abstract scientific principles can be understood and can be correlated with daily life experiences through activities and experiments. Though a science text book incorporates many activities but these activities are not being performed properly in the class rooms. Hence these activities need to be systematized and procedure of some important experiments must be formulated which will translate the basic scientific principles. The science teachers at school level must be trained properly to perform some basic experiments in or-

der to inculcate scientific temperament and appreciation for science. Use of the practical skills for science concepts may be helpful to understand several science terms which include the following:

1. To stimulate an interest in science subjects.
2. To improve their experimental and communicational skills and to develop scientific attitude and interests.
3. To inculcate diver nt thinking and cooperative attitude among the students.
4. To make science subjects more create enjoyable and a sound fundamental knowledge of facts and principles.
5. To satisfy scientific curiosity.
6. To encourage independent thinking.
7. To make use of environment.
8. To give practice in critical thinking.
9. To develop problem solving techniques.
10. To make scientific principles more meaningful.
11. To increase self-confidence.

The experiment should be so designed that its results are clearly interpretable. Interpretation becomes difficult if the variables are not identified and suitably controlled. The initial design of the experiment must be carefully looked into so that some of the possible sources of error can be located and steps taken in the design to correct. Before actually starting the experiment, a list of materials required must be prepared and all the materials procured according to the list. It would also be convenient if a method of recording the data has been decided upon, so that the necessary tables etc. , could be prepared before the experiment is started. During the experiment, accurate observations must be made and duly recorded, exactly as they happen. The data collected should be arranged in a methodical manner so that interpretations would be facilitated. The results and conclusions of the practical will have to be presented finally as a report. There are a number of ways in which the experiments can be modified and improved. If these practical skills can



generate ideas not only for improvement of the suggested designs but also for new experiments, their purpose would be amply served. The steps involved in a practical skill for science concept are:

1. Providing a situation- Practical work almost always should be initiated by teachers. He/She should provide situations to the students which motivate to create some problem for them and in which they feel interested to work.

2. Purpose and selection- While selecting the practical, for science concepts, the teacher should see that practical should be relevant to this level of skills. The objectives of practical should be clearly defined and understood by the students.

3. Planning- The success of a practical work depends upon good planning. The students should plan out the whole scheme under the proper guidance of the teacher. After discussion of the practical work with teacher and group of students should write down the plan properly.

4. Executing- The teacher should assign different tasks among the students of a group according to their interest and abilities. Every student should contribute actively towards the execution of the practical work and skill. Some of the student may be assigned the work of library to collect information about the experiment. The student who is good in laboratory work must be given the task to perform experiment and he/she can also collect the data. In the same way different tasks may be assigned to different students and teacher should

MODI BRINGS PAKISTAN ON ITS KNEE

DINESH KUMAR

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems to possess some unique ingredients of the statesmanship. His style of reaction may many times look flummoxing, but he never loses sight of his target. He has displayed his fine art of playing diplomatic game with a finesse- carrot in one hand and stick in another. After the Pakistani terrorists' attacks at Pathankot's air base, the whole country were up in arms against having any thing to do with Pakistani. Indian bloods were boiling for revenge? Most of the political class and the intelligentsia clamoured for scrapping of the foreign secretary level talk scheduled for January 15.

But Modi's way of reaction was different. He did not get impulsive and went ahead with his plan of visiting Pakistan to greet its premier Nawaz Sharif on his birth day. Needless to point out, an endearing gesture leaves gripping impact. It further mounted the pressure on Pakistani establishments to nail down the conspirators of Pathankot attack And the trick succeeded.

As a fall out, Nawaz Sharif called on a high level meeting attended by apart from the National Security Advisor, the Army chief and the head of its intelligence wing, known for patronizing terrorists for India, among others. For the first time since Pakistan's adventurism of imposing proxy war on India did the Pakistani stake holders buckle under Indian pressure.

And the result was the mastermind of Pathankot terror attack and Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar, had had to face the music at last. The terror mastermind made no bones about his feelings that Islamabad was tightening the screws on him at India's behest.

After having executed several sinister designs of spreading terror in India for decades, finally realized the changing equation between India and Pakistan is getting too hot to handle for him. Azhar, who was reported to have been detained, referred to his incarceration in Indian and Pakistan jails and added he was not bothered





Whatever Language Pakistan
understands India should teach in
that language

— Narendra Modi —

about his arrest or killing.

The action of 'betrayal' (as for terrorists group) by the Pakistani authorities has left Azhar's blood boiling. That is why the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) made a trenchant attack on Pakistan's PM Nawaz Sharif government threatening it to be ready to face the dangerous consequences for the misadventure of cracking down on his outlawed terror group.

"With my killing, neither will my friends miss me nor will my enemies...an army...which loves death has been prepared," wrote Azhar. Azhar was one of the four dreaded terrorists lodged in Indian jails, who had to be released in exchange for the passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane way back in 1999 from Kandhar in Afghanistan. He was however later jailed in Pakistan for his outfit's bids on the life of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's.

So infuriated was this vendor of terror at action against him that he accused the Pakistani rulers of continuing to be guided "by those who are not our own". They (rulers) continue to turn their own country into a heap of explosives and fire. Each one of them comes and puts their own country on fire and then they flee." Known for fire-spiting exhortation Azhar openly declared: "There is a lot of noise coming from India regarding us – arrest, kill, arrest, kill," as quoted in his JeM's purported online mouthpiece, al Qalam, under pseudonym Saidi.

In his article, Azhar claims that he always wished Pakistan well and peace and that he never did so to save his life and skin, but he did every thing to serve the interests of Muslim Umma and for the sake of jihad. "I am sorry that the rulers here (in Pakistan) have no respect for that," he bemoaned. Azhar claimed he had not harmed the Pakistan government ever. "There is not a single case registered against me in any police station across Pakistan," he wrote. He called the moves against radical mosques, madrasas and jihad dangerous to Pakistan's unity and integrity.

But hardened trader of terror showed no signs of suppression by claiming "Allah willing, this army would not let (our) enemies celebrate for too long. It (his army) would not let my absence be felt at all. Thanks to Allah, I do not have any desire that will remain unfulfilled at my death".

"As for as my family and my children, they are taken care of by Almighty Allah and Almighty Allah will take care of them tomorrow as well." "While I was lodged in Bahawalpur Central jail, the jail administration feared that my friends and companions may attack them. So I was (shifted) to Dera Gazi Khan." Azhar reportedly told his captors. His helplessness can be understood by the fact that Azhar kept on explaining to the administration that 'Pakistan is his own country' until his home was officially declared to be 'a sub jail' and he was an 'inmate.'

INDIANS' DREAM TO STUDY IN US DIMS

STAFF CORRESPONDANT

Visiting, living or studying in a foreign country like US, UK, Canada or France has been no less than a dream for almost every Indian. But it is America that has always caught the fancy of most of the Indians. And for the largest democracy in the world like India, Having professional degree from the US under one's belt means for Indians like a dream come true.

That is why Indians have been making a beeline for educational institutions in the US regardless of the fact that what status does an institution hold in the eyes of the academia the world over. The most powerful country of the world remains the most charming destinations for Indian students. This is corroborated by the fact that India is second only to China in numbers of students studying in the US.

Texas happened to be the most popular destination for students from the South Asian nation, followed by California and New York. The wings to the dream were added after the globalization, set into motion during Narsimha Rao's premiership from 1991-96, that eased out the visa hurdles for major developed countries of the world particularly the United Kingdom and the US.

But unfortunately, the cherished dream is beginning to turn into a nightmare. Call it pre-election rhetoric or post Paris and St Bernardino paranoia, Indian students coming to the US have been caught in a bind. There are around 132,888 Indians studying in U.S. schools by last year, up from 102,673 in September 2013. Only China had more students with a figure of 304,040 students.

The US has seemingly whipped the crack-down on Indian students many of whose visas were either cancelled or denied entry and deported back to India. for no fault of theirs. There are no official figures

available, but estimated 60-70 students have been turned back so far. The process of deportation continues despite New Delhi making a strong plea to Washington to honour their visas.

The sources also pointed out that the 14 Indian students from India who were deported last month and 19 others not allowed to board their Air India flights to San Francisco had all sought admission to Silicon Valley University (SVU) in San Jose and Northwestern Polytechnic University (NPU) in Fremont. Indian students reportedly claimed: "They all came with valid F-1 student visas issued by US missions in India with the requisite I-20 forms from educational institutions certifying their admission, but have been sent packing back home at the port of entry."

The trouble for Indians started from San Francisco two weeks after the December 2 terrorist attack at St Bernardino by a Pakistani couple, with Air India asked to fly back 14 Indian students who had come to join two allegedly "black-listed" dodgy schools. However, both Silicon Valley University (SVU) in San Jose and Northwestern Polytechnic (NPU) in Fremont, have denied being "blacklisted" or "under any sort of governmental investigation or targeting".

This new twist of deportation of Indian students from America is nothing less than a socking fall out of a terrorist attack by Pakistanis in December last. NPU has even blamed the whole mess "on the actions of Air India" which after the first deportations declined to seat US-bound students claiming it had been informed by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) about the two schools being under the scanner. NPU

suggested that Air India was not allowing its students to board as it has to fly back at its own cost any individual denied entry to a country. "There is definitely a glitch within the US system", sources said pointing out that the US consulate in Hyderabad issued F-1 student visas and they carried the requisite I-20 forms issued by the educational institutions certifying their admission. One source said that some students had been denied entry because they had failed to satisfactorily answer immigration officers' questions at the port of entry.

Yet, according to diplomatic sources, the US has denied any large-scale denial of entry of Indian students and claims that CBP agents decide each case on its own merit whether it is genuine or not. In some cases, the students did not even know what courses they planned to study, where they would stay or how they would meet their living expenses as students are not allowed to work. Some immigration officers are even giving spot tests to incoming students.

But whether the system has been gamed by some unscrupulous elements is beside the point. There seems to be a dysfunction between the consulates in India and the border agents, informed sources said. Thus, unless the US authorities can find a quick fix, Indian students who, according to the 2015 Open Doors Report, make up 13.6 percent of the total international students in the US, would continue to suffer.

Fact files about Indian Students in the US -

Indian students are enrolling in U.S. schools at a faster rate than ever recorded, reversing a recent decline in numbers of people traveling from India to study in America, a new report shows. The rate of growth in Indian students in the U.S. was the highest in the history of the 'Open Doors project' its report said. The online magazine focusing on Indians abroad called, Open Doors, started gathering data in the academic year starting in the fall of 1954. India's most recent such surge in students moving to the U.S. for higher

education occurred in the start of the 2000/2001 academic year. According to the report, the rise in students from India arrested a three-year decline in their numbers on U.S. campuses.

The number of students from India in America rose 29.4% in the academic year starting fall 2014 compared with a year earlier, according to an annual report on international students released jointly by the Institute of International Education and the U.S. Department of State.

Most popular Subjects for Indian students -

According to an Open Doors reports on foreign students, 80 per cent Indian students are studying engineering, math, computer sciences and business as these are the most popular subjects among Indian. On the other hand, 64 percent Indians went to the U.S. for graduation, just 12% got enrolled in undergraduate programs. Of the remaining students, 22% were in optional practical training and 1% in English language, or short-term studies.

But this does not mean that all Indians studying in the US choose to stay there to take the benefit of a program that allows them work in the U.S. after they complete their courses. Rather, only one third of Indian students stayed back in the US to work for 12 months after completing their degree.

Why Americans come to India -

Interestingly, the US students too opt India as their favourite destination as by doing so they gain credits. This explains why 4,583 U.S students traveled to India and got enrolled at Indian institutions for part of their course in 2014/15, an increase of 5% from 2013/14.

What Indian students mean for American economy -

The US too stands to lose as with a whopping 29.4 percent increase, a record high of 132,888 Indian students studying in the US in 2014-15 academic year contributed \$3.6 billion to the US economy.

KEJRIWAL LOOSES QUOTA BATTLE

DINESH KUMAR

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who seems to be developed an insatiable penchant for transgression ends up eating a humble pie in his so-called war with private schools. The government and the unaided private schools management has been on warpath ever since Kejriwal notified the scrapping all the 62 categories including the management quota in the private schools on January 6.

The private school management, that rules the roost in the national capital, and Delhi government is on warpath following the latter's stringent order to scrap all kinds of quota including the one held by each of the school management. No party is ready to budge and the bitter stand off between the government and the private school managements continue to confound the confusion. The ball is finally lying in the court of the Delhi High Court, which is hearing the matter currently. Private schools form a powerful lobby and are determined not to allow the city government to try to what they call an infringement on their autonomy.

The ball was set into motion by Delhi government under Arvind Kejriwal on January 6 by issuing a notification scrapping the management quota in the private schools once and for all. "The schools will have to set aside 25 per cent seats set aside for children from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)," thundered chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. Besides it, 62 other criteria for admission were also scrapped terming them totally "unreasonable" and "discriminatory" by the government. Kejriwal dubbed various other criterion put by many schools to be funny and ludicrous. Citing examples, he said that some schools had put it in their admission criteria that children, whose parents

were non-vegetarian or were alcoholic, would not be granted admission.

"There is no problem about admissions of children of the school's staff. No one from the Delhi government will intercede for admissions in the city's schools," he said. The Delhi government recently asked all the schoolstocrapmanagementquotacitingthat it gives way to backdoor entry. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal dubbed the quota system as the biggest fraud in the education.

"In accordance with the Delhi High Court order, 25 percent admission quota is reserved for EWS (economically weaker sections), while rest of seats are mostly wrongfully reserved by schools on their own. From now onwards, remaining 75 percent will have to be made available to the general category students," he said.

However, he added that schools are free to grant admission to the children of their employees and can allocate points in their criteria. Currently, the schools keep 20 percent or even more seats under the management quota, while 25 percent seats are reserved for EWS students and the rest are open for the general category children. Kejriwal said with the new rules in place, the education mafia would have little scope to manipulate the admission procedure, and warned that strict action would be initiated against the schools which do not comply with the order. The Delhi CM warned the private schools against non-compliance of its order threatening even 'to de-recognise the schools which do not follow the order.'

TheNationalProgressiveSchools'Conference (NPSC), an association of privately-managed recognised schools, continues

to be guarded in its response, citing the reason that the matter is subjudiced. Secondly, the matter is already being heard in the Delhi High Court. As of now, it would be premature to comment on the order," said a top NPSC functionary.

Taking a dig at the way the schools ensured its whims and fancies rein supreme in the

arbitrary and discriminatory," he justified his decision.

The chief minister pointed out that the Directorate of Education (DoE) had asked the unaided recognised schools to develop and adopt criteria for admission which shall be clear, well-defined, equitable, non-discriminatory, unambiguous and transparent as per



process of admission, Kejriwal expressed surprise while saying: "We were surprised to see the criteria set by schools for the admission process." He further added that some criteria set up by schools gave preference to students, whose parents know painting, or music, who didn't smoke or a separate sibling quota. After going through all the criteria, we have scrapped 62 criteria of admission process in private schools which were

the high court's order.

Opposing the Delhi government's decision to scrap management quota in schools here, private schools have challenged the decision in the Delhi High Court. Filed by advocate Kamal Gupta, the petition highlights that even Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University guidelines permit a 15 percent management quota in institutes of

higher technical/professional education, where admissions are solely based on merit.

In the latest writ petition, filed by the Action Committee of Unaided Recognised Private Schools claiming to represent over 400 schools, has requested the court to issue an order or direction quashing the government's order of scrapping the management quota.

According to an office bearer of the Action Committee of the private schools association, while refusing to be named as the matter is sub-judiced, 'the Kejriwal government's order violates various judgments of the Supreme Court and the High Court, and impacts the autonomy of private unaided schools to regulate their admissions.' The petition terms the government order to be an act of infringement and encroachment upon the autonomy of schools.

The most potent factor in favour of the unaided private schools in this matter is the fact that their autonomy is protected by the act of the Parliament.

In fact way back in 1973, the Parliament had recognized and conferred maximum autonomy upon unaided recognised private schools functioning in Delhi, and gave it freedom to regulate their own admissions in a fair, objective and rational manner. It was done through enacting the Delhi School Education Act (DSE Act).

The Parliament also framed rules for regulation of the private unaided schools known as the Delhi School Education Rules (DSE Rules). The potency of substance in the arguments advanced by the Action Committee of Private Schools for quashing of the Delhi Government's order emanates from these twin parliamentary sanctions.

TIMELINE OF TUSSLE -

December 2013:

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor issues a notification abolishing the management quota in nursery admissions.

2014:

The private schools management body appealed to the High Court against the Lt Governor's notification. The High Court dismissed the Lt Governor's notification regarding the abolition of management quota .

Jan 6, 2016:

The AAP government decides to scrap the management quota in Delhi's private schools.

Jan 17:

Private schools move Delhi High Court against the Kejriwal government's decision scrapping the management quota in school admissions.

Jan 18:

High Court directs Delhi Government to file reply as to what made it scrap the quota. The issue is slated for hearing by the High Court on February 1.

Feb. 4:

High Court dismisses the Delhi Government's notification scrapping the 20 percent management quota. The HC allowed the continuance of management quota but the school will now have the liberty of having only 11 out of 62 categories allowed earlier.

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[^]Approved by The Bar Council of India. ¹Approved by Indian Nursing Council.

²Approved by National Council for Teacher Education.

[§]Approved by Pharmacy Council of India. ^{^^}Approved by Council of Architecture.

^{**}North India's only Hotel Management Institution with its own boutique business hotel (The Galgotias, Gurgaon).

A CORSE MAY CHANGE YOUR LIFE

STAFF CORRESPONDANT

Believe it or not but the fact remains that like an idea can change your life, this corse can change your fateline to be envied by all through your life. In this action packed era of commercial activities and mushrooming entrepreneurship in almost all areas, Event Management has come to be regarded as a highly rewarding sector full with employment opportunities and scope for speedy growth in career.

Virtually, the opening up of India for global commercial giants has brought in a fundamental change in the perception of business marketing. The modus operandi adopted by the majority of the Indian business class continued to be conventional which often lacked the subtle elements of marketing tricks.

Thanks to the fundamental shift in the government's policies vs-a-vis private participations in core public sectors as well as freeing even strategically crucial segments under government undertaking for the foreign direct investments. This path breaking exercise with the state playing a pro-active role in inviting foreign investors and wooing

private entrepreneurs for private-public partnership in its major drive aimed at reform has completely changed India's persepective of economic reforms at all levels. So much so that the central government under Prime Minister Modi is virtually functioning as a commercial venture with an eye on exacting maximum benefits to the country as its people. Hats off to his economic vision.

This culture of playing like a streat smart salesman in financial dealings is thriving and has infected even the state governments to emulate his style of private-public entrepreneurship in crucial areas. India's eagerness to spread red carpet in order to attract foreign investments in the country even in the areas which were shunned by indigenious private business house very texture of Indian economic scenario as well as of India players globalization a promise of high career growth offers an immense scope for developing into an industry itself.



World is wide open here for domestic as well in the globalized world of today. With the ever growing rapid Another great and career oriented professional course after passing out from the schools is Event Management. Well in. By joining this course you are able to improve your imaginative skills, team spirit, time management as well as communicative abilities. Communication abilities are main concern of the Event Management Course so that you can efficiently organize, execute and manage all kinds of events in Indian as well as abroad.

Few popular institutes for Event Management Courses are available below:

National Institute of Event management (NIEM)

The International Centre for Event Marketing & Management (ICEM)

Institute of Tourism & Future Management Trends (ITFT)

International Institute of Event Management (IIEM)

Amity Institute of Event Management

Event Management Development Institute

Also See: List of Best Event Management Institutes in India

Acting Courses -

Light, Camera, Action would you like to hear such sounds in reality then you need to enter in the world of glamour and it would be good to join an acting course as a career option after 12th. The ability to join acting training institutes depends on the requirements and qualifications of the candidate. Well via joining any acting institute you can carving your skills through potential training with exposure to various avenues of acting like theatre and cinema is vital. Following are some of the country's best known and the most prestigious institutions for acting.

National School of Drama (NSD) ,Delhi
Film and Television Institute of India or FTII (FTII), Pune

The Barry John Acting studio, Mumbai
Veteran actor Anupam Kher's academy called, Actor Prepares, exist at Mumbai, Ahmadabad and Chandigarh

Asian Academy of Film and Television (AAFT), Noida

Zee academy of media arts (ZIMA) , Mumbai

Center for Research in Art of Film and Television (CRAFT), Delhi

R.K Films and Media Academy, Delhi

Delhi Film Institute, Delhi

Whistling Woods International, Mumbai

Dance Courses -

The craze of Dance increase from few last years and joining an Dance institute could be an offbeat course for the 12th arts stream students. You could become and choreographer, solo performer, dance troupe performer or even become a dance teacher in school and academy but before doing all this you need lot of hard work and proper training and qualification from recognized dance school. Some of India's highly acclaimed institutions for learning dance are as follows:

Visva Bharati, Kolkata

Banaras Hindu University, Unnao

Gujarat University, Ahmedabad

Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Central Delhi

Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam, Pondicherry

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Bangalore

SBR College of Music and Dance, Hyderabad

Government School of Music and Dance, Nizamabad

The Maharaja Sayajirao, University of Baroda, Vadodara .

RYAN'S DEATH OPENS UP A NEW CAN OF WORMS

DINESH KUMAR

The heart rending incident of death of a class 1 student at the elite public school of Delhi, Ryan International, has opened up a Pandora's box of issues concerning the safety and well being of thousands of students, whose parents cough up a huge amount ever month for every little thing that the schools claim to be providing the students.

Education of a child is some thing for which innumerable parents sacrifice immensely on several counts and do it with pride rather than a remorse. In fact education remains the top most priority for parents at least for 20 years of their prime lives. If after doing all this, an incident like death takes place in school due to its callous indifference, it is a grim reminder of what our education system is headed for.

Before Divyansh, in a tragic coincidence, another child, Ankit Kumar too lost his life after falling in the septic tank of the school. The only difference was that Ankit was a student of the MCD school.

Both incidents took place in the same week and due to the same reason - their school's criminal failure to do their most basic responsibility of ensuring the

safety and security inside their premises. In both cases if a septic tank is left open and unguarded within a school's premises during school hours and a child falls into it, the authorities must own up responsibility.

The outrageous comment of the school principal accusing the child who lost his life due to school criminal negligence of being hyper-active (a disorder) has ruffled the feathers that refuse to get quieted. Public is outraged and parents are infuriated at the way this premier institution failed to do its most basic responsibility of ensuring safety of its student's life.

This charge was strongly rubbished by the SDM in her report saying the child was a brilliant student. Does it not insinuate at a deep malaise that has set in in our education system and that cries for prompt remedial action.

With so many aspects of schooling affected by the law, teachers must ensure that they are proactive in minimizing the possibility of breaching the safety norms. The bottom line is that we must know the law so we can stay out of trouble while still being able to provide a highly creative and productive learning environment for students.



RYAN GUILTY OF DIVYANSH DEATH?

The magisterial enquiry ordered by Delhi Government to probe into the death of a six year-old student of the Ryan International school at Vasant Kunj has finally submitted its report holding the school authorities guilty of criminal negligence that led to the kid's death. The probe by SDM has held the school authorities responsible for its student's death on January 30. The five people have been charged under Section 304A (death due to negligence) of the Indian Penal Code.

All the five accused including school principal Sandhu Sabu and four others arrested by Delhi Police under the charges for causing death due to negligence were, however, released on bail. The principal, class teacher Minakshi Kapoor and three non-teaching

staff members of south Delhi's Ryan International School had been arrested on February 4 five days after its Class 1 student, Divyansh, was found dead in a water tank on campus.

The post mortem report too cited drowning as the reason for Divyansh's death, which confirmed the initial investigation by the police, which claimed no external injury had been found on the body of the dead. The callousness of the school authorities is highlighted by the fact that even after the child was noticed floating in the tank, the school allegedly got the first aid administered by an untrained person. By the time the boy was brought to the hospital he had died. There was no one to be found there from the school.



What was more disgusting and brazen was the statement given by the school principal that “the dead boy was not a normal child and was actually suffering from hyper active disorder.”

In a way the principal was imputing the blame for death on someone who lost his life because of the criminal negligence of school authorities. His parents have disputed this claim. In fact, the school’s claim and explanation do not pass muster because if he was a special child, there should have been extra precautions to avoid such an incident.

Principal’s remark It naturally triggered a public outrage as the safety of the children within the school campus lies solely on the school authorities. How was that all the doors leading to the water tank were open. Added to it for what reason the cover of the tank too was displaced. Was it the responsibility of the small children to ensure their safety was not compromised?

The criminal negligence shown by such a premier institution like Ryan International what can be expected from thousands of other schools, which charge exorbitant money from parents for everything, they claim to be providing to the school children in the name of safety and security, then come up with such an outrageous explanation if a tragedy strikes.

That is perhaps why two hours after a school child, who was not known to be normal, goes missing from the classroom that his body was found floating in a water tank in a room below the amphitheatre. More than this, it was the hospital staff who informed the police, the school authorities did not bother to call the police, who could have taken better care of Divyansh.

In a chilling indifference despite having known

about its class 1 student floating in the water tank, the school authorities remend mute expectators and did nothing to pull out the dying child till a class 11th student mustard the courage to take a plunge and pulled him out. Worst even after that the principal and other staff members of the school didn’t bother to rush the child for immediate medical assistance. Rather they continue to gloat over for a good time lag that finally led to the boy being declared brought dead by the hospital.

The judicial probe has held the Ryan school guilty of showing criminal negligence in Divyansh case.

“Our probe confirmed the negligence of the five school staff on the basis of which the five persons were arrested. We had promised the aggrieved family a fair probe and a speedy justice, which we have provided them,” joint commissioner of police (southeastern range) RS Krishnia told the press.

In a tragic coincidence, another child, Ankit Kumar too lost his life after falling in the septic tank of the school. The only difference was that Ankit was a student of the government-run Municipal Corporation school.

Both incidents took place in the same week and due to the same reason - their schools’s criminal failure to do their most basic responsibility.

In both cases if a septic tank is left open and unguarded within a school’s premises during school hours and a child falls into it, the authorities must own up responsibility and face the music in form of legal consequences for negligence.

WHEN DEATH LOOKS BETTER THAN LIFE

Dinesh Kumar

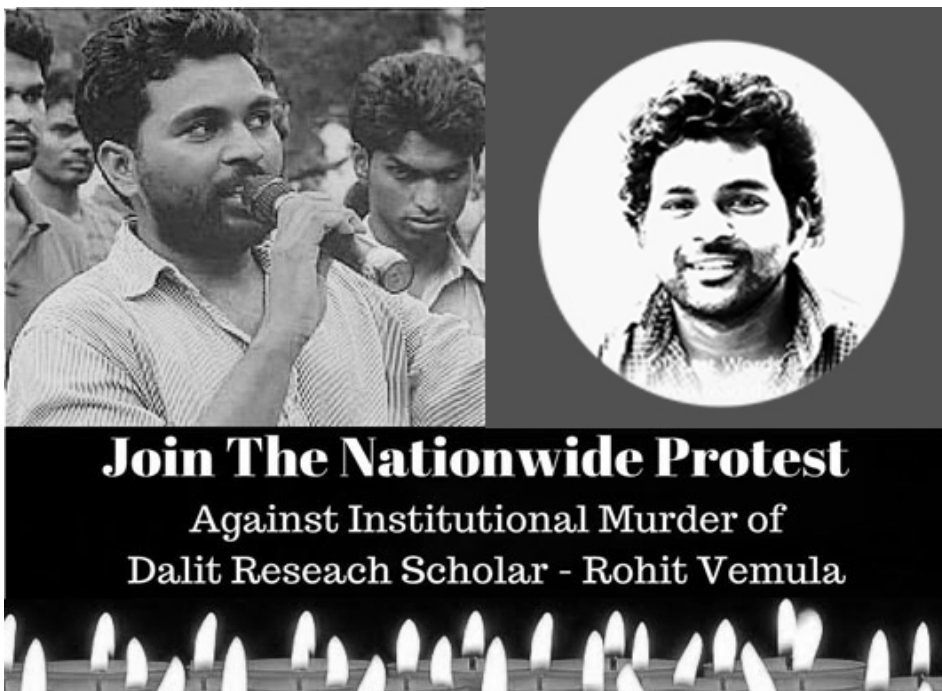
Facts are sometimes stranger than fiction. Otherwise how could the circumstances created by the university officials that drove a young research scholar of a central university named, Rohith Bemula, to commit suicide, is explained. A young man is hounded so relentlessly that he decides to take shelter in flight through death. Rohith was not a criminal, an anti-national elements indulging in disruptive activities, yet he had to bear the kind of trauma so much that discovered death to be less traumatic than life!

But what he left behind-a suicide note- is a grim reflection of sordid saga that has become a way of our life. He sparred all including his enemies to be held responsible for his death, but his terse letter points to the deep systemic malaise that killed him. And that is what the privileged and powerful people aspire to perpetuate. That is perhaps the reason why Rohith described his birth 'to be a fatal accident'.

What began as a normal and minor fight between two groups of students' in any campus of university in India, political practice of patronizing young and aspiring college leaders by the high and mighty political figure seems to have set the country on fire. His name is already a potent symbol; his suicide could spur further political mobilisation. Top-level politicians of various hues have gone to his home or the university following his suicide.

Rohith's suicide note has also, willy-nilly, become an act of resistance. By giving glimpses of a bright, aspiring, caring person with great potential, it has forced his university and concerned citizens far beyond its campus to introspect about systematised caste-based discrimination.

Apologists for the government have ended up pushing up the levels of anger and reaction. Trying to argue that Rohith was not Dalit in the first place was like salt on a wound – a petty, mealy-



mouthed attempt to posthumously deny to a victim even the truth of his life, as he experienced and viewed it. Accusations are flying thick and fast in the political arena over who is playing caste politics: Kejriwal was reported to have accused BJP ministers of trying to turn it into a Dalit versus non-Dalit issue.

In the context of Rohith's Ambedkarite convictions, his adoption of an essentially Gandhian method of resistance (calculated or not, it was the ultimate non-cooperation!) rather than Ambedkar's tireless faith in constitutionalism is striking. One wonders if it signals a shift across a three-generation gap – from seeking the protection of the law to an increased gumption to defy.

While Mahatma Gandhi used fast as a powerful political weapon and his towering persona ensured that his fasts always succeeded in their objectives before he could have even neared death, there is no doubt that he was willing to die and each time his life was repeatedly at grave risk.

Similarly, Anna Hazare's fasts on Jantar Mantar a few years back to press for the passage of the Jan Lokpal Bill did mobilize massive supports from across the country and his fast did compel the central government to call a joint parliamentary session in a desperate attempt to defuse the deadlock and finally the government had to give in writing that an act to that effect would soon be pushed into motion. But Anna's stature too has been very high that is why he succeeded in compelling the government to agree to his demands. But there has also been many a number of people protesting for different causes in different parts of the country and fasting but their fasts could not bring enough moral pressure on the establishment to succeed in achieving their goals while they remained alive, but if any one died fasting for a cause, it left the whole country galvanized and anguished..

Such self-sacrificing methods of political resistance have been favoured by those

who faced a strong and entrenched power, particularly the apparatus of a strong state. While nationalist leaders like Gandhi and Aurobindo used 'passive resistance' to resist the colonial power, Rohith and students like him have recently resisted entrenched social oppression – on caste as well as religious and ethnic lines.

The long suppressed feelings of humiliation, discrimination, dejection and despondency have begun to pour in thick and fast. Their activism has been vigorous over the past year. Indeed, the huge posthumous sympathy for Rohith must be understood in the context of widespread anger over trends that have come to light during the past year and more.

A minister in the Union government made a remark comparing infant Dalits (who had been killed in arson by upper caste neighbours) to dogs. Similar language has been used to disparage a Dalit teacher at one of the country's most prestigious colleges (now a university) after he was bitten by a dog on campus.

The incidents of stripping, beating and other acts of humiliation of the Dalit have been a regular phenomenon. School children have been severely beaten for touching plates 'reserved' for upper caste classmates. Ambedkarite students have had to bear the trauma of persecution even at the premier institutions like the IITs and Tata Institute of Social Sciences too.

This sort of cynical misrepresentation has too often been the BJP's style; it has cynically wrapped some of its key agendas in highly emotive issues. Just like 'jihadi' terrorism has come back to bite its promoters, this sort of manipulations can prove costly. The BJP may already be riding a tiger it cannot dismount.

Now that the party is in power at the Centre, it is hobbled by the prejudices and animosities of a wide phalanx of its leaders. Many of them, and their key supporters, despise some of the lower castes. Whether they realized

what they were doing or not, the ABVP activists at the University of Hyderabad and their supporters, in the faculty there and in the corridors of power in New Delhi, have countered social mobility, citizens' empowerment and equality.

These attitudes are divisive. They go against the grain of the Constitution. They undermine economic growth, political stability and national security. The ruling party must purge itself of such prejudices if the country is to move ahead cohesively towards a shared future of social justice and dignity.

India has numerous examples to

Britishers into submission till the Independence was not finally granted to India.

Thus, undoubtedly Rohith's death would some how help the country's intelligentsia and the political class to change the mind set fettered by differential treatment based on caste and class. And who knows this incident may usher in a dawn that could



prove that being determined to die in case of failure to achieve the goal has always been the most potent political tool.

Mahatma Gandhi proved this point time and again and often succeeded in compelling the

bring about what Mahatma Gandhi had imagined for India- the Ram Rajya.

The violent agitations that followed Potti Sriramulu's death as a result of a 1952 fast demanding a separate state for Telugu-

speaking people forced a very reluctant Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to agree to language-based states.

The imposition of Hindi as the exclusive national language in Tamil Nadu way back in 1967 was greeted by a series of suicides by burning till it was finally given a quit burial. The word 'immolation', used to describe those protest suicides, invoked the ritual status of self-sacrifice.

It is noteworthy that J&K has a special status in the Indian constitution by virtue of which the SC and ST (Scheduled class and Tribe) did not enjoy the privileges like others in the rest of the country.

As a result an activist went on fast onto death and finally died. The people of Jammu and Kashmir were up in arms when the news flashed that a Bhagat community activist had died while fasting in.

The resultant public anger forced the government to recognise scheduled castes (and later tribes too) in that state, and extend to them the constitutional privileges available to rest of India.

In 2008, agitations in Jammu against the revocation of a government order transferring land to the Sri Amarnath Shrine Board got a fillip when a young Jammu resident committed suicide.

After reported by consuming poison, he went to Jammu's Ground and gave a fiery speech to agitators before he collapsed.

That suicide became a cause célèbre and agitations in the Jammu province took on an explosive vitality thereafter. They were mainly organised by RSS activists, including Dr Jitendra Singh, who is now the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office.

Similarly, Irom Sharmila from Manipur, now famed as 'Iron Lady,' has been on fast for last 15 years demanding the abolition of the Special Powers Act which gives armed personnel special powers in naxal-infested regions.

Though her demand was never accepted but the government has had to ensure that the woman protestor does not die by force-feeding her intravenously through her armed guards.

JACKSON GETS GLOBAL RECOGNITION

STAFF CORRESPONDANT

Starting an enterprise with a modest beginning, the Jackson group has come a long way of sustained growth, expansion and diversification just like India has done since independence. In an amusing coincidence, Jackson was founded in the same historic year when India got freedom from the British yoke- in 1947. Thus, 69-year-old Jackson is today standing out with its rich engineering heritage acquired since its inception.

It has grown into a group that employs over 1800 professionals and has progressively grown to be a 300 million-dollar enterprise today. Jackson has diversified into several fields of entrepreneurship with multiple business interests not only restricted to India but extended to a number of foreign countries.

Beginning with Power Solutions Jackson has acquired a leading position in the market with its divergent business activities from Power Generation entailing manufacturing of Cummins - Jackson Silent DG & Gas Generating Sets to state-of-the-art acoustic enclosures for various applications with an option of renting power. Jackson has also come up with one of its kind Global Training Center-cum-Service facility in association with Cummins.

Of late the group dabbled into distribution of Solar as well as Power energies as well. This division primarily specializes in manufacturing a number of products, which have high demands in Indian as well as overseas markets. Among the products it manufactures include LV & MV Switchboards, Control Panels for all applications, Solar Inverter Substations,

String Combiner Boxes and the Solar Generators.

On the other hand its EPC division provides end-to-end solutions from conceptualization to the commissioning of electrical, land-based and Rooftop Solar power projects. Its first 20MW solar power plant was set up in 2013 which has been in operation since then. The group is all set to achieve its goal of strengthening its power capacity to 100 MW by this year end.

In global scenario, Jackson is a sole distributor of Cummins Inc. in Bangladesh and represents Hyster (UK) for material handling equipment. Having executed several electrical projects in Africa, Jackson presence is to be found internationally, particularly in Nepal, Singapore and Bangladesh.

Jackson also forayed into hospitality business and the first of its three hotel projects comprising 80 rooms was launched a couple of years back. Headquartered in dazzling a platinum rated Green Building at Noida, bordering the national Capital of Delhi, Jackson operates its business through 75 points across the country. The group has state-of-the-art infrastructure comprising of 6 manufacturing facilities, besides six regional offices including headquarters.



SCHOOL TRANSCENDS TEXTBOOK BOUNDARY

POYAM GUPTA



A co-educational institution with classes from pre-school to class XII, Vikas Bharati Public School in Rohini Sector 24 is recognized by the Directorate of Education Govt of Delhi and affiliated with the CBSE. Since its inception in 1999, the school has mushroomed on four acres and has 3,500 students and 150 faculty members. The spacious, modern and high-tech building, surrounded by lush-green lawns, has well-lit classes, science, maths, computer and language labs with digital equipment. It also has a huge field with a basketball court, lawn tennis court, swimming pool and skating rink. The school grounds also accommodate rain water harvesting system, reverse osmosis plant and recycling plant. It also has a fleet of around 30 buses.

Following the motto knowledge is power and armed with the ideology of synthesizing tradition with modernity, the school tries to procure highest quality of education with a conducive environment for the preservation of traditional values along with technological accomplishments of the modern world. After being accredited with the International School Award by the British Council (2014-17) for enriching its curriculum with international dimension, the school has been maintaining a strong partnership with Mountbatten School of UK for the exchange programmes, and the

ones with UK and Japan have been an exhilarating experience for the students and teachers.

The school practices a multidimensional approach towards the development of the students by catering not only to the cognitive domain, but also to the new vistas of physical, emotional, linguistic, creative and spiritual learning. The school acts as a 'talent-incubator', the students participate in inter-school, zonal, national and international level competitions, and have excelled in archery at the national level and yoga at the international level. They also get to learn during the educational trips to different parts of the country .

The intra-school and interschool events are given importance to help students in skill development, social growth and community involvement. "Value-based education is delivered for the moral and social exaltation of each student," says chairman .

Anoop Solanki. Director Vikas Solanki points out: "The school has been well-grounded on the core idea of self-discipline and hard work, which are the hallmarks of success, says the school's principal S Premlatha, adding, "The school gets cent percent result every year in the board exams. Those who have graduated from here have been placed in renowned medical and engineering colleges."

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NATIONAL YOUTH CELEBRATION 2016

KISHORE DERE

Swami Vivekananda Jayanti falls on 12 January. The wandering monk who introduced Hindu Vedanta philosophy to the Western world was born on 12 January 1863. The question may arise in our minds as to why is National Youth Day celebrated on his birth anniversary? It may be worthwhile to mention that India is not the only country influenced by the ideals of Swami Vivekananda. The Western world too is significantly influenced. In other words, Swami Vivekananda is one of the makers of the modern India.

Swami Vivekananda always believed in the youth power to lead and nourish the culture of the country and carry forward the mission of national unity, progress and development. To honour Swami Vivekananda, National Youth Day is celebrated every year on January 12 since 1985. It was in 1984 that the Government of India declared it. The government decision-makers thought that the ideals and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda are a great source of inspiration for the Indian youth. So, it was decided that his birth anniversary will be celebrated as National Youth Day.

Philosophies, teachings and ideas of the Swami Vivekananda are the great cultural and traditional assets of India. Youths are the most important part of the country who lead the country ahead, that is why youths are selected to be inspired first by the ideas and ideals of Swami Vivekananda. So, the National Youth Day is celebrated every year to encourage and inspire the youths of the India. Schools and colleges are delightfully adorned to enthusiastically celebrate the event.

This day is of great importance for schools and colleges all over India as the institutions hold processions, speeches, recitations, youth con-

ventions and various music, sports and essay-writing contests. There are no dearth of individuals and organisations which are constantly guided and inspired by the thought-provoking writings and speeches of Vivekananda.

Messenger of classical Indian wisdom to the Western world-

It was his speech at the World's Parliament of Religions in 1893 that made him popular as 'Messenger of Indian wisdom to the Western world'. He had lived in the US and UK for a few years. His message was "Arise, Awake and



Stop Not until the goal is reached".

Following are some of the famous quotes of Swami Vivekananda:

□ **"Choose the highest ideal and live your life up to that. Look at the "ocean" and not at the wave". - Swami Vivekananda**

□ **"A few heart-whole, sincere, and energetic men and women can do more in a year than a mob in a century".**

- Swami Vivekananda

□ **"Religion is the manifestation of the Divinity already in man".- Swami Vivekananda**



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