

# Editorial

Imphal Saturday, April 22, 2017

## An area our Education Minister needs to check

Education - an enlightening experience, so says the experts. In our society mired with deep rooted beliefs and traditions, the one means of lifting the veil of superstition and bringing the public to their senses turns out to be enlightening the common people to the realities of the present world. The role of education cannot be emphasized enough in bringing about a change in the mindset of the people. Yet, and as we have been experiencing it, the critical role of education has been missing, leading to a slow progression and a hindrance to the fast paced race for development in the present world. In a welcome move by the present minister who is in charge of education, various changes have been mooted - and in one month the Hon'ble Minister is doing all he can to streamline the system. Yet the fact remains that the system is still in need of a holistic overhaul - not so much for want of regulations as it is for want of an effective implementation of the various policies and programs drawn up to boost the quality of education being dispensed at present in the state. In what can be termed as a mass malpractice of reformation, the present practice of substituting local individuals in connivance with the appointed teachers to take their place in various far flung places is becoming an accepted way of escaping the harsh realities of the actual hardships that comes with the trade. An undeniable fact that has been conveniently overlooked - the end result felt only by the students. Promises have been made to make state run educational institutions an ideal place of study - a brave attempt to challenge the monopoly of private educational institutions. Though the move is a welcome one considering the exorbitant fees being levied by these private educational institutions of which there has been such a hue and cry about, the fact remains that almost every parent or guardian still prefers to enroll their wards in such private schools. Isn't it then reason enough for the state agencies and concerned authorities to delve deeper into the matter to find out the reason behind all these fiasco? What has the so called "model schools" become? What are the checks and balances that have been put in place to ensure such model schools perform to their optimum? How are the teachers, selected after much hype and controversies performing? Or are those selected teachers really performing their entrusted duties to the best of their abilities? Questions only those in the know of things can give a definitive answer to. Yet the undeniable results showed otherwise. It is time to question the facts and admit the lapses to bring about the desired result. The open secret of the surrogate teachers needs to be busted in time to prevent the decaying rot in the education system in the State. The media is ready - is the Government ready to take the fall?

# WORLD EARTH DAY 2017 DATE

World Health Day 2017 will be celebrated by the people all over the world on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, at Saturday. There is reason behind the title of this celebration as "Earth Day". It was suggested by number of people in 1969 and the idea came with "birthday" as Earth day (rhyming word of birthday).

**WORLD EARTH DAY INFORMATION AND HISTORY**  
World Earth Day is celebrated every year as an annual event by the people all across the world on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April in order to increase the awareness among people about the environment safety as well as to demonstrate the environmental protection measures. First time, the world earth day was celebrated in the year 1970 and then started celebrating annually on global basis by almost 192 countries.

World Earth Day observance was started to celebrate as an annual event to get national support in order to better take care of the environmental safety by solving its issues. In 1969, there was a peace activist of the San Francisco named John McConnell who actively involved in starting this event and proposed a day to get together for the environmental safety. John McConnell had chosen this event to be celebrated in the spring equinox on 21<sup>st</sup> of March in 1970 whereas United States Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson had chosen this event to be celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April in 1970.

They had contacted the people to join this event to get together for solving their environmental issues for better future. During the first time celebration of the earth day millions of people shown their interest and participated to understand the motto of the event. Instead of deciding one date for the celebration of the earth day, it has been started celebrating on both of the dates. Generally, the earth day event celebration starts with the common practice of new trees plantation in the required areas worldwide.

For founding the earth day celebration date on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, United States Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson was honored later with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award for his participation in great job. Later, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April as an Earth Day was focused globally by the original national coordinator, Denis Hayes in the year 1990 among almost 141 nations.

Most of the earth day communities celebrate it for the whole week with the name Earth Week to focus on many environmental issues. In this way, 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1970 has been marked as the anniversary of the modern environmental movement. Earth Day 1970 was established to raise the public awareness for self consciousness, other living organisms, controlling the anti-war protest movement as well as keeping the environmental issues in front of the people. A big tragedy behind establishing the event of earth day celebration by the founder Gaylord Nelson (a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin) was tragedy of the massive oil spill in the Santa Barbara, California in 1969. This tragedy led the Gaylord Nelson towards enhancing the public consciousness for the air, water and soil pollution as well as implementing the environmental protection measures.

**WHY APRIL 22 IS CELEBRATED AS EARTH DAY?**  
Our Earth is the only planet in the Universe where life is possible till date. It is very necessary to maintain the natural assets of the earth in order to continue the life on the earth. In the rush of the crowd, the most intelligent creature of the God called human is slowly losing its humanity and forgot to take care of the planet that gave it life and started using its resources very ruthlessly. The 22<sup>nd</sup> of April has been marked as an Earth Day to make the human race get aware about the importance of their planet.

A USA senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson had founded the day to make the people aware about day to day increasing rate of the industrialization as well as the careless attitude of the people living on the earth. The step was taken by him to promote the idea of natural balance among people as well as encourage them for respecting the assets of the planet. It is very necessary to take care of the environmental issues to stay healthy and alive as cruel people have mercilessly utilized its resources and depleted its life supporting resources over the centuries. One of the big examples of it is the depletion of the Ozone layer which prevents us from the ultra violet rays of the sun. Another big problem of the environment is death of rivers by getting mixed with the industrial toxic materials which leads to the global warming. Increasing industrialization on daily basis leads to deforestation which ultimately leads to the rise in Earth temperature. These are the life ending dangers on the earth forever which can be lessened through the small steps such as new trees plantation, inhibiting the deforestation, limiting the vehicles use to reduce air pollution, enhancing the energy conservation through reducing the unnecessary use of electricity. Such small steps become a big step if taken care by the people worldwide together.

Now a day, everything is being packed in the plastic bags or given in it by the shopkeepers. Plastic bags productions are increasing day by day which is very shameful condition for us as these materials are undegradable. The first celebration of the Earth Day was taken place in the US on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April in 1970 to mark the environmental movement as a big matter of fact. Students group from the US College campuses had participated to protest for the environmental deterioration to increase the public awareness. Another group was protested for the oil spills, toxic dumps, air and water pollution due to industrialization, raw sewage, use and production of pesticides and many more. Since then, 22<sup>nd</sup> of April was continued to be celebrated as Earth Day officially.

**HOW WORLD EARTH DAY IS CELEBRATED**  
People from all over the world celebrate earth day with great enthusiasm and interest on each 22<sup>nd</sup> of April since 1970 to save the natural assets of their earth. More than 20 million Americans took part in the event celebration and make the streets, parks and auditoriums busy in order to display their themes role based on the public health, environmental issues, industrialization, deforestation and so many. Students from thousands of colleges, universities and other educational institutions actively take part in the protest against increasing earth issues such as the day to day environment deterioration, air and water pollution, ozone layer deterioration, industrialization, deforestation and etc to prevent the oil spills, set up of polluting factories, power plants, use and production of pesticides and etc.

Various steps have been taken by the governments of many countries towards the safety of earth by implementing the variety of legal rules. A group of environmental leaders organize various events and campaigns to celebrate the earth day. A big crowd of the people gets together from 141 countries to solve the environmental issues by implementing variety of useful measures. People take part in demonstrating the theme of clean environment in order to build a clean and healthy world to welcome new generations. The aim of celebrating the world earth day is to inspire the public for making better earth environment. At this day people perform outdoor activities related to the earth safety like new trees plantation planting

trees, picking up roadside waste materials, recycling of wastes, energy conservation and so many. Some people request governments to take immediate action to prevent the day by day increasing global warming and other environmental destructions. At this day all the TV channels to show their programs to deal with the real environmental issues to get public aware. It has not been declared as the public holiday officially by the government. All the schools, colleges, universities and educational institutions are open at this day. April 22 Earth Day, founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was first organized in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution. People who participate in the event celebration, make an earth planet using green and blue colors to indicate the life of animals, plants and symbolize their natural recycling including the green house effect and global warming. At some places in the United States, people celebrate earth day by taking part in a parade getting dressed up in flowers, plants or bugs clothes to make aware that whole environment is our real home. There are many ways to celebrate the earth day:

- New trees plantation at required places.
- Do some outdoor activities with your family such as making the home for a bird on the tree and discuss their role in the ecosystem.
- Motivate people to reduce the use of plastic bags to avoid the soil and water pollution.
- Teach your children about the recycling and reuse of the old materials.
- Take part in picking up the wastes from streets, parks and other places.
- Take part in the amusement activities like singing a song related to the Earth safety to attract more people to the event celebration.
- Take part in the educational sessions like seminars, discussions and other competitive activities related to the safety of natural resources of the earth.
- Motivate people by wearing green, brown or blue clothes for displaying the environmental colors.
- Promote people for energy conservation by various practical means.

- Teach people that every day of their life is earth day, so they should take care of the earth on daily basis.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF WORLD EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**  
The founder of the Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson, has chosen this day (22<sup>nd</sup> of April) to increase the awareness among common public, especially among youngsters to get full effect of the campaign of environmental safety. He had selected this day by keeping things in mind that there would not be any disturbances of the exams for the students or any fairs and festival for the common public, so that everyone could pay their full attention towards this event celebration. According to the Gregorian calendar, it is considered that 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 1970 was the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the Vladimir Lenin.

**WORLD EARTH DAY THEME**  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2017 is "Environmental and Climate Literacy".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2016 was "Trees for the Earth!".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2015 was "Water Wonderful World" and "Clean Earth - Green Earth".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2014 was "Green Cities".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2013 was "The Face of Climate Change".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2012 was "Mobilize the Earth".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2011 was "Clear the Air".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2010 was "Reduce".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2009 was "How Do You Get Around?".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2008

was "Trees Please".  
- The theme of World Earth Day 2007 was "Be kind to the earth - starting from saving resources".

**EARTH DAY QUOTES**  
We have listed below some inspirational and meaningful quotes on Earth Day. All the listed quotes are said by the famous personalities of the world on the earth day. Such well said quotes inspire us to take care of the beautiful earth and conserve this natural property.  
"One billion people in 175 countries will mark Earth Day. That puts tea parties in perspective, doesn't it?" - Greg Dworkin  
"In celebration of Earth Day, I encourage all Members of the House to support legislation aimed at investing in the improvement of water quality in our Nation's lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries." - Jerry Costello  
"Well, perhaps the greatest achievement, and we didn't know it at the time, was we held an Earth Day in 1970, and out of that Earth Day a lot of students got involved in saving the environment, or trying to." - Pete McCloskey  
"Every day is Earth Day, and I vote we start investing in a secure climate future right now." - Jackie Speier  
"Earth Day 1970 was irrefutable evidence that the American people understood the environmental threat and wanted action to resolve it." - Barry Commoner  
"We had some major successes and we did so because the country embraced the spirit of Earth Day and embraced this concept that we have to have forward-looking, visionary environmental policy and energy policy in this country." - Jay Inslee  
"Ahh, Earth Day, the only day of the year where being able to hacky-sack will get you laid." - Jon Stewart  
"If we are ever to halt climate change and conserve land, water and other resources, not to mention reduce animal suffering, we must celebrate Earth Day every day - at every meal." - Ingrid Newkirk  
"On Earth Day, we celebrate all the gifts the world and nature make available to us. We recognize our complete dependence on its bounty. And we acknowledge the need for good stewardship to preserve its fruits for future generations." - John Hooven  
"Earth Day should encourage us to reflect on what we are doing to make our planet a more sustainable and livable place." - Scott Peters  
"If we are ever to halt climate change and conserve land, water and other resources, not to mention reduce animal suffering, we must celebrate Earth Day every day - at every meal." - Ingrid Newkirk  
"The earth is what we all have in common." - Wendell Berry  
"Thank God men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth." - Henry David Thoreau  
"Man must feel the earth to know himself and recognize his values.... God made life simple. It is man who complicates it." - Charles A. Lindbergh  
"Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." - Rachel Carson  
"Trees are Earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven." - Rabindranath Tagore  
"God wanted to make heaven and the earth is that heaven. Nowhere in the universe there is so much love, life, beauty and peace. Enjoy your stay with the fellow beings." - Amit Ray  
"It's Earth Day I wonder if we can plant more trees than people for a change?" - Stanley Victor Paskavich  
"I had assumed that the Earth, the spirit of the Earth, noticed exceptions - those who wantonly damage it and those who do not. But the Earth is wise. It has given itself into the keeping of all, and all are therefore accountable." - Alice Walker  
(Collection from websites)

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