Imphal Times

Editorial

Culture of respect

While the topic of 'respect' may seem too trivial a matter for discussion or deliberation given the uncountable 'pressing issues' that are occupying the minds and the concerns of the people of the state, it must be said that one of the most significant barriers to progress of a particular society is a dysfunctional culture rooted in widespread disrespect which are being manifested in various ways and manner including disruptive behavior; humiliating, demeaning treatment of others who are less fortunate; passive-aggressive behavior towards the more vulnerable individuals or groups; passive disrespect; dismissive treatment of others who are financially weaker; and systemic disrespect to mention a few. If we only care enough to delve further into the topic, it would become clear that creating a culture of respect is the essential first step in a society's journey to becoming a safe, highly reliable one that provides a supportive and nurturing environment and a conducive atmosphere that enables the public to engage wholeheartedly in various aspects of our social lives. A culture of respect requires that the society as a whole and the government in particular develop effective methods for responding to episodes of disrespectful behavior while also initiating the cultural changes needed to prevent such episodes from occurring. Both responding to and preventing disrespect are major challenges for the leaders of the state as well as of the different communities or groups who must create the preconditions for a positive change towards this end and lead in establishing and practicing the same. When disrespectful behavior occurs, it must be addressed consistently and transparently. Central to an effective response is a code of conduct that establishes unequivocally the expectation that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy, honesty, respect, and dignity. The code must be enforced fairly through a clear and explicit process and applied consistently regardless of one's position, social standing or community. Creating a culture of respect requires action on many fronts such as modeling respectful conduct and educating the general public on appropriate behavior that increase the sense of fairness, transparency, collaboration, and individual responsibility. Respect is something that people often take for granted. After all, most individuals, or on a broader perspective different communities or groups are 'okay with each other'. But the goal must be to achieve a social environment where people want to be, where mutual trust and easy harmony replaces enmity and distrust, where suspicion and wariness has no place. Creating a positive culture goes beyond conversations about diversity and celebrating differences. A foundation of how we treat others and solve problems and modeling that throughout the society is far more important than isolated assemblies, monthly themes and small group crisis management. Giving people interpersonal skills can be a huge benefit for them in their social life, and much of the distress we see in our world currently can be ultimately drilled down to a general inability to disagree respectfully and continue to work for a harmonious solution. It is through respect that the talents and efforts of others can be recognized and appreciated. Respect creates sincerity which is the need of the hour if we are to even begin wishing for a better society.

Encounter in Sopore (CASO) there, a police official said. He said as the forces were conducting the search operation,

PTI

Srinagar, Sep 4: An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Sopore township of north Kashmir's Baramulla district today, police said. Acting on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants in Shanker Gund Brath area

the militants fired upon them. The forces retaliated, resulting in an encounter, the official said, adding firing was going on when last reports came in. He said two militants are believed of Sopore, security forces launched a cordon and search operation to be trapped there and further details of the operation are awaited.

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Recognizing teachers as nation builders

By : Priyadarshi Dutta

September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day in honour of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888-1975), the second President of India, who was born on that day. But how did it get instituted? Dr. Radhakrishnan's 75th birthday on September 5, 1962 came within weeks of his being elevated to the President's post. He was flooded with felicitations from home and abroad, a testimony to his wide reputation as professor and exponent of Indian philosophy. Those who wished him included international figures like Dr. Albert Schweitzer, Daisetz T. Sukuzi, Horace Alexander, Arnold J. Toynbee, Kingsley Martin, and Charles A. Moore etc. At home, elikidize untime entime entimes politicians cutting across party lines hailed his contribution to education and Indic scholarship. "But above all, he is a great teacher, from whom all of us have learnt much, and will continue to learn", stated Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in his

But Dr. Radhakrishnan wished that his 75th birthday should not be celebrated as such. It is should the observed as Teachers' Day in honour of the noble profession he had been attached with throughout his career. The Teachers' Day was instituted thus in 1962. The convention of collecting funds for teachers in need started that very year. But due to the Indo-Chinese War erupting on October 20, 1962 the money collected during 1962 and 1963 were put in defence bonds. Every year the President of India gives away National Awards to teachers on September 5. It is awarded to outstanding teachers of primary, middle and higher econdary schools in recognition to heir meritorious services. Not only their meritorious services is the academic efficiency recognized, but genuine interest/ affection towards children, reputation in local community and involvement in social life of the community also considered.

These awards are being given annually since 1959, even before the Teachers' Day came into existence. In 1968, the scope of the awards was stended to the teachers of Sanskrit Pathshalas run on traditional lines In 1976, the scope was further

enlarged to include Arabic/Persian teachers of Madrasas. Further reforms in 1993 led to the inclusion of teachers from Sainik Schools, Navodaya Schools and schools run by the Atomic Energy Education Society. Maximum numbers of awards could go up to 350 during a year. The awardees are selected through three tier system of district committee, state committee and

union government. India has a long tradition of venerating the teachers. In the Vedic times the students were taught at teacher's home, serving him in their free time. It was called Gurukul system, which was called *Garaka* system, which was in principle free of cost, except the student would pay a *Gurudakshina* (a symbolic fee in cash, kind or vow). The emphasis was on moulding their character as much as honing their intellectual faculty. A student in ancient India was identified by the lineage of his teacher. This gave rise to the concept of Guru-Shishya Parampara i.e. mentor-disciple relationship. In later centuries the teacher would reside in student's home - like Dronacharya staying with the Kauravas in Mahabharata.

The subsequent centuries saw the rise of residential universities, which were apparently copied from Buddhist monasteries. It meant teachers and students met on neutral ground. The Taxilla University in northwestern India (in present day Pakistan) was world's first university. India had several universities like Taxilla, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri, Vallabhi, Pushpagiri etc. But their destruction in the medieval era by foreign invaders left a great void in education.

Teachers again came to the fore with troduction of modern education in India in early nineteenth century. The Hindu College (estd.1817), now Presidency University in Kolkata, was the first institution of higher learning in the modern sense of the term. This institution played a major role in the creating a modern national discourse. The youthful teacher who inspired it was Henry Louis Vivian Derozio (1809-1831), an Anglo-Indian who lived merely for 23 years. He captured the imagination of his pupils by

inculcating rationalism and humanism of contemporaneous Europe in them.

also wrote the first known patriotic poem of India viz. My Native Land –"My country in thy days of glory past/A beauteous halo circled round thy brow/And worshipped as a deity thou wast/ Where is thy glory, where the reverence now". Derozio was hounded out of Hindu College, by irate parents of his pupils, who accused him of corrupting the morale of his followers. He passed morate of his followers. He passed away prematurely shortly afterwards. But his pupil-disciples who were called Derozians or Young Bengal grew up into leading lights of the society. They included likes of Radhanath Sikdar (1813-1870) who trigonometrically calculated the height of Mt.Everest, orator Ram Gopal Ghose and writer Peary Chand Mitra. In western India it was Bal Shastri

Jambehkar (1812-1845) who was pioneer teacher to a generation of public personae. A teacher of mathematics at newly established Elphistone Institution (now Elphinstone College) in Bombay his students included Dadabhai Naoroji, V.N. Mandlik, Sorabji Shapurji, Dr. Bhau Daji. They were the pioneers of public life in erstwhile Bombay Presidency. Jambhekar, along with Rugoonath Hurrychanderjee and Junardhan

Wassoodewjee, brought out English-Marathi bi-lingual English-Marathi bi-lingual newspaper *Bombay Durpan* (Bombay Mirror) in January, 1832. Poet Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) and political leader Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861-1945) donned to role of educationists Tagore through his Visva Bharati University and Malaviya through his Banaras Hindu University represented two different approaches to national education. They stand out as iconic teachers With increasing commercialization and professionalization of education, value system is under threat. If education is seen as commodity, then role of teacher is reduced to mere service provider. The rise of distance education and The rise of distance educ online education has made teacher content provider. But professional and commercial achievements alone cannot be benchmark of success in life. Nor can these alone lead to a happy society. Idealism and sensibilities have profound role to pay. Teachers are best placed to instill and inspire those virtues. Every one of us owes something good to our teachers. It is often the noblest part of us. The writer is an independent

researcher and columnist based in New Delhi.

Views expressed in the article are author's personal. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

National & International News

Dharmendra Pradhan says daily petrol, diesel price revision to continue

PTI

New Delhi, Sept. 4: Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said the daily revision in petrol and diesel prices will continue despite petrol price spiking by Rs 6.6 per litre in two months

Pradhan, who was yesterday elevated as Cabinet minister and given additional charge of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, said the daily revision immediately passes on the benefit of any reduction in international oil prices to consumers and avoids sharp spikes by spreading them in small doses.

He previously was Minister of State (with Independent Charge) for Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He is now the Cabinet Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. "It is in the interest of consumers. I don't think that there is a need for change in it," he told reporters after

taking charge as Minister for Skill Development. State-owned oil companies in June

dumped the 15-year old practice of revising rates on 1st and 16th of every month and instead adopted a dynamic daily price revision to instantly reflect changes in cost. Rates during the first fortnight dropped but have been on the rise since July 3. While petrol prices have increased

by Rs 6.6 to reach Rs 69.66 a litre in Delhi, the highest since August 2014, diesel rates have risen by Rs 4.02 to Rs 57.38. "Daily revision in prices is good.

When we started daily revisions on June 16, rates dropped in the first fortnight. Thereafter it has increased mainly because of rise in global oil prices," he said.

Daily revision, he said, results in any drop in international oil rates being passed on to consumers immediately rather than having to wait for 15 days In the reverse scenario when international oil rates rise, pump prices are hiked by few paise per day "Should prices be hiked by Rs 2.50 or Rs 3 per litre in one go or they should be spaced out in small doses," he asked. The rate changes are being done on

a transparent basis and city-wise prices are available through SMS, he said, adding the daily price change model best reflects the happenings in the market. Pradhan also said his ministry is

seeking approval of the safety organisations for starting home delivery of fuel.

The issue involves safety and we have to first get their approval before a pilot is launched," he said.

"We are trying to permission." he government had between November 2014 and January 2016 raised excise duty on petrol and diesel on nine occasions to take away gains arising from plummeting international oil prices. In all, duty on petrol was hiked by Rs 11.77 per litre and that on diesel by 13.47 a

litre. The windfall from the excise duty hikes helped the government bridge its budgetary deficit.

Naveen Jindal, others granted bail in coal scam case

New Delhi, Sep 4: Industrialist Naveen Jindal and others were today granted bail by a special court in a ase related to the allocation of a coal block in Madhya Pradesh Special Judge Bharat Parashar granted the relief to them on a personal bond of Rs one lakh each and one surety of like amount. The court has now posted the matter for further hearing on October 31. Besides Jindal, others who got the relief include Jindal Steel and Power Ltd's (JSPL) former Director Sushil

Maroo, former Deputy MD Anand Goyal and CEO Vikrant Gujral. The accused were summoned for alleged offences of cheating and criminal conspiracy in the allocation of Urtan North coal block in Madhva Pradesh. In its charge sheet, the CBI has alleged that JSPL has alleged that JSPL misrepresented the equipment purchase orders and misled the Coal Ministry. Jindal is also facing trial in a case pertaining to the allocation of Amarkonda Murgadangal coal block in Jharkhand.



Retd. Dv. Commandant, 1st IRB Govt. of Manipur (Expired on 23/8/2017)

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