

## SuSwagatam - e-passes for Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has introduced the 'SuSwagatam' portal, which enables advocates, litigants, interns, and others to register and request e-passes for entry into the court for purposes like attending court hearings and meeting advocates. The portal offers varying validity periods for e-passes, accommodates police clearance certificates, and features role-based secure logins with identity proofs and live photo captures during registration. The launch of 'SuSwagatam' aligns with the Chief Justice's vision to enhance access to justice through technology.

This initiative simplifies visitor management at the Supreme Court, catering to advocates, litigants, citizens, and all stakeholders. The digital entry/exit system streamlines processes, making it convenient for users to request e-passes for activities like attending court hearings, meeting advocates, visiting office blocks, or using the press lounge. The release emphasised that 'SuSwagatam' furthers the court's efforts to enhance convenience and efficiency using the latest technology. This undertaking has been initiated with the aim of alleviating the difficulties faced by litigants from across the country who visit the judicial institution, often enduring prolonged waits in queues to obtain entry passes. The entire procedure, particularly during extreme weather conditions in Delhi such as scorching summers, rainy seasons, or harsh winters, has been a taxing ordeal. Given the presence of technology that can offer services directly to people's doorsteps, it was simply a matter of taking proactive action, a step that the Chief Justice has taken in a timely manner. The ultimate outcome of this initiative is advantageous not only for litigants but also for legal professionals and the general public. It's worth noting that the Supreme Court has undertaken other electronic initiatives in the past, including the online filing of cases, fee payments, and dissemination of court decisions. These steps have been emulated by various High Courts across different states, leading to the provision of hassle-free services for litigants. These innovations have not only enhanced public convenience but have also augmented the transparency and accountability of the judicial system. Additionally, significant court proceedings are now accessible for live viewing by thousands of individuals. This accessibility extends to young law students, who can witness real-time examples of courtroom conduct and familiarise themselves with the judicial processes. This marks a shift towards more interactive and educational opportunities, reinforcing the judiciary's efforts to make legal proceedings comprehensible and approachable for the next generation.

Indeed, the successful testing of the portal and the issuance of thousands of e-passes indicate a positive stride towards modernising court procedures. The fact that the Courts are attentive to the challenges faced by ordinary citizens demonstrates a commitment to improving access to justice. While traditional manual systems were the only option in the past, the advent of technology has opened the door to simplification at the click of a mouse. This shift eliminates the need for litigants to make advance visits to secure entry passes, ultimately saving them time and money. The proactive initiatives taken by the respective Chief Justices, along with substantial financial support from the Government, have been instrumental in transforming these ideas into practical realities. This concerted effort reflects a departure from certain traditional practises, as the courts aim to enhance the transparency of the judicial system while ensuring that the public is provided with comprehensive facilities at every stage.

Similar streamlined procedures can be implemented in State High Courts as well, easing the congestion that often occurs in court complexes due to unnecessary physical visits. The focus on utilising technology is aimed at reducing the need for individuals to physically visit court premises for various tasks, as nearly every facility can be accessed online, including virtual courtroom proceedings. These initiatives, pioneered by the Supreme Court, are deserving of appreciation as they contribute significantly to reshaping the future of legal proceedings, making them more accessible and user-friendly for the general public.

## Record Digital OPD registrations

Four hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, integrated with the Scan & Share Queue Management System through the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), have surged into the top 20 list of the country's best-performing healthcare institutions based on token generation. The Gandhi Nagar Hospital has played a pioneering role, setting an example that others have followed and even surpassed. It's truly heart warming to witness the Sub District Hospital Uri embrace the digital approach of the Scan and Share Queue Management System to provide seamless services to patients. As more patients get digitally registered over time, this system will evolve into a reliable repository of information that will serve as a valuable resource for medical students, offering a readily accessible reference library for their research endeavours.

The current success of the digital initiative signifies the opportune moment to elevate it to the next level. Uploading all patient data can undoubtedly offer immense value to the Health and Medical Education Department. With the entirety of OPD records accessible at the click of a mouse, real-time monitoring of prevalent diseases becomes feasible. The depth of insights gained from analysing nationwide medical data can lead to well-informed policies that cater to the specific healthcare needs of various regions and demographics. The commendable efforts of all staff members involved are deserving of high appreciation. As time progresses, the authorities can gradually phase out the manual counters that consume a significant amount of time. Technology has undeniably transformed human lifestyles across various domains, and the realm of patient care is no exception.

# G20 SUMMIT Committed to advancing Global research and Innovation

Dr Jitendra Singh

The G20, an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU) works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. It consists of most of the world's largest economies, including both industrialized and developing nations. India assumed the Presidency of G20 in 2023 starting from Dec 1, 2022 until Nov 30, 2023. During its G20 Presidency period, India strived to maintain the continuity of the inter-year agenda under the Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) and Research Ministers Meeting. Working under the Presidency-theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', India identified 'Research and Innovation for an Equitable Society' as the main theme of RIIG during its Presidency. RIIG Meetings were planned to provide platforms for stakeholders at all levels to share ideas and create new partnerships to elevate Research and Innovation as a tool to achieve socio-economic equity. Policy Approach and Objective Government policymakers have an inherent focus on designing frameworks that would generate new markets and sustain macro-economic growth. These mission driven frameworks largely enable the Research- Innovation ecosystem, that leads to creation of new technologies, strengthening the socially beneficial nature of research and innovation. However, more efforts are needed to extend the research and innovation benefits towards achieving socio-economic equity, by enabling greater public participation in setting up research priorities. Through RIIG, G20 member countries proposed to address areas of common interest and working on developing

sustainable solutions for science-driven equity.

**Priority Issues and themes for discussion**  
\* Materials for Sustainable Energy  
\* Circular Bio-economy  
\* Eco-innovations for Energy Transition  
\* Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy

**Conference on Materials for Sustainable Energy, Ranchi**

The discussions focused on understanding the fundamentals of material development and bottlenecks to achieve efficient largescale green energy generation and storage. Materials for Sustainable Energy Storage, Solar Energy Utilisation and Photovoltaic Technologies, Materials and Processes for Green Energy, Policies and Programmes for EV Implementation were some of the sub-themes discussed.

**Conference on Eco-innovations for Energy Transitions**

The meeting focused on eco-innovations for energy transitions, and deliberated institutional frameworks for greater permeability of affordable innovation in 'Energy Research' to grassroot levels.

**Conference on Circular Bio-economy, Dibrugarh/Itanagar**

The deliberations held on the bio-based circular carbon economy with emphasis on the utilisation of biogenic materials and/or bioprocesses by adopting nature-based interventions within the economic system catalyses circularity making the ecosystem more resilient. The discussions provided an opportunity to deliberate and enhance commitments of actions and pledges from key stake-

holders towards building a sustainable and circular bioeconomy. The meeting focused on connecting thematic issues on agriculture, decarbonisation in industry, Bio-Energy and Bio-resource Management.

**Conference on Scientific Challenges and Opportunities towards achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy**

The discussions were held for building appropriate frameworks and processes that recognise and accommodate various values of nature that underpin our social and economic wellbeing, through Blue Economy. Contemporary topics in Marine Biodiversity, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, New and renewable off-shore energy were discussed.

**RIIG Summit/Ministerial meeting, Mumbai**

The finalisation of the Chair's Summary and Outcome Document marked the culmination of the G20 research engagements that took place through a series of meetings in different parts of India during India's G20 Presidency in 2023. As the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology I chaired the G20 Research Ministers' Meeting (RMM) on July 05, 2023. More than 100 foreign delegates including Research Ministers from 29 G20 members, invited guest countries and international organisations participated and reaffirmed the critical role of research and innovation for enabling inclusive and sustainable development and resolved to support all efforts for transforming research and innovation systems to respond to the changing world of the 21st century and address the challenges of tomorrow

(The author is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology)



**RIIG CONFERENCES**

The Inception meeting of the Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG), was held in Kolkata, to discuss research and innovation for an equitable society. A total of 36 foreign delegates representing twenty countries and International Organisations, participated in the Inception meeting. About 40 Indian delegates and special invitees from various scientific departments and organisations of Government of India participated in the meeting

# Teachers and New Education Policy

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Education is the drawing out of child's latent potentialities by providing the students with suitable opportunities for their exercise and, through exercise, their development and perfection. Every human being, from the first moment of life, is a person, i.e. an individual possessing human nature (body plus soul) in its own distinctive and unique way. The child, therefore, is not a tabula rasa, a clean slate on which parents and teachers may write whatever they please; it has its own faculties-physical, intellectual and moral - as yet unable to produce acts for want of unfolding and exercise, but with clear characteristics and tendencies, good or bad, determined by heredity, constitution and surroundings. The work of education, therefore, consists in providing the child with suitable opportunities for the exercise and development of its latent powers. The cause of education or the educator, is the child himself, for education is an immanent action, while instruction, a transient action, is given by the teacher. The only true education is self-education, for no outsider can act for the pupil. True education is that which makes the man characterised, self-reliant and self-less. Education aims at in the manifestation of divine perfection already exists in man.

I personally believe in that true education is not by words and ink. Education is an atmosphere. An attempt is required to be made to create an atmosphere of an education which is not merely mental but aims at drawing the higher emotions of the pupils, their inner sense of simplicity and service, of purity and prayer. I believe profoundly in the wisdom of Sufies, Rishis and Saints, and in the values of India's own culture and Indian ideals. True education is not a withered parchment but the living water of the spirit. Is education a book-learning? No. Is it diverse knowledge? Not even that. The training by which the current and expression of will are brought under control and become fruitful is called education. Now consider, is that education as a result of which the will, being continuously choked by force through generations, is well-nigh killed out; is that education under whose sway even the old ideas, let alone the new ones, are disappearing one by one, is that education which is slowly making man a machine. No. Education is the manifestation of the divine perfection already in man. Education is a life-building, man-making, character-making assimilation of ideas. Education is by which strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one's own feet. Education is, that quickens, that vivifies, that kindles the urge of spirituality, character building and love for ethics inherent in the minds

of young men.

Education, therefore, means enabling the mind to find out that ultimate truth which emancipates us from the bondage of dust and gives us the wealth, not of things but of inner light, not of power but of love, making the truth its own and giving expression to it which makes one's life in harmony with all existence. Education is initiation into the life of spirit, a training of human souls in the pursuit of the truth and the practice of virtues. It is a second birth, divitiya Janama.

**NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY**

The approval of the National Education Policy 2020 is a radical step. It will go a long way to make our education relevant to the needs of the times. Laying a stress on scientific temper and mathematical abilities will help develop objectives and analytical faculties. Taking three years old children under 'Early Childhood Care and Education' is one of the laudable aspects of the NEP. The other is the seeds of liberal and flexible education. Kudos to the government for making the system a blend of Shiksha and Vidya - the ideal of our ancient system of education.

National Education Policy is in keeping with India's global accent. It has come when it is most needed as India is progressing very fast and its curriculum shall reflect the new and emerging realities of the world. It is a unique endeavour to educate, to encourage, to enlighten and to make aware the new generation in orderly and efficient way. The amendments made in NEP from the previous education policy strive for research, innovation and quality. The main objective of NEP is to create an atmosphere in our educational Institutions which may help young pupils to equip themselves for life, to develop their character, to bring out their individualities, to enable them to develop their soul power. It further emphasizes that students in schools and colleges must be taught to love and respect their national heritage, their culture and their ancient Indian ideals. They should also be made aware of contemporary life and knowledge - for the modern world, too, has a lot to teach them. They must be equipped with the capacity whereby they may become worthy contributors to the economic and social well-being of the Nation. They must be prepared to have courage and basic human values which alone can make them complete human beings.

N.E.P., No doubt, heralds a new and better change but there are doubts about its implementation. There are many issues but three appear to be more important. A paragraph has been consigned to the creation of "Indian-Education Service (IES)". This service hopefully will be more effective in implementing the NEP, which needs a more human and pedagogical approach. IES is required

to be created on administrative and teaching sides to make them interchangeable. Secondly, the recommended foundational stage of five years seems to be a patched work. If pre-school education is attached with every Kendriya Vidyalaya, why not with every government school. Organisational hurdles can be addressed adequately. Thirdly, the availability of dedicated, diligent, sinless, self-less and characterised one to implement it. Here comes the need to have dedicated teachers who know the spirit of the scriptures, are perfectly pure, have an urge to go from perfection to perfection then alone comes the value of their words.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF N.E.P**

In regard to the teacher, we must see that he knows the spirit of the scriptures. The whole world reads Bibles, Vedas and Korans, but they are only words, syntax, etymology, philology, the dry bones of religion. The teacher who deals too much in words and allows the mind to be carried away by the force of words loses the spirit. It is knowledge of the spirit of the scriptures alone that constitutes the true religious teachers.

The function of the teacher is indeed an affair of transference of something, and not of mere stimulation of the existing intellectual or other faculties in the taught. Something real and appreciable as an influence comes from the teacher and goes to the taught. Therefore, the teacher must be pure. The only true teacher is he who can convert himself, as it were, into a thousand persons at a moment's notice. The only true teacher is he who can immediately come down to the level of the student, and transfers his soul to the student's soul and sees through the student's eyes and hears through his ears and understands through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else.

We must agree that the ultimate factor in Education is the teacher: his character, his dedication, his sincerity, his calibre, his devotion and his vast knowledge of the subject alone shall determine the success of well-meant reforms high-lighted in 'New Education Policy'.

The teacher, being the noblest servant of the nation, is expected to perform his/her duty in a most sincere, bonafied, true and candid manner to see that he/she puts in his/her best to make the N.E.P. a grand success in the years to come.

Humility is no doubt, the badge of teacher's tribe but there is no need for him/her to feel that he/she is human door-mat to be trodden upon by others. The teacher is humble only in the sense that he/she does not crave for vulgar publicity. He/She believes in the confidence without humility is arrogance. Humility is the foundation of all virtues. It is a sign of greatness. Humility does mean self-demeaning behaviour that would amount belittling oneself:

Success and humility go hand in hand.

There is a touch of immortality in the work of the teacher. He/She recreates in the students an image of his/her own highly-evolved spirit. Some of the greatest men that made their mark in the Wider National life in our own Motherland, have been the gift of the teaching profession - Guru Nanak, Kabir, Guru Arjun Dev, Mahadeva Govinda Ranade, Humayun Kabir, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Gopal Krishan Gokhale, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Ishwar Chander Vidyasagar, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Swami Ramathirtha, Swami Vivekananda, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Rt. Hon'ble Srinavasa Sastri, and Sir S. Radhakrishnan are but a few shining examples. Every teacher is expected to go through the life history of these and other great souls. This must emulate them in order to understand the right function of the teacher.

It is not right to feel aggrieved that the material compensation the teachers get is not commensurate with the importance of their work. It is for other people to understand the position and to take effective steps to improve it. They should not demean themselves on that score and become objects of pity and commiseration. Money is necessary for life, but money is not the only criterion of 'Virile Social Status'. One can be rich without money and majestic without artificial power. There is an element of sacrifice in the pursuit of the teaching profession. Every dedicated teacher must be prepared for it.

Every young man/woman has good inherent in the soul; it needs to be drawn out by the teachers and only those teachers can perform this sacred function whose own character is un-sullied, who are always ready to learn and grow from perfection to perfection.

A teacher must not imagine that he can prepare himself for his office merely by study, by becoming a man of culture. He must before all else cultivate in himself certain aptitudes of a moral order. A teacher must be dignified in his/her bearing and outlook and set sober models to his/her pupils. He is expected to train children for a good life here and hereafter, and not merely teach subjects that have no correlation to eternal values. It is not the empty eloquence of far-off shadows that is wanted of him/her but the living voice of the heart resonant with the eternal wisdom of the spirit.

A nation is what its schools/colleges make it. A school/college is what its teachers make it. By the determined, devoted and united efforts of the teachers, every school/college must become transfigured into Vidya Mandir and not a dark prison-house which shivers with the depressing shrieks of unhappiness.

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# India needs to walk few more miles

Wg Cdr Mahesh Chander Sudan (Retd)

We, the people of India, know that India is the fifth largest economy of the world as per the size of her Gross Domestic Product and that our economy overtook UK to gain fifth position in the world as per latest survey. It is also being noted through media that our economy may attain third position in near future as claimed by ruling political party including our PM during public interaction programs at various occasions. It is quite surprising to note that in another analysis carried by Forbes India, a magazine that covers personal finance, lifestyle, technology and stock markets, published a list of ten powerful countries in the world for year 2023 on 03 Aug 2023. The fifth largest economy of the world and largest democracy of the world could not find a place in top ten countries of the world that surprised me like any other Indian. Curiosity compelled me to study the analysis in detail to find out as to what constrained India to find her place in top ten countries despite the fact that it occupies fifth place in the world economies and holds the position of largest democracy of the world. This analysis provides a detailed examination of their global standing and influence.

This power ranking analysis is carried out by US News based on "Equally Weighted average of Scores" from five particular attributes that possibly denote a country's power, these attributes are :-

- A Leader
- Economical Influence
- Political Influence
- Strong International Alliances
- Strong Military Power

The ranking model was devised by a group of

global marketing communications company WPP and the researchers involved were led by Prof. David Reibstein from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the top ten powerful countries listed in their analysis are USA, China, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, South Korea, France, Japan, UAE and Israel.

The power in the global reference is multifaceted, it encompasses political influence, economic resources and military might. Besides, power indicates multiple aspects, including economic and political influence, strength in international alliance and impactful military power. While carrying out the deeper insight into the top 10 powerful countries in the world as of August 2023, it emerges that the most powerful country in world is United State of America, who is also known as world powerhouse and continues to lead the world in various sectors such as technology, finance and entertainment. The present leader of the country, Mr. Biden, is focusing on infrastructure development and climate change initiatives besides maintaining strong economic position across the globe. Its GDP size is \$23 trillion with per capita GDP, PPP \$69288.

The second position is occupied by China whose GDP size is around \$17.7 trillion with moderate per capita GDP as \$19,338. As regards other parameters, the belt and road initiative is growing in scope, with more and more countries joining the project. This initiative aims to boost economic development and trade by connecting Asia with Africa and Europe through land and sea routes and makes significant strides in Artificial Intelligence and 5G as a global tech leader. Russia stands at third position with significant role in global

geopolitics, leveraging its vast natural resources and military capabilities. Contribution of Russia in the field of space exploration particularly of moon and other celestial bodies with launch of missions like Vanera-D Venus lander in the coming years is also noticeable and contributory towards our understanding of the Universe. The per capita GDP of the country is PPP: \$ 32,803.

The fourth top powerful country of the world in year 2023 is Germany who leads European Union's green energy initiative, transitioning to renewable energy sources with reduced carbon emission and digital transformation. It enjoys healthy per capita GDP PPP: \$ 57,928 and GDP of \$ 4.22 trillion. United Kingdom is the fifth powerful country whose focus on post-Brexit trade deals and negotiations helped the country to establish new partnerships. Another outstanding area is their startups that provide innovative solutions to various fields contributing towards economic growth of the country. The GDP per capita is PPP \$ 49,675 with \$3.19 trillion GDP of the country.

South Korea occupies next slot in the tally of ten powerful countries as published by Forbes India and the country continues to be the global leader in technology and innovations with focus on renewable energy sources to promote green energy initiatives. Seventh place is occupied by France who is focusing on digital transformation and green energy initiatives to contribute to the economic and political stability of the European Union bloc. Japan holds eighth place in the list of top ten powerful countries in the world during year 2023 as per Forbes India, the area of focus to strength its economy adopted by the country is robotic industry involved in innovative solutions

and advanced technology to remain global tech leader in the field of robotics.

United Arab Emirates holds the ninth position and is involved with full focus on its space program and plans to send a mission to the moon for exploring lunar surface for contributing towards our understanding of the moon. The UAE is also a significant player in the global oil industry, contributing to its strong place in the global economy. The tenth position in this category of world powerful countries is occupied by Israel, a home to many leading tech companies who are involved in innovative solutions in various fields and remains front runner in technology and innovations on global scale.

As regards India, she holds fourteenth position in the list of powerful countries in the world for year 2023 as per Forbes India. No doubt, this ranking is based on various factors based on five attributes highlighted above and the detailed analysis of the achievements of top ten countries clearly indicates that India needs to walk few more miles to find her place in most powerful countries in the world in future. It clearly emerges that the first of the five attributes denoting power of a country plays pivotal role in aligning economic and political influence, international alliances and strong military power. Effective leadership would drive economic growth, build strong international relations, and enhance military capabilities. It is quite conclusive that India needs strong leadership that has global respect and acceptance to elevate our international standing and power besides well-established cordiality amongst contemporary national leaders especially in case of largest democracy of the world.

Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

(The views expressed by the authors are their personal)

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