

# DIRECT COVERAGE REPORT

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## Honour for the BEST TEACHERS

It's high time that we recognize those who has shaped our young minds, shown us the path of knowledge and guided us with their wisdom - our teachers



The Gururav Awards will see people across the country nominating their favourite teachers.

**Kolkata:** With the noble mission to award those in the noblest profession, Varkey Gems Foundation has announced the 'Gururav Awards', to be held in December. Interestingly, the announcement comes on the eve of Teacher's Day, thus making it all the more special. Aiming to give the much-deserved recognition and respect to teachers, the awards will urge people across the country to nominate their favourite teachers. The nominations which is slated to begin around September will be an online process. The winners will be decided over a process involving pan-India nominations, four zonal juries and one grand jury. Finally 48 teachers, who will be selected through an intensive selection process comprising of online nominations, reviews and interviews, are going to be recognized and facilitated for their invaluable contribution across four categories. The total prize money is Rs 2 crore.

A strategic advisory panel comprising eminent personalities to guide the course of the awards will be appointed along with juries at various levels.

This year marks the inclusion of four revised categories namely 'Lifetime Achievement Award',

'Outstanding Indian Teacher', 'Outstanding Young Indian teacher' and 'Outstanding Indian teacher of Children with Special Needs'.

"Deteriorating motivational cues in the profession has led to a dearth of quality teachers in India today. This award is aimed as a catalyst to promote teaching as a preferred profession amongst youth in India and to thank teachers for their praiseworthy contribution in shaping lives of our future generations," Sunny Varkey, founder and chairman, GEMS Education and Chairperson of the Varkey Gems Foundation said.

India faces an acute shortage of teachers. Primary and middle schools nationwide are short of 80,000 teachers. In all by 2011, the education system in India will lack 25 lakh teachers. A lack of sufficient strong and passionate teachers is one of the prominent reasons for the bleak future that stares India's education system in the face. There are, however, many individuals who are dedicating their lives to this noble profession and they are making a difference.

The Varkey Gems Foundation is a philanthropic trust whose primary mission is the upliftment of education of children. www

# INDUSTRY COVERAGE REPORT

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## Teachers in twenties play professor & pal for students

Sharmila Ganesan-Ram | two

Mumbai: Studying animal behaviour is not the only reason. zoology professor Conrad Cabral allows his students to eat in the classroom and at times raise a racket. For Cabral, who completed his MA in zoology two years ago, these are liberties that lead to evolution. Perhaps that's why after a particularly exhausting lab session, the 29-year-old brings out his laptop to play computer games with the boys, discusses Britney Spears with the girls and occasionally accompanies the bunch to the nearby burger joint.

To his students, Cabral, who walks into St Xavier's College in jeans and T-shirt, is as much professor as friend, for the generation gap is negligible. This dual role is characteristic of all who belong to the small but significant population of teachers in their twenties. While more elderly professors are treated like parent-figures, younger teachers are thought of as siblings or friends. "In class, I command respect. Outside, I am their buddy," says Cabral, who interacts with his students on SMS, email and blogs.

Some senior teachers may turn up their nose at his lenient ways, but Cabral, who uses powerpoint presentations in most lectures because "I can't draw", has other twenty-somethings for company. These teachers don't demand

pin-drop silence or subject students to fiery lectures if they are late.

"If a lecture of mine is boring, students don't mind telling me so," says 29-year-old Deepak Mathew, professor of psychology at Wilson College. When he joined in 2005, Mathew was fresh out of college and didn't want to appear strict to students. So, "I went to the opposite extreme. I wouldn't pull them up for



Psychology professor Deepak Mathew (right) with his students

not paying attention," he recalls. Two years later, he found the middle path. "Now they call me a taskmaster," says Mathew, whose success stories include a dyslexic student initially reprimanded by many for choosing psychology. "She was among the top five students in that batch," recalls Mathew.

Although not a lucrative profession, "there are many advantages like respect, job satisfaction and timings," says 21-year-old Anushi Chaturvedi, who has just completed her first term (six months) as visiting faculty for Raia's media programme. For her subject, 'Features and opinion', Chaturvedi subscribed to online newsletters and encouraged students to analyse and compare stories. If they did-

the youth, "Hinglish or other language cocktails", helps. "If they see somebody who talks, dresses and looks like them and is more in tune with their experiences, the ice is easier to break," says Gauri Sarda, psychology lecturer at SNDIL, Matunga. She uses modern examples like the Queer Azadi march, the MTV Roadies show and the latest nail polish ad to talk about how media influences behaviour. Since, "I am perceived as a single woman who may have similar problems," says Sarda, students freely broach subjects like ex-boyfriends without fear of being judged.

Although the fear of being taken for granted haunts this tribe, it isn't all that easy to pull the wool over their young eyes. One boy in 24-year-old Sumin Kalra's class of media students constantly listened to music on his I-pod. "One day I fired the hell out of him," she recalls. Another time, in reply to a student who directly copied from the internet for a project on the East India Company, Kalra emailed him a PDF document of the internet page. "You have to draw the line somewhere," she says.

Sometimes, the line is automatically drawn. When 29-year-old Saravanan Vijaykumar, who joined the faculty of IIT-B three months ago, plays basketball, students ask him "Which year?" After he clarifies, "The ball always comes to me."



**Mithila Mehra**

**E**ight year old Pari Shivdasani, a student at St. Theresa's School, loves listing out her best friends. And topping the list is Mrs. Gonsalves, her English teacher. "She is kind and 'thirsts' everyone in my class loves her," gushes this tiny tot.

While this declaration may have raised eyebrows a few years ago, not anymore. The traditional drift between teachers and students is narrowing. "I have been teaching since 1970, and today I feel closer to them than ever. It is about sharing a common wave-length," opines sociologist and renowned academician Nandini

Exploring the changing dynamics within and beyond the classroom

## Teachers, students, friends?

Sardesai.

Professor Sudha Ravishankar, who has been teaching for 27 years, believes the shift in dynamics is a given. "It happens in every generation. It is a necessary result of changes in society," she explains.

### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students are forging unique relationships with their teachers, which extends outside the classroom. Meeting in neutral places helps the friendship flourish on an equal footing. "My college psychology teacher was extremely approachable and friendly. She often spent time with the class after college hours-catching up on a movie or simply hanging out. The traditional teacher mould didn't hold good here," smiles Shruti Makhijani, who graduated from Mithilal College this year. Concurrs Sardesai, "I may be strict in class, but am a close friend outside. Many students confide in me and freely talk about personal issues. The

key is wanting to listen."

Bonding outside the classroom has a snowballing effect in the classroom as well. "A comfortable relationship means better communication from both ends. This makes learning a two way process. Unlike a conventional

teacher to show discipline to command the respect of students. "Letting down your hair once in a while is fine, but not every time" she laughs, adding that students appreciate a teacher who is honest and well updated.

### OLD SCHOOL

Of course, rigid old school beliefs are not dead. Certain academicians prefer to maintain a certain distance from their students. "Students may see me as stuffy, but I think being slightly aloof is healthy. I have seen that students start taking assignments and projects for granted when they know

the teacher personally. Also, I find it difficult to mark my class objectively if I have immensely personal relationships with a select few," explains Dr. Hitesh Somani, financial analyst and visiting faculty at several commerce colleges.

Adds arts student Jharna Pari of Jai Hind College, "I have friends and I have teachers. The difference is very clear to me. Call me old fashioned, but I am not comfortable being in a backslapping relationship with a teacher. For me, it takes away from the sanctity of learning."

The teacher stereotype may be gradually changing, but it is a long way before the boundaries completely disappear. "We must know where to draw the line. Ultimately, teachers and students can be friends, as long as they don't violate each others space," signs off Ravishankar. Seems the (chalk) dust is yet to settle.



# Schools go virtual to keep in touch

**ONLINE SITES** keep parents informed, students hooked

**Farah H. Chitalwala**

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**MUMBAI:** Meenakumari Sridhar learnt that her son 12-year-old son Arjun had not done his science homework not from his school diary or his classmate, but from a message posted on the school portal by his teacher.

"The school's portal gives me updates on Arjun's activities and performance and I have direct access to his teachers," said Sridhar, who logs on to RIMS International School's website at least twice a day. She also downloads the week's examination schedule and skims a record of Arjun's attendance.

Interaction between students, teachers and parents on a virtual platform is catching on among city schools.



ILLUSTRATION: JISHU

Podar International School, Santacruz, creates a profile for each parent as soon as a child is enrolled. Like networking sites, teachers and parents can form groups to communicate with each other.

Jyoti Bajaj, a Class 10 teacher at Podar International School, Santacruz, uses the school portal to post remarks. "I don't have to write a remark in a diary

and ask the child to have it signed by the parent," she said.

School portals are also changing the scale of communication between schools and their students. About two lakh students, their parents and 7,000 teachers from 113 schools under the Ryan International Group of Schools across the country had their profiles created recently on myschool.in.com.

The site allows students to view videos of missed classes, chat with teachers to solve queries before tests and hold intra-class discussions.

Students are only too happy. "Downloading assignments, emailing essays, uploading photos of school activities don't make school feel like school," said Heena Shah, a Class 10 student at RIMS.

# They teach students outside classrooms

**ON TEACHERS' DAY**, a profile of four teachers who have found innovative ways to empower and educate children

Pratiksha Puri  
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**MUMBAI:** Every slum child cannot be a millionaire but they can certainly lead a decent and respectable life, feels Ranjit Singh (52), a lab attendant in Mithibai College.

He, in his own little ways to empower them, teaches children from Nehru Nagar slum, Vile Parle every evening.

That's not all. He has to gather the crowd himself — eight of them who are under his tutelage currently.

He has been doing it since 25 years.

"I have seen my father toiling hard so that I could study till higher secondary level. I try to help these children till they are in Class seven," he added.

Singh's main aim is to stop children from dropping out, which is a menace in the coun-

**If I can do anything to prevent them from dropping out of schools, I will have served a purpose in my life.**

**RANJIT SINGH,**  
 Lab attendant in Mithibai College



try. "I may not be able to provide them with the best of facilities but if I can do anything to prevent them from dropping out of schools, I will have served a purpose in my life," he said.

Involving interest in studies through live experimentations and innovations is what Purushottam Kale (54) believes in.

A post graduate teacher in Jhunjhunwala College,

Ghatkopar, he is trying to educate students by taking them out on excursions, organising games, quizzes and power point presentations.

"Children learn much more outside the classrooms," he said. He is a director of an NGO called Vanaparva in Ratnagiri where he focuses on helping students earn while they learn.

He hires students from financially weaker backgrounds as

clerical staff in the college to assist him on his research projects and pays them for their work.

Snaita Kulkarni, who teaches Marathi IES's Modern English School in Dadar hails from a small village in Raigad district.

Kulkarni, who has been helping children in the interior parts of the state, has set up a distance-learning center called



• 1) Ranjit Singh a lab attendant in Mithibai College. SAMRIT SAVA  
 2) Purushottam Kale, a post graduate teacher in Jhunjhunwala College.  
 3) Snaita Kulkarni teaches at Marathi IES's Modern English School.  
 4) Dr Nandini Deshmukh, a zoology teacher at Kirti College.



Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth in Lonavla from where around 25 students graduate every year.

She has also started a project called Deepastambh, which finds people to sponsor higher education of those who cannot afford it.

For Dr Nandini Deshmukh (55), who has been teaching since 25 years, inspiring talented students is the motto.

A zoology teacher at Kirti College, she not only distributes encyclopedias to children in villages but also takes street children to planetarium and science centres.

"I gifted a computer to a bright student who has now topped his BSc and MSc exam. He could have probably bought one on his own in a few years. But he needed it the most while he studied," she said.

## Saraswati Samman awards presented



(From left) Saraswati Samman awardee Dr. Lakshminandan Bora, K.K. Birla Foundation President Shobhana Bhardi, Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar and Vyasa Samman awardee Manu Bhandari at the awards presentation ceremony in New Delhi on Friday.

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**NEW DELHI:** Assamese writer Lakshminandan Bora and renowned Hindi author Manu Bhandari received the prestigious Saraswati Samman and Vyasa Samman, respectively for literary excellence on Friday.

The 19th edition of the awards, being given for the year 2008, were presented to the awardees by Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar at an elegant function, attended by high profile literary and social personalities.

The awards are given by the K.K. Birla Foundation to promote Indian literature.

"By honouring the works in regional languages, the foundation is doing a great service to preserve rich treasures. It is heartening to know that the Vyasa Samman has been taken by several women writers in the past too," the Speaker said.

Earlier, K.K. Birla Foundation President Shobhana Bhardi

By honouring the works in regional languages, the K.K. Birla foundation is doing a great service to preserve rich treasures.

MEIRA KUMAR,  
Lok Sabha Speaker

recalled her father the late K.K. Birla's "deep passion and commitment" to the promotion of culture. She said her father believed "economic growth was one indicator of progress of the nation [but] it was important to nurture India's vibrant culture and rich heritage."

Bora (77) said while accepting the award, "I feel the award has enhanced the prestige of Assamese literature." He said it was a "quantum of contradiction" in his life that he pursued science but writes fiction. An agro-meteorologist by

profession, Bora received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1988. He has penned 50 books, including novels, short stories and travelogues.

Bhandari pointed out the difference while writing fiction and her biography. "While in the first case, I needed to close down the distance between myself and the character, in the second, I had to make an effort to maintain neutrality. It was of immense importance to maintain a distance between the 'writer' Manu and the 'living' Manu."

A teacher by profession, Bhandari has authored four novels, 12 collections of stories and two plays. Three of her stories have been made into well-appreciated feature films.

Justice G.R. Patil and S.P. Dixit, chairpersons of the selection committee for the Saraswati Samman and Vyasa Samman, Foundation director Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee and Priyavrat Bhardi also spoke on the occasion.

## They instruct and inspire

Gauri Rane & Prachi Nayak

Many a times, the best teachers of one's life may not be from schools or colleges and the best lesson learnt not from the textbook. It could be that casual trip to the forest that you would cherish as the most memorable moment of enlightenment, and the 'teacher' who took you around, the best of educators. Be it sports, art, dance, music, writing or a curiosity about nature, these teachers help the students to develop the horizons of their knowledge in a holistic fashion.

One such teacher is Jagdish Vakale, a project officer with the Nature Information Centre at Sanjay Gandhi National Park. A zoology graduate with masters in animal husbandry, Vakale's students include kids from Std 1 to MSc grads. "Thankfully compulsory field visits in the syllabus have made students more aware of the diverse flora and fauna around," he says. "Despite being outside a formal setup, they respect me and don't miss a single lecture," he says.

"A lack of professional sports trainers in educational institutions and lack of parental support have worsened students' prospects," says Jitesh Padukone, founder of Padukone Shuttlers' Academy. Padukone's academy boasts of more than 70 school children training for several tournaments in and around the



Students listen with rapt attention as Jagdish Vakale, a project officer with Nature Information Centre at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, tell them about the environment

### TEACHERS' DAY SPECIAL

**Be it sports, art, writing or a curiosity about nature, these teachers help gain knowledge in a holistic way**

states. "At the end of the day I feel tremendous satisfaction to know that I have created a few true sportsmen," he says.

For senior journalist and educator, Abhay Mokashi, this satisfaction comes well before his students' achievements. "For me they are young colleagues," he says. "Our interactions are a learning experience not just for them but me as

well." Mokashi has a media education institute called Academy of Media Research and Studies. Mokashi follows the no-exam pattern. "In media, it is a continuous learning process," he says.

Another such unique mentor is Hiral Mankad, who along with Anuradha Patil started Reach-School for remedial education for kids with learning disabilities. Equipped with an MEd in special education and a background in child development, they help children rejected by the formal setup. "We help students who have failed too many times and have been asked to leave formal schooling. At our school children who are diagnosed with learning disabilities also get therapy," she informs.

## Make teachers accountable

What we need is a mature education system where students evaluate their educators

**T**eachers' Day is now observed as a matter of tradition, much as we commemorate several other calendar-marked days. The respect that was synonymous with the occasion, the hallmark of yesteryears, is starkly missing. The fallacy doesn't lie in the attitude of students. It's our education system that has bolstered a tradition whereby teaching has become anything but a noble profession, let alone a mission to churn out well-rounded students capable of making a difference to the world. Tuitions, rather than quality classroom teaching has become the order of the day. Students are taught to be docile or pay obeisance to the teachers without the latter actually being worthy of the same. Talent is overlooked; curiosity is looked upon with disdain. Tell me, how many students are encouraged to stand up and ask questions or clarify confusions? How many parents have the nerve to question a teacher's technique at the mandatory parent-teacher meetings?

The words of my Mathematics teacher still ring in my ears: "There is no question as a foolish question. However, there are some foolish people who never ask questions." These were the words with which he would barrage those who sat like dummies in classroom and showed a distinct lack of inquisitiveness.

Those were the days. Today, if you pose a question, you land up with the address of the teacher's private coaching class. Political parties may make tall claims about bettering the state of Indian education, but the fact remains that the sector is trapped in a vicious circle, a system that fosters 'percentage' over 'aptitude'.

In what is masqueraded as 'quality education', generations are coming out with degrees, certificates, but few trained to think innovatively. Get this straight — the current generation is supremely talented. What it needs are rudders (read good teachers) to give them the right direction. It is not that all teachers are bad. But a sizable number of them particularly in the rural hinterland / government schools of the country are not serious about teaching. The society is also responsible for this because it thinks that all those who couldn't find a job have managed to become teachers.

There is an urgent need to refashion the teaching profession. The government, society and educators have to pledge for a new beginning. Don't use teachers for election duty and counting citizens in a census, make them teach, thus making them accountable. The answer to the middle lies in introducing more accountability in the teaching profession. In the US and the UK, teachers are graded by students on the basis of their performance in the class. Weekly or monthly appraisals are made, without fear or bias, to cleanse the system of lethargy or taken-for-granted attitude — something so very palpable in our establishment. To top it all, educational planners are too antiquated to understand the needs of this generation. At best they remind me of the tale of blind men who vainly try to describe an elephant. If we don't resuscitate the education system now, the temples of learning cannot create employable manpower, which is the need of the hour. Let us augment psyches of teachers and treat them as professionals. The result of this will create a new responsible next generation with lot of knowledge and commitment.

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# Debt of GRATITUDE

On Teachers' Day, some very successful people offer heartfelt thanks to the guiding hand that shaped their careers

## 'HE TAUGHT ME TO BE FEARLESS'

Sabyasachi is a great friend, guide and my mentor. Sabya is very generous in his spirit, he is comfortable with discussing his ideas and sharing thoughts with designers he is close to. We come from similar backgrounds, we hail from middle class Bengali families. Also the kind of women we design for is similar. Apart from helping me understand the nuances of the fashion industry, Sabya has taught me a very important lesson to be fearless while designing my collections. Of course it is important to look at the commercial viability of the garment. But it is extremely important to let your creativity flow within the realms of the real world.



Nikasha Tawadey on Sabyasachi Mukherjee

CONTRIBUTED BY: Pritish Ganguly, Rashmi Hemrajani, Ashish Virmani, Ranjita Mazumder and Chhaya Tachibana



Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan on Ustad Amjad Ali Khan

## 'HE WAS THE MOST PATIENT TEACHER...'

Amaan was six and Ayaan was even younger when they began learning the sarod under the guidance of their father Ustad Amjad Ali Khan to carry on the family legacy. "My earliest memories are of sitting in his lap as he taught us his first music lesson. I remember that he was the most patient teacher. We grew up listening to stories of how

our father was trained by our grandpa. My father was a late child and the youngest in the house. So there was a huge age gap between my dad and grandpa. We have heard that grandpa was a strict disciplinarian and had a bad temper. Dad, however, was always very calm with us, but he was always clear that he didn't want two replicas of himself,

so he gave us all the freedom to evolve as individual musicians. My father is as good a guru to us as he is to all his other students. We would learn in a common class, with other students. The advantage we had was that we got to spend time with him beyond the music room. The line between the father and the guru is a blur.

## 'HE BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE'

I had a lot of doubts about myself making a career in Bollywood, and I really didn't think I would come this far. It is because of Mahesh that I am where I am. He saw something in me that I couldn't see and made me believe in the thing he

saw. That's what good mentors do to you — they boost your confidence. I started looking at things differently. I am so grateful to have found a mentor like him. His blunt way of looking at life and situations have rubbed off on to me. I no

longer procrastinate about things I look at life and difficult situations as they are and try to deal with them quickly and move on. I have seen people bring problems onto themselves when they think too much about things and I have learnt how to have a straight view of life from him.

## 'SHE'S BEEN MY MENTOR'

Ektaa tells me that I remind her of her younger days. The way to the top for her was not very easy and thus she understood the trials and tribulations I faced. When I was shooting for the show Kasam Se, everyone was older to me and thus more focused on their career. My problems didn't matter to anyone. And because I was young, I had a lot of mood swings — small things disturbed me. Thanks to Ektaa I have overcome those issues. Moreover, when I was offered a role in the movie Rock On, I was not sure if I want to be part of the film industry and how I would perform there. I really didn't want to let go of my television show. It was Ektaa and her mom Shobha aunty who guided and motivated me and thanks to them, I chose to do the role in Rock On. Now, they are happy with the way my career is shaping up. Ektaa has been my mentor and whatever I have achieved in my career is because of her. She always motivates me to perform better and better.



Prachi Desai on Ektaa Kapoor



Emraan Hashmi on Mahesh Bhatt

Teachers' Day: Divide between Guru and shishya widening  
**No takers for Radhakrishnan's pet subject**

**Kaushik Chakravarthy**

The 12th birth anniversary of India's second President, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, or Teachers' Day as it is ceremoniously remembered each year will be a little less vibrant this year as the country has only Philosophy, the subject that Radhakrishnan taught with great distinction for over 20 years in making a name for himself in the States.

Greater emphasis on employability oriented education seems to have replaced Philosophy as the 'non-viable subject' in several universities. While older universities such as Karnataka University and Mysore University are struggling to attract students for philosophy courses, universities at Gollur and Mangalore do not even offer the subject. And the course for new entrants at Mumbai has not yet taken off at Himgiri University which has long had plans to offer the course.

The biggest stumbling block in the state Bangalore University, among other universities in the country, are the trends a few years ago to abolish the Department of Philosophy, ostensibly due to low student interest in the subject.

The only remaining Philosophy professor at the Bangalore University, Dr T B Bhatnagar who handles other responsibilities now after the department was closed down, blames changing values and policies of the government for the decline.

"It is mainly due to the loss of values. Commencement and maintenance have taken over and no one is interested in studying which is the ultimate search for truth," says Bhatnagar.

He adds, "In every body has

to stop at philosophy as it is the quest for the unknown. It is said that our students have no knowledge of Eastern Philosophy, which is the way of life. Nobody has any knowledge of the Upanishads," he adds. He has strong words for those who question the relevance of philosophy in the scientific age. "The faculty can never be reduced, it encompasses all knowledge and promotes logic and rational thought," he says.

The subject will remain relevant as long as the quest for the unknown continues, but he has plans to revive the subject, Professor Pawan Sehara, who teaches philosophy at the university says that philosophy is increasingly being taught as part of technical courses. "A number of engineering universities have closed down Philosophy Dept.

**Management and Culture courses do not even offer the subject.**

**Karnataka and Mysore universities struggling to attract students**

teaching colleges are teaching the subject, which is being taught under different names in different countries. All academic subjects have philosophical implications as it is the essence of human existence. Pawan Sehara says, "The only remaining Philosophy professor at the Bangalore University, Dr T B Bhatnagar who handles other responsibilities now after the department was closed down, blames changing values and policies of the government for the decline."

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**Three generations into teaching profession**

**Jagdish Anand**

The Ganachari, one of the most revered in Bangalore district, are a family who have successfully taken up the tradition of academic responsibility for three generations with passion, love and sacrifice.

The three generations, BS Ganachari and his brother S U Ganachari, his son U T Ganachari have taught over a thousand students. BS and UT taught for more than 40 years. UVG for well over 24 years and SVG has been a teacher since 2004. They have taught in primary, high school, college and university students, imparting all the four taught English language and literature.

"On the occasion of Teachers Day, the Ganacharis shared with Deccan Herald also and how the teaching profession attracted them. "My father's

teacher Gurabachchanar's qualities like honesty, dedication, discipline, passion for every job and simple living and high standing inspired me and my uncles to become teachers. We have hardly earned money by teaching, but we have earned great respect from students who are springing in different professions all over the country and across the globe. On top of that, they love their teachers' nature."

That's the true credit for an son UV Ganachari.

His father and his brother's scholarship inspired UV Ganachari. He was moved by their way of life. While teaching, they would very, very strict, before changing and convert themselves into their parents. They had a very flexible attitude.

BSG began his career as a primary school teacher and re-

turned as the principal of All Arts College, Bangalore. Both were the principals of U T Ganachari that he was observed as an M. C. in his mother's constituency when Devaraj Urs was the Chief Minister and implemented programmes for the welfare of the teaching community.

Son SV Ganachari, "I was influenced by my grand father and father. I decided to carry forward the legacy of my grand father. We entered this profession with interest and grand fathers will be governing focus to my school which I am planning to start soon."

He says the students of his grand father and father even today recall how great they were as teachers. "Their mastery over the English language and accent was on par with my Englishmen. "No teacher, no amount, no respect could give us this kind of foundation," he says with much pride.

BS Ganachari, UV Ganachari and S U Ganachari.

**'Forgotten values need revival'**

**BANGALORE** Guru, the teacher, is God say the scriptures. Not long ago the parents gave authority to teachers to punish their wards, believing it would make them good students.

The teachers considered the students as their own children and their profession, noble but not the more.

The growing divide between the teachers and students has become a problem, and if not addressed, it is more to reduce adverse consequences, involving the teacher-student parent society. This issue assumes significance as teaching is considered to be a noble profession, given our an over-achievement.

Deccan Herald tried to probe this situation and interacted with a cross-section of the teaching community. Most of the teachers admitted that teachers are the backbone for the growing divide and attempt to do for the forgotten values.

S. B. Indira, Principal, Himgiri Institute, Mysore, P. N. Sharma, College, Dharwad, Karnataka, says, "Students are not interested in studies, lack of discipline, lack of academic seriousness and involvement with other hobbies are the factors for the divide."

For many, teaching has become merely a job, but not a profession. Change in the social set-up and family structure has led to parents openly criticizing the teachers in front of children. Many opt to be available before students or parents get certificates without hard work. This has become a major problem for teachers, he stresses.

J. M. Mallikarajunaiah, of KLEU Law College, Bangalore, says that many teachers lack dedication and commitment. Many of them are not much

learned. They consider teaching as an occupation. They are not more scholars. They can't guide students unless he knows the questions, he says.

**Erosion of values**

Erosion of values has affected the attitude of students. Most of today's students have absolutely no respect for teachers and their discipline. There is no urge in them to learn new things. They have become negligent as parents raise economic activities for them. Access to information has also caused the big gap. "We have not been able to collect them of the students as today's students have tremendous ability in themselves," he opines.

G. N. Chenniahappa, Vice-president, Baleshwar Education Society, Mysore, says, "There is a division from both sides. Teachers want money and salary in several amounts. The students are not interested in money they get anything they want. They lose respect, lack of discipline and respect for teachers. Commencement is a major problem in higher education."

Prof. Anupama Subramanian says, "Teachers are not bothered about values and ethics. They have stopped practicing values. For them teaching is not practicing. It is the teachers who begin to practice of the big divide and the teachers who should bridge the growing among the system right on track."

Prof. Vishwanath of First Grade Government College, Bangalore, tells the teachers, students and the society should make united efforts to bridge the gap.

Many of them are not much

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## The aim of education

Education is not only learning from books, memorizing some facts, but also learning how to look, how to listen to what the books are saying, whether they are saying something true or false. All that is part of education. Education is not just to pass examinations, take a degree and a job, get married and settle down, but also to be able to listen to the birds, to see the sky, to see the extraordinary beauty of a tree, and the shape of the hills, and to feel with them, to be really, directly in touch with them. As you grow older, that sense of listening, seeing, unfortunately disappears because you have worries, you want more money, a better car. You

become ambitious, greedy, envious; so you lose the sense of the beauty of the earth. You know what is happening in the world. There are wars, revolts, nation divided against nation. In this country too there is division.

### Matter & Spirit

separation, more and more people being born, poverty, squalor and complete callousness. Man does not care what happens to another so long as he is perfectly safe. And you are being educated to fit into all this.

And you will grow up to fit into this. Is this right, is this what education is meant for, that you should willingly or unwillingly fit into this mad structure called society? And do you know what is happening to religions throughout the world?

Here also man is disintegrating, nobody believes in anything any more. Man has no faith and religions are merely the result of a vast propaganda. As you grow up, a few of you will revolt, but that revolt will not answer the problem. Some of you will try to run away from society, but that running away will have no meaning. You have to change society, but not by killing people. Society is you and I. You and I create the society in which we live. So you have to change. ■

— J. Krishnamurti

## We owe it all to you, say students

BY PALLAVI SMART

Since time immemorial, Indians have professed to have great respect for their teachers. Earlier, a teacher was referred to as 'Guru.' Now it's the modern 'Sir' or 'Madam.' Nonetheless, the role of teachers has remained the same. They were and they are our guides, leading students to overall improvement. In a gesture of that gratitude, Teacher's Day is celebrated in India on September 5. The city students are celebrating the

day with excitement. Though the teachers' strike has lowered the enthusiasm to an extent, many city colleges are observing it as a special day for teachers.

City schools are also celebrating the day with elaborate programmes. "On Teacher's day, some school students dress up as teachers and take lectures in classes, that are assigned to the teachers they represent. Everybody enjoys it. And the teachers then rate these students on their performance. Even the principal on the



On the eve of Teacher's Day, PETA 'dog' teaches people their ABCs.

day is a student from Class X," said K. Gokhle, Principal of Bimanagar Education Society, Borivli.

"We are going to give a surprise to our teachers. We have invited Bollywood singer Rekha Bhardwaj to entertain them. Our friends, who are going to participate in the youth festival, will perform their final practice in front of teachers. Barring a couple of teachers and the principal, no other teacher has a clue about this. The programme will be held in the auditorium during the afternoon," said Samantha Kothare, FYBA student of Ruia College.

For Xavier's and Sophia College students, the celebrations will be mellowed down. "Every year there has been a big celebration, fol-

lowed by lunch for teachers. But this year, as we have already lost a lot of time due to strike, the celebration is not big. We are going to write messages for our teachers and will put it on a soft board in the staff room. We are doing this just to tell our teachers that we are there with them. We will also tell them that we will not crib if we do not get the usual long Diwali vacation,"

told Oishani Mitra, TYBA student of Xavier's College.

At IIT B, Excellence in Teaching Award will be given followed by a function. Kidzee chain of pre-schools is conducting a contest for teachers. Aptech is giving 10 per cent discount in the fee to all teachers' families across the country.

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