

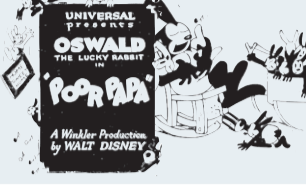
DAY'S DIARY

Cartoon released

On this day in 1927, the first 'Oswald the Lucky Rabbit' cartoon, 'Trolley Troubles', produced by Walt Disney was released

THE SERIES

The 'Oswald the Lucky Rabbit' series was created by Ub Iwerks and Walt Disney between 1927 and 1928. It consists of 26 black and white shorts, starring Oswald, the Lucky Rabbit



REDESIGN

The first cartoon starring Oswald, 'Poor Papa', prompted a redesign. The production thought that the rabbit looked old and depressed



CHARACTER SIMILARITIES

Oswald was a mischievous silent character fond of slapstick humour. His oversized ears, big eyes and shorts bear a striking similarity to Mickey Mouse

'Buzz around Robertt hasn't stopped'

PG 4

Monika Monalisa

As the weekend sets in, there's a familiar whiff in the air. That of the old normalcy, when Saturdays and Sundays were reserved for catching up with friends for drinks over slow and sanguine evenings. City pubs are leaving no stone unturned, or beer taps unopened, if you will, as they welcome diners for the weekend after September 1, or the day they were allowed to serve alcohol again after five months. While pubs were open before too, they wore a deserted look due to not being permitted to serve liquor on premises. Now, pubs like Bob's Bar and Brahma Brews are pinning high hopes on weekend tipplers.

Santosh Sriram, owner of Hakuna Matata and Brahma Brews, is cheery despite the 50 per cent occupancy rule. "It is an exciting moment for pub owners but I am glad to see the same feeling among pub goers too. We saw 25-30 per cent of footfall on the first weekday and are expecting 40-50 per cent during the weekend," he says. Besides sanitisation and temperature checks, customers can access the menu through a QR code or opt for a use-and-throw menu. "The waiter will place the food on the table while customers help themselves," he adds.

Pravesh Pandey, director-partner of Byg Brewski Brewing, adds that this time will



BUBBLING UP

Happy hours are back as pubs are filling up again. On the menu? Newly brewed flavoured beers and ramped-up safety precautions

serve as a warmup period. "We want to reconnect with our old customers and build the relationship to get good footfall for Dasara and Diwali," he says. According to him, pubs with larger spaces are going to be big players. "People are preferring our Hennur branch to Sarjapur, for its larger space."

Agrees Kuncheria Marattukalam, co-founder, URU Brewpark. "We opened the restaurant a month-and-a-half ago but the business has gone up since Tuesday. The advantage of URU is its huge spread out layout," he says, adding that they have seen 50 per cent footfall during the weekdays. To cater the work from home

crowd, they have introduced different gourmet sandwiches and different teas and coffees. To help keep customers' spirits high, pubs have also started brewing different beers. While URU has introduced four different beers, Brahma has introduced an Ayurvedic beer with herbs. Prashant Kunal, CEO, The Bier Library, says new flavours will be launched for Oktoberfest. "We will introduce two new flavours from September 19 onwards," says Kunal.



1) Customers at Bob's Bar; (2) and (3) Waiters at Brahma Brews don masks and face shields on the job • Meghana Sastry



The advantage of URU is its huge spread out layout. We saw so many people coming in just to work from here and they don't have to bother about social distancing

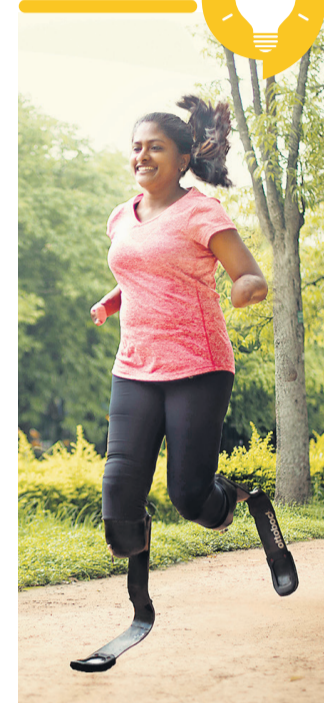
- Kuncheria Marattukalam, co-founder, URU Brewpark

'Growth should not be at the cost of city'

I was born and raised in Bengaluru and have seen the city through all its phases. The city had grown way too fast, without much forward thinking, even before the tech boom arrived. When all the technology companies started coming up, mostly located on the outskirts of the city, it was a great idea. But the government forgot to look into building connectivity to these places. There was hardly any public transport and the Metro services came very late to the city. While there were limited bus options, other options like trains connecting from Whitefield to Yelahanka were hardly popularised. So, the city has been trying to play catch up with developments that should have been planned before the companies were set up.

Since these issues were not fixed on time, it has cascaded down to different problems like traffic and pollution. The city lacks good infrastructure. If you ask people why they use personal vehicles over public transport, most cite the lack of public trans-

BENGALURU BEATS



Shalini Saraswathi, Blade runner

port. There are more basic amenities that are missing. For instance, infrastructure for differently-abled people is a joke, not just in the city but also in this country. It's frustrating.

However, the responsibility cannot always lie with the government. Citizens act in irresponsible ways here even though they follow all rules and obey all laws in other countries. I was happy when the government had increased the fine for traffic violations; unfortunately it was brought down after public outcry.

SOLUTION: It's alright to have growth in the city but it should not be at the cost of the city itself. Before focusing on more development, the government should also see if Bengaluru has the capacity to take it or not. The authorities should take care of infrastructure from every aspect, not just from the traffic and pollution point of view. Citizens too should not just resort to pointing out problems and instead, should actively be involved in solving the issues.

Let your mixed feelings about Bengaluru get stirred up, as an influential person talks about things nice and nasty about the city in this weekly column

XPRESS FOCUS

NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

Missed Opportunity to Erase Educational Discrimination

Dr M. Mahadeva

Notwithstanding the advancement that has been achieved in the last seventy plus years of independent India, the outcomes of the educational systems of the country is neither path breaking nor uniquely development oriented. It is largely due to the fact that the country is yet to provide education to all, despite being the fundamental right and is yet to mainstream a good segment of people. If this is the overall situation, discriminatory practices in imparting education to the needy has been the hallmark, owing to shift in character of education from pure public good to pure private good.

During the globalisation process, the country invited private players to produce educational services and distribute the same to the needy. This paradigm shift paved way for division of educational seekers into affordable and unaffordables.

But in rural areas, government continues to play a catalyst role as the largest supplier of education, especially school education. The painful issue is the disturbing continuation of discriminatory system of multi-curriculums for different sections, which has developed different capabilities with marked differences as well as non-development of the common curriculum for the entire country.

If the curriculum of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Council of Secondary Education (ICSE) could cater to the needs of the creamy layered society, the curriculum of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been catering to the regional needs at the state levels.

Invariably, the outcome has been that of clear divide in absorptions in the employment

market. If the first category has brought in superiority complex in the minds of the wards, the second category of curriculum has sown the seeds of inferiority among students with limited capabilities, beset with inadequate teachers, laboratory experiments and lack of other infrastructure.

Nowhere has anybody come across a practice of discriminatory curriculum in the school education system and promotion of division in the society from childhood, however diverse the society is. Instead, most advanced countries have common curriculum throughout the length and breadth, on the principle of 'one nation, one curriculum'.

Such initiative is equally warranted even in India, given its openness for global operations in the era of globalisation, which would throw open global opportunities equally with common capabilities.

Other Forms of Education

Technical education imbibed all the features of both school and higher education. Promotion of institutions of national importance like IITs, NITs, Central Institutes and other institutions of state and private sector funded is an issue in itself with huge difference in the curriculums and market linkages. That apart, promotion of digital or online education, which has assumed paramount importance in situations like Coronavirus in the limited funded institutions is a serious cause of concern over the level playing field in the supply and demand perspective.

Mushrooming growth of technical institutions, drop in admission enrolments, quality of teaching, etc. have been the subsidiary issues. Lastly, having assumed public, quasi and private goods to be imparted by the government, non-government and private sector, making higher education relevant and affordable to all is a chal-



lenge in the changing circumstance.

New Education Policy

The New Education Policy (NEP) has contemplated on four important segments:

- School Education
- Higher Education
- Professional and Technical Education
- Financing Affordable Education.

The focus of the first is to ensure curtailing dropouts, learning centric, teachers, effective governance and standard & accreditation. Similarly, inclusiveness, institutional restructuring, including creating a National Research Foundation (NRF), promotion of multi-disciplinary education, motivated and capable faculty, equity in the education, teacher education, vocationalisation, effective management, effective leadership & governance and use of technology have been the focus in the higher education segment.

The policy directs that all schools should provide effective and sufficient infrastructure at all levels, in order to prevent dropouts, especially girl students.

It also promises to provide regular trained teachers at each level to ensure that no school remains deficient on infrastructure support. More so,

it is pointed that the credibility of government school should be re-established with up-gradation of the existing ones, new schools in unschooled areas, hostels for the girls and so on.

Learning-friendly and flexibility are contemplated by reducing the curriculum content, thrust on experimental learning, flexibility in course choice and multilingual approach. National Curriculum Framework for School Education is also emphasised after stakeholders' consultation by the NCERT, which would be revised for every 5 to 10 years and made available in regional languages.

Disappointingly, this leaves the fundamental issue of common curriculum for the entire country unattended. The policy considered

that teachers are the nation builders and to increase their tribe, proposed to introduce merit-based scholarships for studying integrated B. Ed Programme and preferential employment. It has also recognised the necessity of provision of local housing for the teachers near or on the school premises, which was long due and a welcoming move. The best direction is that teachers can no longer be transferred according to whims and fancies except in the special circumstances, in order to encourage learning continuity from mod-

el teachers and to erase transfer inconvenience.

It has directed to do away with teachers' recruitment holidays, as observed in many states including Karnataka and to ensure adequate number of teachers across subjects besides, encouraging them for continuous professional development and career progression.

Lastly, the proposed action on standard setting and accreditation for school education is indeed warranted approach, especially for the government schools in rural areas as they are in pathetic positions, which has dented the image of schools and the learning atmosphere is in doldrums.

Holistic and multidisciplinary education with intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional and moral strength, achieving equity and inclusion are the main focus of higher education and to create opportunities to all individuals. To ensure the same, it suggests measures like exclusive government funds, target setting, setting up of higher education institutions in special education zones, financial assistance and scholarships to enhance the opportunities.

Under institutional restructuring, creation of National Research Foundation (NRF) is welcoming to promote academic research in the HEIs, as it amount to creation of fresh knowledge from the realm of civilizations to the modern times. It intends to fund peer-reviewed researches at the universities and to liaison between the researchers and the governments, industry, policy makers etc.

Further, in order to create a culture of effective governance and leadership, the policy called for a graded accreditation to become independent self-governing institutions with a board of governors. It is also contemplated to appoint only persons of high academic qualifications with demonstrated administrative and

REFINING HIGHER EDUCATION

The unwavering objective of higher education is

- (a) to produce fresh knowledge;
- (b) distribution of fresh knowledge emanated from research; and (c) to disseminate the fresh knowledge.

These activities can be taken up by undertaking research, by teaching the findings of the research, and lastly to document/publish the fresh knowledge to facilitate further research. These objectives not only make higher education much sought after but also establishes the forward linkage largely to the employment market and to the society in general.

Unfortunately barring some, most of the higher education institutions

have by and large never engaged in realising these objectives but largely confined to teaching.

Undertaking independent or commissioned research works is very limited and perhaps totally absent in some disciplines. Lack of competitiveness and institutional supports are attributed for the present state of affairs in the universities. If this is the overall scenario in focussed research, there is hardly any conducive environment or sufficient attempts on the part of the faculty members for inter-disciplinary and multidisciplinary researches.

It must be owing to lack of orientation or on job trainings at the higher level of the Indian higher education.

leadership capabilities. Those persons are also expected to demonstrate strong alignment to the constitutional values.

The Nation Builders

On the occasions of the Teachers' day, it is high time to realise the need to respect the teaching community with dignity like elsewhere and keep the teaching fraternity with all comforts in the country. Teachers, having accepted them as nation builders, need best remuneration, perks and incentives for their labour, which should be on par with any other frontline servants. It is indeed necessary to release them from the financial difficulties and stress, and to ensure meeting their family's basic needs from time to time.

Development of social infrastructure, including residential housing in the school environment, as contemplated would go a long way not only in increasing consultations between the teachers and wards

but would ensure continuous learning of the poor and the weak students. The other benefit is that such initiative would put an end to home tuitions.

Releasing the teaching communities from the non-academic treacheries is yet another need of the hour and a relief to facilitate them to rededicate themselves in the nation building activity. The present focus of faculty development scheme and design needs immediate attention to make it relevant to the industry and social needs on continuous basis than to only promotions and progressions of the teachers, especially in the higher education segment.

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