

Talking Points for Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand Dr. K.K.Paul for the function to honour teachers with Governor's Teachers Award at Raj Bhawan on September 7, 2015

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Education Minister, Secretary, Education, Senior officers on dias, distinguished teachers, ladies and gentlemen !

- 1) We are all gathered here this morning for celebrating Teachers Day and honouring teachers for their outstanding performance. We can say that for the entire teaching community, this could be one of the most important day of the year. After the creation of the state, this is the first time that it has been decided to honour teachers with this award at Raj Bhawan. It was felt that the teachers needed to be better recognised and their efforts honoured and encouraged. I congratulate all those who are being awarded today. I also congratulate those teachers of the state who have been honoured with the prestigious President's Award.
- 2) We are indeed proud to have all of you, here, today. As you are aware, teachers Day is observed on the birth anniversary of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. When he became the President, his students wanted to celebrate his birthday in a grand manner. He, as President, personally advised them to observe September 5, as Teacher Day. He was a philosopher-statesman, a profound thinker, an eminent scholar, an eloquent speaker, an innovative educationist and a great humanist. He was amongst the first Bharat Ratnas of the country, way back in 1954. He taught at Madras, Mysore, Kolkata, Benaras Hindu University and Oxford University and was a visiting Professor to many others. He astonished his audience with his astounding memory, envious range of interests and remarkable sweep of mind. I pay my tributes to this multi-faceted personality . Incidentally, he along with Dr. Zakir Hussain are two former VCs, who rose to be the head of our nation.
According to Dr. Radhakrishnan : *“The aim of education is not the acquisition of information, although important, or acquisition of skills, though essential in modern society, but the development of that best of mind, that attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens.”*
These words remind us even today of the need for introspection with a basic question, “What inputs are we giving to our children to achieve their aims.”
- 3) In these days of information technology, the role of a teacher is more focussed upon guiding and encouraging students to create original thoughts and ideas instead of blindly following, what all others are propagating through the internet. We need “well formed minds” and not just “well-filled minds”. Teachers need to help students to experiment with their minds and learn to do “out-of-the-box” thinking. This is where your role becomes extremely important, as otherwise, the youngsters may tend to get quite confused, become directionless, and can go astray.
- 4) As teachers, you all must also keep your mind open to learning. The process of learning can never stop for a teacher. A teacher must also remain a student throughout his or her life. Also, in these days when parents are mostly working

and children get less time to interact with them, teachers have assumed a role perhaps even more important than parents. They must create an atmosphere in their schools where children can imbibe Indian values and culture to keep our heritage alive. Education without values has no meaning. A person should not be merely a good student. He should be a good human being and a good citizen. Teachers have to emphasise on students the need for character development.

- 5) As teachers we have to realise that education should not just fill minds, it should ignite them, make them alert and receptive. It should fuel the imagination and nourish creativity besides giving knowledge. Constant intellectual exchange between teachers and students is what can result in this. An everlasting zest for learning, an unobstructed pursuit of truth, a sense of mission and a capacity for taking pains in disseminating light and knowledge are some of the essential qualities of a good teacher. Such a teacher shall produce men and women of immense moral and intellectual prowess and strength of character to guide and shape humanity. We must not forget that vast majority of our youth have to be trained to be employable, the process has to be initiated by teachers.
- 6) As we assign the future of our youth in the hands of our teachers - it is also the responsibility of the entire society to honour teachers who are dedicated to giving knowledge and guidance to students and are committed to make them good and responsible citizens and good human beings. Teachers play an important role in preparing the youth to contribute to nation building. Honouring and respecting teachers/Gurus has been part of the Indian tradition. And we must continue this tradition and strengthen it. At the same time, it is also important that the teachers are provided with adequate and modern infrastructural facilities in schools, so as to keep the interest of the students alive and focussed. Also when students pass out they should not feel out of place in a modern society.
- 7) Once again I congratulate all the teachers who received the award today and hope that others will be inspired by them and take their profession of spreading light and knowledge with yet more commitment and dedication. I would like to conclude here with some very simple but meaningful words said by our late, former president Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam who was a wonderful learner and a great teacher. These words will inspire teachers as well as learner.

“Learning gives creativity Creativity leads to thinking Thinking provides knowledge Knowledge makes you great.”

So let us all resolve to carry on this quest for learning and spreading the light of knowledge to our successive generations.

Thank You

God Bless

Jai Hind !