



Flamboyant Cuttlefish is dubbed so as it consists of a wavy body pattern featuring bright yellow, red, white and brown colours.

Being happy



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

'Happy children' – for some these maybe two words, but for me they are my driving spirit. It has always been my constant endeavour to nurture happy children, for only happy children can go on to build a happy nation, thus contributing to our dream of

a happier world. While happy children may be the cornerstones of a happy world, I think all-pervasive happiness is what we need to make this planet a better, brighter place.

Recently, with an aim to spread the magic encapsulated in this single word 'happiness', Amity Centre of Happiness at Amity University Greater Noida (read page 3, 6 & 7) organised a webinar, where eminent experts from all walks of life spoke about happiness, each giving their own, unique definition of the word. Happiness, indeed, has a unique meaning for each one of us. For a toddler, happiness lies in his mother's lap. For a teenager, happiness may mean securing admission into the college of his or her choice. For a CEO, happiness lies in seeing his company reach the top. To a doctor, happiness means seeing his patient heal.

While happiness is unique to each person, true meaning of the word is achieved when the mind, body and soul are perfectly aligned. It is only when these three are in sync, along with a right decision, that our thoughts match our words and consecutively our actions. Often a contradiction between our words and thoughts results in confusion, which in turn, leads to sadness.

If one is to summarise all this, then true happiness is something that lies within, something which keeps evolving with different stages of life. It is not a milestone you gather on a journey; it is your own steps in this journey towards your dreams which entail happiness. So, let your good virtues foster your being, for only then will you bloom into a happy individual. 🇮🇳

Holistic safety



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

As I sifted through new year messages, I could sense a unique underlying happiness in all of them this year. People wished as if they have achieved a victory over doomsday. What caught my real attention was that almost every message had 'Stay Safe', 'Be Safe', written in them. It set me thinking about how the word 'safety' has become the new wish.

When we say 'Stay Safe', we primarily mean physical health and well-being, but a closer look and we know that our safety is dependent on the safety of numerous facets around us. Like our environment, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, the society we live in, the people we interact with, etc., they all need to be safe in collaboration, for us to be safe as an individual. And for all of this, we have to be safe at individual level in terms of our personal health and hygiene practices, our environmental practices like waste management and saving water, our social practices like service above self, our human interactions like being loving and compassionate.

Just as charity begins at home, so does safety. Hence, we need to start being safe at personal level for safety to percolate at national and global level. We need to plant trees for clean air to wrap the surroundings. We need to segregate waste responsibly for our water bodies to heal more. If someone needs love and care, we need to tend them with humanity. Remember, holistic safety is a chain of emotions and value based responsible human practices. So, this new year let's resolve to be 'Holistically Safe'. 🇮🇳

Published and Printed by Mr R.R. Aiyar on behalf of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan from E-26, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024 and printed from HT Media Ltd, B-2, Sec 63, Noida (UP), Editor Ms Vira Sharma.
Edition: Vol 13, Issue 2 ■ RNI No. DELENG / 2009 / 30258. Both for free distribution and annual subscription of ₹ 900.

Opinions expressed in GT articles are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publishers. While the editors do their utmost to verify information published, they do not accept responsibility for its absolute accuracy.
Published for the period January 11-17, 2021

World without literature

For These Beautiful Stories Have Come To Build Our Universe

Lavanya Jain, AIS MV, XII

Ever wondered what the world would be like if literature never existed? What would have happened to The Little Prince, Oliver Twist, Huckleberry Finn, The Kabuliwala, Mulla Nasrudin, Aladdin, and their likes? Where would have their tales gone? Their lives, beautifully penned down on the sheets of blank & white paper by writers heard-unheard, what would have become of these scintillating stories? Them poems, knitted into the world with love, grace, and a pinch of magic, would they have waited for someone to breathe life into them? Or would they have just evanesced in the ab-

sence of literature?

What would have writers like JK Rowling, William Shakespeare, Rupi Kaur, Hawthorne, Virginia Woolf, Dickens, Munshi Premchand and Rabindranath Tagore, amongst others, done to articulate themselves? Would they have worked in the kings' courts? Or would they have gotten into science, mixing up chemicals instead of themselves being the atoms of the world?

What would have become of all the readers, who read stories and poems arduously, that it is almost as if they are living these tales themselves? How different would their lives have been, having seen only a fraction of the world, and

not the world these writers conjured up for them? Would they still be as creative as they are now, having never read Alice in Wonderland? Or would they still give credence to magic with the same avidity as they do now, having never read Harry Potter? Would they look at flowers and pebbles and sunsets with the same aesthetic eye that they possess now, sans reading Ruskin Bond?

In fact, what would have been the kismet of this world, having been deprived of all the literature that has shaped its course to the modern space of consciousness and knowledge? In the absence of the stories of racial discrimination and segregation in Gordimer's My Son's Story, or the female oppression in The Second Sex, would we have still savvied all the evils that have been so predominantly present in humanity for so long, or ascertained our 'truths' in the official historical documents filed by those in power to immortalise their names as heroes?

How would we have then recognised the existence of oral cultures and splinter groups like that of Igbo in Nigeria (Things Fall Apart), if literature never recorded them in

it? Without the Narrative of the life of Fredrick Douglass or Maya Angelou's Million Men March, would we have ever gotten real sentimental insight into the ruthless slavery of our black ancestors, or would we have only known the political turmoil it created? So many things that we are aware about today, would they have still been known to us without these pieces of prose and poetry, or would they have been buried deep in the historical reserves of those who wanted them whitewashed for their benefit?

Well, as a matter of fact, we may never know the answer to any of these questions. But we sure have a moment of epiphany. Yes, the world would've been a very different place had literature never existed, perhaps even unimaginably different, could be for the better or for the worse alike. But there's no point thinking about that, because literature really does exist today. Everywhere around us, there are stories written, and those waiting to be written, poems to be recited, and fables to be woven. Thus, as long as our world houses this beautiful artefact called 'literature', let's savour and treasure it to the best of our abilities.



Toil in the soil

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Bill III: Farmers Agreement of Price Assurance, Farm Services Bill

What does the bill entail? Permitting contract farming, the bill allows farmers to strike a deal with ordained buyers or sponsors, be it individuals, partnership firms, processors, societies, limited liability groups, etc., to trade a pre-agreed quantity and quality of the produce at a predetermined price before the actual production even begins. These agreements are supposed to have a minimum duration of one cropping season and can be extended for a period of up to five years. Further, third parties (if any), methods of determining price, guaranteed price to be paid (in case, price is subject to variation) etc., should all be mentioned in the agreement. The bill also provides for a three level dispute redressal mechanism, encompassing the representative parties of the agreement, the subdivisional magistrate, and the appellate authority.

Why is it beneficial?

① Farmers, especially those with less than 5 hectares of land (accounting

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for up to 86% of the total farmers in India) would gain via contract farming as it would give rise to new markets, transfer the risk of market unpredictability to buyers, and cut the cost of marketing a great deal, increasing their overall income.

② It proffers effective dispute settlement mechanism.

③ Privatisation would provide the farmers financial support in cash and/or kind, easy access to modern tech and other technical guidance.

Why the protests?

① With no mention of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and government procurement in the bills, to either

suggest its continuance or end, the farmer unions believe they would be forced to sell their produce to big corporations at much cheaper rates than they are worth, opening a potential for exploitation. PM Modi has, however, already averred that MSP for crops would continue. For the unversed, MSP is the government's price to buy the farm produce in an effort to provide the farmers with a minimum profit for the harvest, if the market offers less amount than the cost incurred.

② The possibility of sponsors being partial towards small and marginal farmers increases manifold.

③ Farmers believe they would stand no chance in front of big corporate firms when it comes to negotiations or disputes.

Today, even after a series of peace talks, the deadlock on the farm laws lingers still, where while the government continues to see the bills as much-needed agri-sector reforms, protestors believe these legalisations would add to the woes of the already fraught farming sector in India. What are your thoughts? 🇮🇳



Issue: Page 1, January 4, 2021

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the page 1 article, 'The good news', published in the GT edition dated January 4, 2021. As we were engrossed seeing 2021 as the harbinger of joy, The Global Times gave us reasons to ponder whether 2020 was really an egregious year or not. The article seeks to sieve out positivity from a rather catastrophic year. Well, my take resonated with the well-said quote by Joseph B Wirthlin, "As with the butterfly, adversity is necessary to build character in people". The impact of the pandemic was so swift and widespread that we were forced to learn new lessons and rediscover the value of some old ones much to our chagrin. Moreover, the community resilience has been recasted and we have learned to behold the eternal beauty of nature over mortality, realising the transient nature of human life. Concludingly, I wish to express my gratitude towards our dearest Chairperson ma'am, Principal ma'am and the entire GT team for bringing out the beauty of hope and contentment every week.

Nandini Sunil
AIS Pushp Vihar, XII E