**Teacher’s Day: History, Significance, and Celebration**

**By Shikha Goyal**

Teacher's Day in India was first observed in the year 1962. The day commemorated the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. He was the first Vice-President and second President of independent India. There is no doubt that being a teacher is a noble profession that deserves an equal amount of love and respect as any other profession.

On Teachers' Day, students all over the country pay respect and tribute to their teachers. In some schools, special programs are also organised to celebrate Teachers' Day. It is a reminder of the role that teachers play in nation-building by guiding and educating the brightest minds of our country.

Teachers' Day is celebrated in India every year on September 5 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan is one of the most renowned writers in contemporary India. He has made significant contributions to a variety of subjects starting from theoretical, theological, moral, instructive, communal, and enlightening subjects. He wrote several articles in many recognised journals which are of great importance. The first Teachers' Day in India was marked on September 5, 1962, which was his 77th birthday.

Dr. Radhakrishnan became President of India in 1962. He was approached by some of his friends and students who requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday on 5 September. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan responded, "Instead of observing my birthday discretely, it would be my pompous privilege if 5th September is scrutinised as Teachers' Day". Such a request coming from the President of India showcased Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's affection and dedication to teachers.

**What is the Significance of Teacher's Day?**

Teachers Day is one such event to which students and teachers equally look forward. The Day is important for the students as it gives them a chance to understand the efforts put in by their teachers to ensure that they get a proper education. Similarly, teachers also look forward to the Teachers’ Day celebration as their efforts get recognised and honoured by students and other agencies as well.

In India, on the eve of Teachers' Day, i.e., on 5 September, the National Teachers Awards are given to the meritorious teachers by the President of India. The awards are conferred as public gratitude to praiseworthy teachers working in primary schools, middle schools, and secondary schools.

Even according to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi “Teaching is not a profession, a way of life”. Teaching is not a profession but “Jeevan Dharm” (a way of life) and asked teachers to understand changes happening across the world so that they can prepare the new generation to face them. In fact, it is a divine responsibility to guide and enlighten. He also said that India should regain the status of ‘Vishwaguru’ (leader in education) by giving high respect to teachers whom he asked to encourage students to think critically about issues concerning the nation. "Teachers' determination and sincerity will shape the destiny of the nation as they are laying the foundation and the building blocks of the society".

**How is Teacher's Day celebrated?**

On Teachers Day, students hold different activities to entertain teachers at schools and colleges. These activities include singing competitions, dance competitions, recitations of poems, mimicry of teachers, lots of games children play with teachers, planning a picnic, offering gifts, and at last, they thank teachers by expressing their gratitude.

Teachers' Day is a great occasion for celebrating and enjoying the relationship between teachers and students. So, try to meet your teachers on the day and convey your wishes. If they are far then send them a message and make their day memorable.

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