

WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE WITH YOU THAT DR. SUSHIL SAIGAL JOINED AS MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF GREEN PLANET MANTRA.



Dr. Sushil Saigal works on issues related to climate change, forestry, and natural resources management. He has over two decades of experience in the Indian forestry, environment, and development sectors. He has several publications, including four books, to his credit. He received his academic and professional training at Cambridge, Oxford, Berkeley, East-West Center, and the Indian Institute of Forest Management. He is presently working as Institutional Development & Governance Advisor with the USAID-supported Forest-PLUS Program.

Paradise School Goa leads the revolution for education in India and the world



Whilst the world hurtles towards digital transformation on every level, education has remained surprisingly still and resistant to change. Most systems are antiquated, relying on traditions which are no longer valid, forcing children into a straightjacket of thought which imprisons rather than liberates.

Paradise School Goa is set to change all that. Drawing deeply from new and emergent philosophies of education, it is a small school sending a big message out to the world. That is, if you let children self-organise their learning they will probably achieve better results than if you dictate it to them. Director, Shilpa Mehta, a British-Gujarati from London, is the force of nature behind the project. Driven by a need to set up decent schooling for her daughter (now aged 12), she decided to reinvent the wheel.

'I had a unique opportunity to create the exact kind of education I wanted for my child. I am very much a parent who has stepped up. I got involved in a Montessori Free School initiative in the UK, established my own Primary School in South Goa. Now I am going for a new vision for secondary schooling in North Goa.

Inspired by the work of TED prize winner Sugata Mitra, Shilpa approached the educational scientist. Mitra won \$1 million for innovating an educational methodology called SOLE – Self Organised Learning Environments. In the slums of Delhi, Mitra noticed if one left a group of kids alone with a computer and internet, they would organise their own learning and achieve incredible results. For example: learning how to speak English so they could navigate the net.

[Read more.....](#)

Source: Navhind Times, December 2, 2016.

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RSSDI awards Biocon's ABIDE for diabetes education initiative



BENGALURU: Pharmaceutical giant Biocon's diabetes education initiative for medical practitioners has been conferred with the Award of Recognition by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI). As part of its social responsibility, Biocon had in 2012, introduced the initiative, naming it ABIDE which aimed at enhancing the understanding of the disease, diagnosis and treatment, in order to enrich the healthcare ecosystem of India.

The award was received by Dr. Major Guruprasad Thimmaiah, Senior Director & Head - Medical Affairs and ABIDES, Biocon, at the 44th Annual Conference of RSSDI held in Hyderabad recently [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Times of India, December 2, 2016

School education in light of NEP-2016



It has been nearly five decades since the first National Policy on Education (1968) was framed. A committee constituted in October 2015 by the Government of India, under the chairmanship of TSR Subramanian, a former Cabinet Secretary, for evolution of a National Education Policy (NEP-2016), submitted its report to MHRD on 27th May 2016. This report was not made public. Instead, interestingly, a document titled "Some inputs for the draft New Educational Policy" was posted all of sudden on the MHRD website seeking suggestions from people and organizations, by September 30.

The 43-page document organised into five chapters, namely, preamble, key challenges in the education sector, vision-mission-goals and objectives of the National Education Policy, policy framework, implementation and monitoring, attempts to frame general education at all levels right from pre-primary to research, categorised into school education and higher education. In its preamble, the document narrates the evolution of education system from ancient era to post independent era, the key issues and challenges, the chronicle of a few education committees, and the need for new educational policy.. [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Hans India, December 10, 2016

Our failed education policy needs urgent reform



Two overarching challenges face the Indian economy over the long term. One is the challenge of a rapidly deteriorating environment, including the scarcity of fresh water, which I leave aside in this article. The other is the spectre of unemployment or, more accurately, underemployment. There are multiple factors that account for the slow growth of productive jobs, ranging from poor infrastructure to poor governance to the anti-employment bias of a whole slew of economic policies. But the binding constraint on growth of high-productivity employment is the failure of India's education policy. Only a small proportion of the workforce has the educational foundation

required for skilled high-productivity jobs. Barely 5% of the workforce in India has had any skill training. Only 2% have any formal skill certificate compared to over 70% in advanced European countries like the UK or Germany, and as much as 80% to 90% in east Asian countries like Japan and South Korea. [Read more.....](#)

Source : Live Mint, December 16, 2016

Re-imagining education and skilling

Estimates suggest that 80% of the people joining the workforce are unemployable; so, higher education in India requires a significant rethink



At a recent roundtable on the future of employment in India, each participant was asked to bring an object that represented their outlook on the subject. To everyone's amazement, a renowned JNU economist brought a knife. He explained that if India continues to witness its historical pattern of employment, our streets may soon be taken over by unemployed youth brandishing knives!

[Read more.....](#)

Source : Live Mint, December 16, 2016

Indian systems of medicine provide solutions to modern day health issues: Shettar



MANGALURU: Indian systems of medicine such as yoga, ayurveda, naturopathy provide answers to various modern day health issues that stress accentuates in a person, said Jagadish Shettar, former CM and leader of the opposition in the state assembly.

With present day life style increasing stress and anxiety levels in people, it will be advisable that they look at traditional rather than modern systems of medicine for long term and lasting relief, he added.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration of Sharada Ayurdhama and foundation stone laying ceremony for Sharada Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital of Tulunadu Educational Trust at Devinagara, Talapady near here, Shettar, who was the chief guest, said the tension prevalent in modern day humans affects not just their mental but physical health as well. It is for such situations that one can turn to yoga, ayurveda and naturopathy. Read more.....

Source : The Times of India, December 09, 2016

Research and Teaching Should Go Hand and in Hand - Dr. Priyanka P.V, Director, Philip Kotler Center



Dr. Priyanka P.V is the Director of Philip Kotler Center for Advanced Marketing. She has worked as Assistant Professor for over 4 years, teaching management subjects to MBA students at various reputed colleges in Bangalore, India. Priyanka has presented and published over 30 research papers to date and authoring two books at present. She is authoring a book on social media marketing for Business Expert Press and one more is on its way with a leading publisher in the world. Also, she has won 7 awards for my outstanding contribution in the area of teaching and research

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Source Business World, December 12, 2016

National Education Policy panel in around 10 days: Javadekar

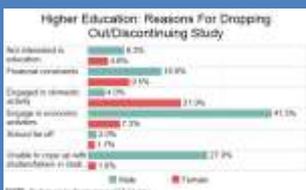


The government is set to announce a committee headed by an eminent educationist in the next 10 days which would to draft the National Education Policy (NEP), HRD minister Prakash Javadekar said today. The ministry has already held comprehensive discussions with all the stakeholders including the states, educational institutes, parliamentarians and experts, he said, adding even the recommendations of TSR Subramanian committee will be considered as an “input”.

“We will have a committee headed by an eminent educationist in the next 10 days... We are discussing some names but we also have to ask them whether they are ready because they will also have to work for three to four months,” said the HRD minister. [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Indian Express, December 12, 2016

Private higher education is burgeoning in India – but millions can't afford it



About 44.81 million students aged between 18 and 24 in India do not have the money for further education, a study shows.

As many as 44.81 million – 16.6% male and 9.5% female – Indian undergraduate students aged between 18 and 24 are too poor to pursue higher education, according to data from the National Sample Survey, 2014.

Private sector accounts for more than 76% of total institutions of higher education, data from the All India Survey on Higher Education 2014-15 report shows.

There are 712 central and state universities, 36,671 colleges and about 11,445 standalone diploma-level institutions across the country. [Read more.....](#)

Source : scroll.in, December 12, 2016

WWF-India hosts the Principal's Conference on Building Bridges to a Sustainable Future



Recognising the role of education and educational institutions as important constituencies in influencing children and teachers to take positive action for the planet, WWF-India today organized the Building Bridges to a Sustainable Future conference for school principals and teachers.

Attended by participants across 56 schools of Delhi NCR, the conference aimed at building awareness in teachers, principals and school authorities about the need for environment education and recognizing their crucial role in inspiring children to spearhead this movement for change. The

conference emphasized the need for collective action and shared commitment for a greener tomorrow. The conference was also attended by representatives from UNESCO, NCERT, NUEPA, , TERI, CSE, and CEE, NGOs, ministry officials, and government representatives. [Read more.....](#)

Source : www.wwfindia.org, December 12, 2016

Prakash Javadekar's tours delaying education policy



Mr Javdekar attended events outside the national capital — for at least 40 days out of his first three months in office — the minister's travel details accessed by this newspaper reveal. While the minister was sworn into office on July 5, his first trip outside the city entailed a visit to Kochi on July 9 itself for interactive session with students of Kendriya Vidyalaya.

The maximum number of visits by the minister were to his home state of Maharashtra, which he visited six times during this span of his first three months in office.

Other states which also got the minister's major share of attention were Karnataka (five), Kerala (four), Uttar Pradesh (four) and Telangana (three). Interestingly, the educationally, socially and economically backward states of the Northeast were only able to get four such visits by the HRD minister during this period. [Read more.....](#)

Source : THE ASIAN AGE, December 26, 2016

'More private matriculation schools opting for CBSE in plus 2 level'

KANYAKUMARI: With the Central government making "National Eligibility cum Entrance Test" (for Medical seats) compulsory, more private matriculation schools are opting to switch over to CBSE in Plus two level, a senior education department official said.

As more such schools are coming up to take it up at Plus two level, the CBSE board was also taking steps to improve the standard, streamline and regulate private schools offering CBSE syllabus, the official, who did not wish to be named, said.

Besides Matriculation students were also opting for CBSE syllabus in Plus two, which enabled them clear NEET with ease. Hence the CBSE board wanted to ensure that private schools maintained high standards at Plus two level, he said. [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Times of India, December 25, 2016

AICTE chief concerned over higher education quality

KOLKATA: All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) chairman Anil Sahasrabudhe on Saturday gave a sanction to the concern shared among educationists since long over the quality of higher education. The chairman held that industry bodies are not too sure about the employability of the graduates. Students should also learn soft skills — effective communication, team work, discipline, ethical practice — the AICTE head said.

While delivering the convocation address at Jadavpur University on Saturday, Sahasrabudhe said: "Rapid expansion in the number of colleges and universities in India during the last two decades has made the country create access to higher education and also equity, with a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of more than 24.3%. [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Times of India, December 25, 2016

World's First Solar Road Opens in Normandy, France



France has just opened what it claims is the first public solar panel road in the world, officials said on 21st December, 2016.

The French Ministry of the Environment announced the inauguration of the "unprecedented" new road on Thursday, which is covered by solar panels and stretches for more than half mile in the town of Tourouvre-au-Perche in Normandy, France.

The road, called the Wattway, was officially opened Thursday by French Minister of Ecology Ségolène Royal and Mayor Guy Monhée, according to a statement from the environmental ministry. The stretch of road is covered in photovoltaic panels, which transform solar energy into electricity. [Read more.....](#)

Source : NBC News, December 22, 2016

India's 87 per cent solar cell imports from China in April-September: Piyush Goyal

India had imported USD 2,344.56 million worth of cells last fiscal. This trend of buying solar cells from China is on the rise.



India imported solar and photovoltaic cells worth about USD 826 million from China in the first six months of the current fiscal, which is over 87 per cent of the country's total such imports. India's total imports of these cells were worth USD 948.88 million, including USD 825.98 million from China, constituting 87.05 per cent, during the April-September period of 2016-17, New & Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal stated in a written reply to Lok Sabha on Thursday.

India had imported USD 2,344.56 million worth of cells last fiscal, out of which USD 1,960.26 million was from China constituting 83.61 per cent of the total. In 2014-15, the proportion of solar and photovoltaic cells imports from China was 73.49 per cent of the total imports at USD 603.34 million. India imported solar cells and photovoltaic cells worth USD 820.95 million in that fiscal. [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Indian Express, December 08, 2016

India ranks 4th in 2016 Global Wind Power Installed Capacity Index

India ranked 4th in the Global Wind Power Installed Capacity index with cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of 25,088 MW in 2015. The index was released as part Global Wind Report: Annual Market, flagship publication of the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

- The index was topped by China, followed by US and Germany with cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of 145362 MW, 74471 MW and 44947 MW respectively.
- Both Europe and the US markets performed better than expected and the European offshore sector set a new record, installing just over 3 GW. Canada, Mexico and Brazil all had strong years.
- South Africa was the first market in Africa to pass the 1,000 MW in 2015 and alongside Egypt, Morocco, Ethiopia and Kenya were also leading development in that market.
- Brazil continues to lead in Latin America, followed by Chile and Uruguay and a potentially very large market is just now opening up in Argentina.
- India has achieved the largest-ever wind power capacity addition of 3,423 MW in 2015-16, exceeding the target by 44%

Source : The Times of India, December 25, 2016

India plans nearly 60% of Electricity Capacity from non-Fossil Fuels by 2027

The Indian government has forecast that it will exceed the renewable energy targets set in Paris last year by nearly half and three years ahead of schedule. A draft 10-year energy blueprint published this week predicts that 57 per cent of India's total electricity capacity will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2027. The Paris Climate Accord target was 40 per cent by 2030. The forecast reflects an increase in private sector investment in Indian renewable energy projects over the past year, according to analysts. equity, with a gross enrolment ratio (GER) of more than 24.3%. [Read more.....](#)

Source : Guardian, December 22, 2016

By 2022 India will be one of largest installations of renewable energy: Piyush Goyal

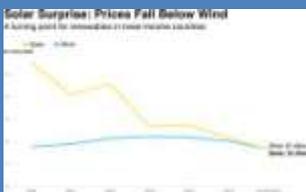


Asserting that the present generation has the duty to leave behind a better place to live in for the next generation, Minister of State for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Piyush Goyal on Saturday said by 2022, India will be one of largest installations of renewable energy in world. Goyal also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed towards ramping up renewable energy.

“This government is committed and has created an actionable agenda so that by 2022 India would probably be one of the world’s fastest growing renewable energy in the country, one of the largest installations of renewable energy in the world if not the largest. India will have about 2, 25,000 MW of renewable energy by 2022, which is the world’s largest installation.” [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Indian Express, December 25, 2016

World Energy Hits a Turning Point: Solar That's Cheaper Than Wind



A transformation is happening in global energy markets that’s worth noting as 2016 comes to an end: Solar power, for the first time, is becoming the cheapest form of new electricity.

This has happened in isolated projects in the past: an especially competitive auction in the Middle East, for example, resulting in record-cheap solar costs. But now unsubsidized solar is beginning to outcompete coal and natural gas on a larger scale, and notably, new solar projects in emerging markets are costing less to build than wind projects, according to fresh data from Bloomberg New

Energy Finance. [Read more.....](#)

Source : Bloomberg Technology, December 26, 2016

Utilisation of Renewable Energy By Indian Railways



Vision 2020 document of the Indian Railways envisages to utilize at least 10% of its energy requirement from renewable sources.

Indian Railways (IR) has planned to source about 1000 Mega Watt (MW) Solar Power as part of its Solar Mission. Further, Indian Railways also plans to harness about 200 MW of wind power in next five years based on techno commercial assessment. Out of this, about 50 MW (14 MW solar and 36 MW wind power) renewable power has already been set up.

Energy audit on IR is an ongoing process and in the last year, about 200 energy audits were done. To improve energy efficiency, it has been decided to use LED lights in all Railway installations progressively and till date, about 200 Stations have been provided with LED lighting.

This Press Release is based on the information given by the Minister of State for Railways Shri Rajen Gohain in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 07.12.2016

Source : Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Railways, December 07, 2016

Google sets an example with 100% renewable energy globally



Google has been for a long time focussing on the ways to convert its global operation to be powered entirely by renewable energy. With the latest announcement, it seems that the tech major will reach that goal soon. According to a blog post by Google, as a ‘landmark moment’, the offices and data centres of the company will soon run fully on renewable energy from 2017. Google is the largest buyer of corporate renewable energy followed by a distant second, world’s largest online retailer, Amazon. According to the company the data centres have been making 50 percent more energy efficient than the tech industry average and with more incorporation of the wind and solar farms Google is planning to be 100 percent fueled by renewable sources by the end of 2017. [Read more.....](#)

Source : The Financial Express, December 09, 2016

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- Single copy cost of the GPM is Rs. 150/- Annual Subscription of GPM is Rs. 600/-
- Annual Subscription of printed copy of Shreeranta E-Bulletin is Rs. 900/-
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