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Digital Education: E-learning

- The Corona pandemic has badly affected every important aspect of our lives. Children's education is also no exception to this. In view of this, many big announcements were made by the government in the budget to encourage digital education and online learning.
- The Finance Minister said in his budget speech that in view of the Corona period, e-content and e-learning will be encouraged. Digital University will be established in the country. Through this university, world class education will be provided to the students. An e-portal for skill development will also be started.
- First of all, what is e-learning? The meaning of E-learning can be called "electronic learning". In very simple language, e-learning is the process of taking education through electronic devices and digital media.
- It can take many forms which include web based learning, mobile based learning, computer based learning, virtual classroom and webinars etc.
- This year's Union Budget has allocated Rs 1.04 lakh crore for the education sector, compared to Rs 93,224 crore last year.
- In the current budget, a lot of emphasis has been laid on digitization of education and several initiatives have been taken to promote e-learning. In which decisions like PM e-VIDYA's 'One Class-One TV Channel' program, online vocational courses, development of e-content, establishment of digital university are included.
- The number of TV channels for education under PM e-VIDYA will be increased from 12 to 200. With this, all states will be able to provide supplementary education for classes 1-12 in regional languages.
- New online vocational courses will be introduced in which 750 virtual labs in science and maths and 75 skilling e-labs will be set up for simulated learning environment.
- High quality e-content will be developed for better learning. In addition, with the establishment of a digital university, the facility of "education at doorstep" will be provided to the students across the country.

- More efforts will be made for inclusive education and under this focus will be given to enhance the facilities of those people who are negatively affected due to lack of e-learning resources. This will benefit the weaker sections and students of rural areas studying in government schools.
- In addition to the existing decisions, the government is already running several programs to promote online education. These include initiatives like Operation Digital Board, Shagun, National Digital Library and Shodhganga.
- There are many benefits of e-learning such that students are free to participate in the courses of their choice and also they can decide the class timings as per their convenience.
- Students can watch the video as they feel better by accelerating or slowing down. Money and time are also saved. Also, students get access to the best subject matter experts.
- Considering the advantages of e-learning in this way, the government has taken many steps to improve it, yet many challenges still remain in its path. For example, people who have money can easily take advantage of e-learning by buying a computer or TV, but for those who are poor, it is still a far cry.
- Internet facility is very less in villages as compared to cities, due to which rural people remain marginalized in education from the point of view of e-learning. E-learning is not yet as effective in terms of artistic and practical education like beauty culture, fashion design, tailoring, travel and tourism.
- The future of online education looks very promising and it is also accessible to a wider segment of the population. Overall, looking at the current circumstances, it can be said that the time has come for the government to take major steps through e-learning to strengthen public institutions to meet the present need and bridge the education gap created by the pandemic.

'Paraya Shikshalay'

- The effect of corona virus is affecting the whole world today. Industry, socio-economic sector along with another important sector that is being badly affected by this virus is that of education.
- Physical classes are not being conducted and online classes have been adopted as an alternative. Online classes are still effective to a large extent in larger classes or higher education, but online classes have not yet become such an effective option in smaller classes.
- Be it the government, parents or any other expert, all the people are engaged in finding some way or the other. In this sequence, recently the Government of West Bengal has started a scheme named 'Paraya Shikshalay'.
- Schools opened for classes 8 to 12 across the state on 31 January in West Bengal. Whereas online classes continued to be conducted for students studying in classes smaller than that.
- On this, student organizations like Students Federation of India ie SFI, West Bengal Chhatra Parishad and ABVP demonstrated on the streets demanding the opening of all classes in schools at the earliest. Apart from this, a section of doctors and parents also believe that schools should be reopened in physical form.
- Actually it is a bit difficult task for young children to follow the corona protocol in physical classes. In the present scenario the seating arrangement in classrooms is such that people sit adjacent to each other.
- If these classes are set up in an open ground where children can sit at a distance of 2 yards from each other and their physical contact is less, then the chances of corona infection can be reduced. Along with this, the education of the children will also go on uninterrupted.
- In view of this, from 7th February, the Government of West Bengal started an open-air class room scheme for students of classes 1 to 7 named 'Paraya Shikshalay'.
- The objective of this unique initiative is to encourage those students whose schools are continuously closed due to Corona pandemic to rejoin physical classes.
- Initially only classes of students of classes 1 to 5 were included under this scheme, but later it also included students of classes 6 and 7 as their physical classes were also not opened.
- Students are being called in batches to these classes with open fields and at the same time arrangements have been made for mid-day meals for the children joining this scheme.
- Schools which have their own park or grounds available, that is, open-air space, have started holding classes for students. Along with this, benches and blackboards have also been installed outside in these grounds.
- In schools where open ground is not available, these open air classes are being conducted in nearby parks and grounds. The help of local councilors and MLAs is being taken in these parks and grounds to arrange for the basic infrastructure like arranging mid-day meals for the students and installation of temporary sheds and chairs.

- A lot of enthusiasm was seen among the students on the very first day of the launch of this scheme. Around 30 to 40 students attended classes in each school at several places in Kolkata.
- During this, the students were also asked to follow all the protocols related to corona such as sanitizing hands, applying masks and sitting at a distance of 2 yards from each other.

Sarojini Naidu

- Sarojini Naidu's name will always be written in golden letters in Indian history as a well-known poetess, great freedom fighter and strong leader of the feminist movement.
- Sarojini Naidu was one of the leading leaders in the country's independence movement and she acted as a source of inspiration for her colleagues and Indian youth.
- Sarojini Naidu was born on February 13, 1879. His father's name was Aghornath Chattopadhyay and mother's name was Varada Sundari.
- His father wanted to see him advance in the field of science, but he was not interested in this field. After passing his matriculation examination at the age of 12, he was sent to England for higher education.
- In England he was educated at 'King's College' in London and 'Garton College in Cambridge'. It is worth noting that at the age of 13, she wrote the poem 'The Lady of the Lake'.
- His famous works include Golden Threshold, The Bird of Time, The Broken Wing, Nilambu, Traveler's Song, etc. Sarojini Naidu's poetry collections Bird of Time and Broken Wing made her a well-known poet.
- Like a great poetess, Sarojini Naidu was also a great freedom fighter. Once in 1902, Sarojini Naidu gave a rousing speech in Calcutta, which greatly impressed Gopalkrishna Gokhale. In this way, Gokhale told him to move forward in politics.
- Later in the year 1914, Sarojini Naidu met Gandhi in London. After meeting Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu's political activism increased significantly and she became a vigorous spokesperson of the Congress. He worked in many committees of the Congress and did the work of spreading awareness about the freedom movement across the country.
- He returned his 'Kaiser-e-Hind' title in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Sarojini Naidu presided over the Kanpur Congress session of 1925. In addition, he opposed the Rowlatt Act.
- Sarojini Naidu was one of the volunteers who accompanied Gandhiji in the famous Salt Satyagraha of 1930. It is worth mentioning that when Mahatma Gandhi was invited to speak at the 'Round Table Conference', Sarojini Naidu was also included in the delegation with him.
- When Gandhi was sent to jail in 1932, he gave the responsibility of giving speed and direction to the movement to Sarojini Naidu. During the 'Quit India Movement', when many big leaders of Congress including Gandhi were arrested, Sarojini Naidu was also arrested in it. Apart from this, Sarojini played an important role in resolving disputes within the Congress on several occasions.
- After India's independence, she was appointed as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh and became the first Indian woman to be appointed to the post of Governor.
- A great poet, apart from a great freedom fighter, Sarojini Naidu was also a top leader of the women's liberation movement. She was also associated with India's oldest and important women's

organization 'All India Mahila Parishad'. Today, this organization has contributed a lot to all the political, economic and legal rights that Indian women have got.

- On March 2, 1949, this immortal daughter of Mother India died. In Indian history, this great heroine will always be remembered by the generations to come as 'Bharat Nightingale', 'National Leader' and 'Supporter of Women's Liberation Movement'.

Swami Dayanand Saraswati

- The period of 19th century in India is considered to be the time of socio-religious renaissance. During this period there were many great social reformers who gave a new direction to the then society and whose relevance remains even today. Among these, the name of Swami Dayanand Saraswati is taken very prominently.
- He not only carried forward the immediate socio-religious movement, but also played an important role in awakening Indian nationalism.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born on 12 February 1824 in Tankara, Gujarat. His father's name was Amba Shankar Tiwari and mother's name was Yashodabai.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati's guru was Virjanand Swami. At the age of 21, Swami Dayanand Saraswati chose the path of Sanyas and after that started serving the country and society.
- Hypocrisy and idolatry were rampant in 19th century India. Along with this, many other social evils were also present in the society at that time.
- After taking initiation from Guru Virjanand, Swami Dayanand Saraswati started propagating the Vedic scriptures. During this, while traveling all over India, he started raising his voice against the evils prevalent in the immediate society.
- He not only vehemently opposed child marriage and Sati, but also awakened people for widow remarriage and women's education.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati encouraged inter-caste marriages and tried to bring people of all religions together, rejecting social division on the basis of sect and varna. He greatly supported equality in the society.
- Swamiji studied the original texts of all religions and openly opposed the evils present in them. He opposed whatever he found wrong; whether it is in Christianity, in Muslim religion or even in Sanatan Dharma itself.
- Opponent of idol worship Swami Dayanand Saraswati believed in monotheism. He said that if heaven could be attained by bathing in the Ganges, shaving the head and rubbing the ash, then the fish, sheep and donkey would be the first officers of heaven.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati considered the knowledge contained in the Vedas above all, authentic and irrefutable. Keeping this importance of the Vedas in mind, he gave the slogan 'Return to the Vedas'.
- Along with this, he formed the Arya Samaj in 1875 in order to establish a reformist and progressive society. self
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati composed the texts Rigvedadi Bhashya-Bhumika, Granth Vedabhashya and Satyarth Prakash to propagate his ideas. Satyarth Prakash became very popular in this.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati, playing a leading role in the promotion of Indian nationalism, strongly advocated that "foreign rule is not acceptable in any form.

- It is worth mentioning that the credit of awakening the most important word 'Swarajya' in the Indian freedom struggle goes to Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Which was later carried forward by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and gave the slogan "Swarajya is my birth right".
- It is believed that the thoughts of Swami Dayanand Saraswati acted as a source of inspiration in the Revolt of 1857. Due to this the British government got angry with them and as a result a conspiracy was hatched in which they were killed by poisoning.
- Thus Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the forerunner of Indian renaissance and nationalism, departed from this world forever, but his ideas were carried forward by the leaders of the Indian independence movement and he continues to guide the Indian society even today.

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