

NEWS ALERT

AUGUST 22-28, 2022



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APPOINTMENTS

STATESMAN, AUG 27, 2022

Justice UU Lalit takes oath as 49th Chief Justice of India

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was sworn in as 49th Chief Justice of India today, a day after the retirement of Justice NV Ramana. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office of the Chief Justice of India to Justice UU Lalit at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was sworn in as 49th Chief Justice of India today, a day after the retirement of Justice NV Ramana. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office of the Chief Justice of India to Justice UU Lalit at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Justice UU Lalit succeeds Justice NV Ramana, who retired on August 26, 2022. Keeping with convention and norms of seniority, Justice Ramana recommended Justice Lalit as his successor. President subsequently confirmed Justice Lalit's appointment as the new CJI. Justice Lalit will hold an office for a brief tenure of 74 days as the head of India's judiciary and would demit office on 8 November 2022.

At the farewell function of Justice Ramana, Justice Lalit said that during his tenure, he will focus on three key areas and one of his top priorities would be to make the listing of cases simple, clear and as transparent as possible. Justice Lalit also assured that there will be at least one Constitution Bench functioning throughout the year in the Supreme Court. Justice Lalit said, "I have always believed that the role of the Supreme Court is to lay down law with clarity, consistency, and the best possible way to do it is to have larger benches as early as possible, wherever the matters are referred to such benches so that the issues get clarified immediately, the matter has consistency and the people are well aware of what exactly are the contours of the peculiar positions in law." Chief Justice N.V. Ramana on Friday termed the pendency of cases a huge challenge and expressed regret for not giving the required attention to issues with a listing of cases and schedule of hearing of matters. Justice Lalit was a renowned senior advocate before he became the judge of the apex court. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on August 13, 2014.

Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the Supreme Court bench from the Bar. Justice SM Sikri, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964. Born on November 9, 1957, in Maharashtra's Solapur, Justice Lalit enrolled as an advocate in June 1983. He specialised in criminal law and practised at the Bombay High Court from 1983 to 1985. Lalit shifted his practice to Delhi in January 1986, and in April 2004, he was designated as a senior advocate by the top court. After the retirement of Justice Lalit on November 8, Justice DY Chandrachud is expected to be appointed as the next CJI, i.e the 50th Chief Justice of India.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTASAV

PIB AUG 22, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announces 75 "Amrit" Grants for Biotech initiatives involving StartUps, industry, academia and research bodies in integrated collaboration:

DBT-BIRAC 75 Amrit Team Grant Initiative will give a big boost to Prime Minister's call for "Jai Anusandhan"The Minister says, 75 inter-disciplinary, multi-institutional grants would be supported for high-risk, ambitious research ideas, milestones-driven collaborative research in all domain specific areas of biotech sector in a PPP mode

Thematic Areas chosen for Team Science Grant broadly includes health, agribiotech, climate change, synthetic biology and sustainable bioresource management: Dr Jitendra Singh



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today announced 75 "Amrit" Grants for Biotech initiatives involving StartUps, industry, academia and research bodies in integrated collaboration. The Minister said, DBT-BIRAC 75 Amrit Team Grant Initiative will give a big boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "Jai Anusandhan" .



Dr Jitendra Singh said, 75 inter-disciplinary, multi-institutional grants would be supported for high-risk, ambitious research ideas, milestones-driven collaborative research in all domain specific areas of the biotech sector.

Dr Jitendra Singh said Startups, Industries, Academia and Research Bodies can form Team Science Grant in a Public-Private Partnership mode to avail grant of Rs 10-15 Crore over a period of two to three years for inter-disciplinary, high-quality research. The Minister said, in order to address national priorities to propel India as a global leader in biotechnology, the grants would be broadly provided in the areas of health, agribiotech, climate change, synthetic biology and sustainable bioresource management.

The Minister said, the overall goal would be achieved through this initiative: knowledge-based discovery solutions for societal needs; transformational advances of scientific value and impact and also contributing towards India's emergence as an equal global partner. He added that spin outs and venture creation will be a key component of this initiative.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, this initiative builds on the deep foundation of partnerships, to support new and innovative research programs, which aims to propel India to a position of global leadership. He said, under this initiative, ambitious research ideas, high-risk, milestone-driven collaborative research for knowledge-based discoveries with broad demonstrable application from both academia and industry will be considered for support.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this year's Independence Day Address from the ramparts of the Red Fort underlined the importance of Anusandhaan, when he said, "Till today we always remember our revered Lal Bahadur Shastri ji for his inspirational clarion call of *Jai Jawan Jai Kisan* meaning "Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer". Later Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji added a new link of *Jai Vigyan* which meant "hail science" and we gave it utmost importance. But in this new phase *Amrit Kaal* now it is imperative to add *jai anusandhaan* that is "hail innovation".

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Jai Anusandhaan.”

Dr Jitendra Singh said, India's Bioeconomy will grow from \$70 Billion to \$150 Billion by 2025 and this can only be achieved with active participation of all the stakeholders in biotechnology Sector. He said, Biotechnology sector has been recognized as one of the key drivers growing exponentially and it will be the main torch bearer of India's developed economic status in the Amrit Kaal period of next 25 years.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) along with its PSU, BIRAC has a huge footprint in Biotech sector, having supported research endeavors across scale and in diverse areas in Institutes, Universities and Industries across the country. He, however added that the thrust in the Amrit kaal should be more on technological development to address the problems and needs of our country and also to facilitate a path to make our country a developed nation. The Minister said that there are a few co-creative programs on maternal health and pre-term birth, bioenergy and INSACOG and they are amongst the many cross-disciplinary, multi-institutional initiatives supported by DBT. He also added that Covid pandemic witnessed the critical impact of *Made-in-India* novel vaccines, diagnostics, healthcare delivery and management solutions endorsing India's growing strength towards *Atma Nirbhar Bharat*.

Dr Jitendra Singh congratulated the team from DBT and BIRAC for coming up with this unique initiative of 75 DBT-BIRAC Amrit Team Grants to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

STATESMAN, AUG22, 2022

A neglected side of Netaji

Netaji also suffered imprisonment for fearlessly voicing his opinion in the editorial entitled "Day of Reckoning" through the columns of Forward Bloc.

MANAS DAS

As India is celebrating "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", there is a renewed enterprise at all levels to look back and remember stellar personalities of our freedom movement in new perspectives. Attempts are being made to find unexplored sides of these stalwarts to fill up lacunae in their complete assessment. The study of no other patriot offers as much new fodder for thought as that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. We remember him as a patriot of patriots, a statesman, a visionary and as a great inspiration for the youth of the country. But not much light has been shed about his association with or involvement in the field of journalism though his contribution in this field is not at all insignificant. "I can assure you that the ultimate defeat of the enemy is assured beyond any doubt. It would therefore be the height of folly; it would be insanity to think of compromising with the Empire that will soon disappear from the face of the earth.

Therefore, countrymen at home and abroad, go on doing your very best. The zero hour will soon arrive and then together we shall march and together we shall win our final victory". This is the last part of the speech delivered by Netaji on 26 January 1944 and it was published in Azad Hind – a periodical for Free India with which Subhas Chandra Bose was closely associated. But Netaji's association with publications is not confined to Azad Hind. At different times in his life and political career we see his passion for journalism and publication. He even expressed his fondness to his mentor C.R. Das. Yet this interesting and important side of Netaji has been relatively neglected by scholars and researchers over the

years. Everyone talks about his military skill, his courage, his patriotism, his organisational skills, and his indomitable spirit. Yes, these are his sterling qualities, but his interest and contributions in the sphere of journalism too need to be studied and discussed with equal seriousness if we want to know this patriot better.

It was as a journalist that Bose introduced himself in 1933 to the Jewish writer and later his friend Kitty Kurti in Berlin, and in 1944 to the journalists in Tokyo. Not only did Netaji's passport show him as a journalist, but in 1940 Bose got handsome compliments from the Calcutta Journalists' Association for fearless journalistic endeavours. He always stressed on the need for a free, effective and nationalistic press. Despite not being a professional journalist, Bose introduced several innovations while managing his papers. His journalistic integrity is borne out by the fact that he even got rid of undesirable and inefficient press hands. It is to be noted that his talents for publicity received respectful acknowledgement from foreign newspapers like The Times of London and The New York Times. Bose's great organisational skill as well as his mass-communication measures had, to a large extent, found expression through the medium of the press. Most of the political programmes and the tenor of political thinking that Bose presented before the nation were circulated mainly through contemporary nationalist newspapers.

He was also associated with the managerial and editorial work of several daily and weekly papers – mostly party organs – for a number of years. Politics and journalism ran almost parallel to each other throughout his illustrious career. Bose had deep faith in the socialist ideology and socialists across the globe kept themselves associated with different newspapers and publications in order to disseminate their views. Karl Marx edited the 19th century German newspaper Rheinische Zeitung. The Italian Socialist Party brought out their mouthpiece Avanti ("Forward") in 1896. Among American socialist papers mention may be made of New York Call, Socialist and Chicago Daily. Lenin also secretly published writings on several issues in the Russian underground newspaper paper Iskra. Netaji got inspiration from these papers, and he also made his mark in this field as editor with Forward Bloc – a Political Weekly, the first issue of which came out on 5 August 1939.

However, he was keenly aware of the need for objective journalism in the larger interests of a democratic order. He elicited the support of a few non-partisan yet nationalist-minded persons. Among the contributors to this weekly, the names of Nirad C. Choudhury, Humayun Kabir, Gopal Halder, Bhabani Sen and Somnath Lahiri come readily to mind. In the matter of directing his party organs, Netaji was mainly governed by an all-India outlook. We can get a fair idea of the diversity of topics published in the paper from essays under titles like "China Fights Imperial Japan", "The Spain under Franco", "The Study of History", "Nazi Imitators", "Mr. Jinnah's Fancy-Flight" and "Nehru's Visit to China" He took good care to see that the general run of newspaper readers in his country were sufficiently enlightened about the major national and international events of his time.

In a way he learnt to link up education, propaganda and journalism with a view to carrying on the freedom struggle against the British rulers. Bose's journalistic life started with the editing of Banglar Katha and ended with that of Azad Hind. In some of his editorials in Banglar Katha, he eulogised the ideals of the French Revolution, that is liberty, equality and fraternity, and asked readers to get inspiration from the spirit of the European Renaissance. Some of his journalistic pieces published in his own name or under a pen name, in India or abroad, have not yet been traced. Some of his editorials in Forward Bloc remain to be identified. Thus, his courageous and tireless role as a devotee of nationalistic literary

journalism await proper assessment by serious and inquisitive researchers. Bose got interested in the vocation of a journalist way back in his Cambridge days. He expressed a desire to this effect in his letters from abroad to C.R. Das, Sarat Chandra Bose and his friend Charu Chandra Ganguly.

It was perhaps, in the fitness of things, that he started working for the Congress in Calcutta as the Public Secretary – an office which served the purpose of his initial apprenticeship in journalism. Later, Bose came to manage and virtually edit the dailies Banglar Katha and Forward, both started by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das as organs of the Swarajya Party. Bose worked tirelessly to lift the standard of these two party organs. The Calcutta Municipal Gazette, an organ of the Calcutta Corporation, was also his brainchild. Besides the abovementioned papers, Subhas was, as contributor or advisor, also associated with a number of papers namely Atmasakti, Navasakti,, Vijoli, Swadesh, Modern Review as well as Liberty (which succeeded Forward). Bose earnestly sought help from these publications to foster anti-imperialist national unity and to wage a relentless resistance struggle against the British rulers in India.

While abroad, Bose worked as a foreign correspondent of an English newspaper in India and helped in the publication of bulletins in Geneva on India. To carry on effective propaganda in the interest of India's freedom, Subhas worked in close co-operation with Vithalbhai Patel during his stay abroad. He left no stone unturned in projecting the Indian viewpoint in the foreign press. Bose's sole aim in his political career was India's freedom from the British rule. For this purpose, he was willing to work with anyone irrespective of political or ideological affiliations. He did not hesitate to contribute to the Socialist and National Front – papers belonging to different political parties. His weekly magazine Forward bears the stamp of mature journalism and in editing the paper he sought the assistance of communists without any political prejudice.

Netaji also suffered imprisonment for fearlessly voicing his opinion in the editorial entitled "Day of Reckoning" through the columns of Forward Bloc. It was due to his inspiration that Azad Hind was published from the Berlin Free India Centre, apart from another Urdu journal Bhai Band. Bose strove vigorously to counter Allied propaganda and presenting to the world the Indian perspective. Even in East Asia he was instrumental in the publication of a number of daily and weekly papers in different Indian languages bearing such names as Azad Hind, Young India, Voice of India, Awaz-E-Hind and the like. He also helped in bringing out booklets and bulletins under the aegis of the Indian Independence League and the Azad Hind Government for the sake of pursuing vigorous and sustained propaganda-warfare. These details regarding Bose's journalism show that no comprehensive assessment that ignores this aspect will be complete.

TELEGRAPH, AUG24, 2022

Larger than life

Ignoring Nehru's legacy is to obliterate nearly two decades of collective, post-colonial history in which he was a central character

[Charu Sudan Kasturi](#)

As India celebrated the completion of 75 years of Independence, the Narendra Modi government made it clear that it wanted to sideline the legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru. In itself, that's hardly a surprise: demolishing the Nehruvian vision of India has long been the centerpiece of Modi's agenda and that of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological fountainhead, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. But the celebrations this month took those efforts to almost bizarre levels. In advertisements in newspapers, the government celebrated major Indian freedom fighters, including the Hindu nationalist ideologue, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, but largely omitted Nehru. When members of the Congress chose images of Nehru holding the national flag as their social media profile image, the BJP criticised the move as a demonstration of servility to the Nehru-Gandhi family.

It's difficult to say just how much India's current rulers have managed to marginalise and malign Nehru's contributions. What is clear is that despite New Delhi's attempts, the rest of the world still closely associates India's Independence and its post-1947 journey with Nehru. The Sri Lankan president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, while congratulating India on August 15, said he had been inspired by Nehru's "tryst with destiny" speech and recalled how Nehru's government had helped his much smaller country join the United Nations.

He wasn't the only one to remember Nehru. In Canberra, Australia's new prime minister, Anthony Albanese, also paid tribute to him. Albanese referred to Nehru's call to his fellow Indians in 1947 to join with confidence in the task of nation-building.

During a visit to New Delhi last month, Samantha Power, the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, spoke about India's values as its greatest strength citing Nehru — not Modi. She talked about Nehru's belief that India ought to help other developing nations emerging from the clutches of colonialism, including through a slew of training programmes, scholarships and fellowships to students and professionals from across Asia and Africa.

In February, the Singapore prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, referred to the ideals, "great courage, immense culture, and outstanding ability" with which leaders like Nehru and Israel's founding father, David Ben-Gurion, built democracies. Lee then spoke of how India's Parliament today is filled with legislators with criminal records, his comments sparking a formal diplomatic protest from New Delhi.

For Lee and Wickremesinghe, Nehru's contributions to India and its foreign policy aren't just notes from history. They represent memories they were introduced to as children. Wickremesinghe's father was the UN envoy of Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was then called, who worked with Nehru's team to get the country into the global body. Lee's father, LeeKuan Yew, was a young man at Cambridge when he heard Nehru's "tryst with destiny" and — like Wickremesinghe — was inspired. When the senior Lee became independent Singapore's first prime minister, he would seek Nehru out for advice, he revealed in a speech in New Delhi in 2005.

That current world leaders remember Nehru also speaks of the Indian leaders continued global relevance. Look no further than India's key foreign policy approaches. New Delhi may today call non-alignment multi-alignment, but for all practical purposes India's insistence of strategic autonomy and its efforts to balance relations among major powers is an heirloom of Nehru's times.

Some things have changed. At a time when the world is increasingly torn by conflict, other countries are missing Nehru's ability to rally New Delhi's international credibility to seek peace — whether on the Korean peninsula or in Egypt during the Suez crisis.

Nehru shouldn't be above criticism. But to ignore his legacy is to obliterate nearly two decades of collective, post-colonial history in which he was a central character. The world simply won't allow it.

Charu Sudan Kasturi is a senior journalist who writes on foreign policy and international relation

PIB AUG 25, 2022

EAC-PM to release the Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100

Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister will release the Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 on 30th August 2022. The Competitiveness Roadmap is a collaborative endeavour between EAC-PM, The Institute for Competitiveness headed by Dr Amit Kapoor, and Professor Michael E. Porter and Dr Christian Ketels from Harvard Business School. The document will be released in the presence of Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman EAC-PM, Amitabh Kant, Sherpa, G-20, Sanjeev Sanyal, Member, EAC-PM. The program shall have insights and remarks by Dr Amit Kapoor, Honorary Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness and Visiting Lecturer, Stanford University; Professor Michael E. Porter and Dr Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School and keynotes by Dr Bibek Debroy, Amitabh Kant and Sanjeev Sanyal. The release will also have a panel discussion of the members of the Stakeholder Group constituted as part of the initiative. The panel includes Hari Menon, Director India Country Office, BMGF; Ravi Venkatesan, Chairman, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet; Gurcharan Das, Author and Thinker; Sumant Sinha, Chairman & MD, Renew Power et al.

The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100 is based on the framework developed by Professor Michael E. Porter. India@100 is a roadmap for our country's journey towards its centennial year, identifying the steps required to realize the vast potential and huge ambitions that you have outlined for our nation. The roadmap stands to inform and guide the way for India to become a higher-income country by 2047. It proposes policy goals, principles and approaches to further drive India's economy in the direction of sustainability and resilience, embedded in social progress and shared prosperity. The roadmap presents an integrated agenda of prioritised initiatives based on a thorough examination of India's present economic state and competitive advantages. Building on the many reforms your government has enacted over recent years, it addresses both what actions India needs to prioritize now and how it needs to organize itself to deliver these actions effectively. The document also asserts that the competitiveness approach should serve as the cornerstone of India's economic and social policy to drive India's growth further and sustain it over the long term. The release event takes place at Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), Janpath, New Delhi at 11:00 AM. The event is open to press and will be live streamed on YouTube at www.YouTube.com/arthsastra.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, AUG28, 2022

Mann Ki Baat Highlights: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the nation on Sunday through his monthly radio address, Mann Ki Baat; this was the 92nd episode of Mann KiBaat, the maiden edition of which was telecast on October 3, 2014. In recent years, each new episode of the programme has been broadcast on the last Sunday of every month, and, accordingly, the previous edition aired on July 31, while the next will take place on September 25. For each edition of his speech, the prime minister seeks ideas from citizens, several days in advance. People can share their ideas on the NaMo app or record their messages by dialing the number 1800-11-7800.

Follow all the updates here:

‘Construction of Amrit Sarovars is a mass movement’ “Construction of Amrit Sarovars has become a mass movement. Commendable efforts can be seen across the country,” says the prime minister. PM Modi urges citizens to participate in ‘Poshan Maah’

Citizens should actively participate in the annual ‘Poshan Maah’ against malnutrition. It is observed in September every year: PM Modi ‘Other countries also celebrated Amrit Mahotsav’ The celebration of Amrit Mahotsav were seen not only in India, but also in other countries of the world, says PM Modi. PM Modi recalls Har Ghar Tiranga campaign PM Modi recalls the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, which was held between 13-15 August, in the build-up to the 75th Independence Day. He thanks citizens for making the campaign a huge success. PM’s address to the nation shortly PM Modi will address the nation shortly on his radio programme Mann Ki Baat. You can listen to the speech on the prime minister.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will speak to citizens at 11am through the 92nd episode of Mann Ki Baat, his monthly radio address which is aired on the last Sunday of each month.

‘We saw collective might...’: PM Modi addresses 92nd ‘Mann Ki Baat’ | Top quotes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the nation through the 92nd episode of his monthly radio address ‘Mann Ki Baat’. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Manjiri Sachin Chitre | Edited by Chandrashekar Srinivasan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the nation through the 92nd episode of his monthly radio address ‘Mann Ki Baat’. During his speech, PM Modi stated that India witnessed the “collective might of the country” on Independence day and Amrit Mahotsav. He also spoke about the production of millets and lauded the digital India initiative.

Here are the top quotes from PM Modi’s ‘Mann ki Baat’ speech:

1. On the special occasion of Amrit Mahotsav and Independence Day, we saw the collective might of the country.
2. The construction of Amrit Sarovars has become a mass movement. Commendable efforts can be seen across the country.

3. The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets by passing a resolution. You will also be very happy to know that this proposal by India got the support of more than 70 countries.

4. Today, millets are being categorized as a superfood. A lot is being done to promote millets in the country. Along with focusing on research and innovation related to this, FPOs are being encouraged, so that production can be increased.

CLIMATE CHANGE

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG 27, 2022

Inclusion of climate change in policy is crucial for a strong economy

Suranjali Tandon writes: RBI needs to be cognisant of risks climate change poses to economy

As the world copes with the repercussions of legacy emissions, there is growing pressure to achieve climate-compatible growth. Fiscal and monetary authorities will now have to be cognisant of the feedback from climate change to the economy and suitably adapt their policy responses. Exposure of assets to extreme weather events and loss of asset value due to a green transition are imminent risks to the financial system. Yet, the inclusion of climate change in a central bank's policy response function is a widely contested issue. Some experts see no harm in the bank's internal assessment of the impact climate change would have on the economy but shy away from asking the bank to actively set a monetary policy based on such assessments. Others argue that climate change is a significant threat to financial stability and a central bank that does not address climate risk is "failing to do its job". Central banks can guide the flow of finance by restricting the flow of credit to fossil fuel-dependent sectors. Central Banks adopt a range of best practices and approaches. For example, the Bank of Lebanon sets different reserve requirements for loans linked to energy savings. The People's Bank of China offers positive incentives to commercial banks for extending green credit and India includes renewable energy (RE) within priority sector lending. The RBI has been measured yet receptive in addressing the concern. In 2021, it joined the Network for Greening Financial System, a voluntary group of 116 central banks that promotes the exchange of best practices on green finance. In July 2022, it released a discussion paper that covers the issue of climate risks and sustainable finance. The paper seeks to understand preferred approaches to identification and disclosure of exposures to climate-related risks, frameworks for management of risks and capacity building within the banking sector. Heeding the shift, RBI's paper indicates interest in understanding the degree of physical and transition risks. While at the same time it reflects that RBI prefers to tread carefully by assessing the preparedness of the system rather than indicate its own approach to what a central bank can do. The RBI's approach is reasoned since acknowledgement of risks is a double-edged sword. Not recognising the risks hints at complacency whereas preempting all such risks through regulation means that the already stressed loan books will be aggravated. The paper, therefore, allows the RBI to respond based on existing practices and a better understanding of the risk profiles of banks.

RBI's past research papers also indicate a growing acknowledgement of risks to the financial system. In 2021, an RBI research paper demonstrated that extreme weather events can elevate inflation — as was demonstrated by wheat prices this year. In 2022, RBI estimated the exposure of Indian banks to green transition. The report found that direct exposure of public and private banks to three fossil fuel-based sectors — electricity, chemicals, and automobiles — may not be "not alarming". Nevertheless, indirect exposure through other sectors within the fossil fuel value chain must also be closely monitored, given that some already have bad loans. Both reports indicate that there is a need for further comprehensive risk assessment to be carried out. To add to this, the risk to public borrowing from declining fossil fuel revenue also needs to be established. While the wheels are turning within RBI, disclosures and risk assessment frameworks are a starting point. It remains to be seen what macro and micro-prudential regulations RBI will introduce. Moreover, the scope of discussion in the paper

remains limited and without a general narrative on the central bank's role. It does not detail the various instruments such as capital requirements for fossil fuel-based lending by banks or credit guidance a central bank can work with to ensure the greening of the financial system. The RBI's consultation paper shows the bank's inclination to address risks from climate change. It indicates that regulatory changes are in the offing yet their direction remains unknown. Moreover, it leaves to the imagination if climate change will be a key consideration for monetary policy. A point that needs due consideration is that a full assessment of macro-risks from disinvestment from fossil fuel-based assets requires a clear identification of the horizon for phasing down fossil fuels across sectors. While these are not in the remit of the RBI, it is a precondition for comparability of risk assessment carried out by financial institutions thus forming the basis for regulation. The release of the paper is therefore only the beginning and requires an overall net zero plan for the disclosures to be used objectively.

DEMOCRACY

PIB AUG22, 2022

A spinally strong, fair and independent Justice System is safest guarantee to flourishing of democratic values – Vice President
People in authority and high positions should keep law above everything in larger public interest – Vice President
Dignity of judges and respect for judiciary is inviolable as these are fundamentals of rule of law, says Shri Dhankhar

Supreme Court Bar Association felicitates Shri Dhankhar on becoming the Vice President of India

The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today highlighted that a spinally strong, fair and independent Justice System is the safest guarantee to blossoming and flourishing of democratic values.

Addressing a gathering during a felicitation ceremony organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association in his honour in New Delhi today, the Vice President quoted the popular Sanskrit verse 'धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः' (the law protects us if we preserve its sanctity), and termed it as the 'nectar' of democracy and rule of law. Observing that there is widespread perception that this wholesome principle is contemporaneously under strain, he asked the people in authority and high positions to keep law above everything in larger public interest and to further and enhance democratic echo system. Quoting Thomas Fuller, he said "Be you ever so high, the law is always above you." On this occasion, Shri Dhankhar emphasised that the dignity of judges and respect for judiciary is inviolable as these are fundamentals of rule of law and constitutionalism. He also called for a spirit of harmony and togetherness in the working of constitutional entities in the country.

Expressing his gratitude to the Supreme Court Bar Association, Shri Dhankhar said that on this occasion, he felt like experiencing trepidation reminiscent of his first appearance in court. He also thanked the judges and senior advocates who moulded him during his formative days. Union Minister for Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju, the Chief Justice of India Justice N V Ramana, Judges of Supreme Court, Solicitor General of India, Shri Tushar Mehta, President of Supreme Court Bar Association & Senior Advocate, Shri Vikash Singh, functionaries of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Members of the Bar attended the felicitation ceremony.

Following is the full text of speech –

“Experiencing trepidation reminiscent of first appearance in court.

Overwhelmed-humbled by the warmth and honor reflected in the address of preceding speakers. They could not have been more kind. Would ever cherish this moment- felicitation by those who know me and know of me more than others. Moments such as these are rare in one's life journey. Nothing can be more satisfying, energizing and motivating than this. For

over three decades as Senior Advocate had gratifying moments in the hallowed precincts of this court. It has shaped me what I am today. All through it was learning from Judges, Senior Advocates, Advocates and others including courteous court and association staff.

I recall with gratitude impactful ethics and professionalism imparted by members of Bar while I practiced at Rajasthan High Court. Former Chief Justice R.M. Lodha, Former Supreme Court Judge Justice G.S. Singhvi, Justice Tibrewal and Justice Vinod Shankar Dave played critical role in my evolution. I shall ever be indebted to them. Even younger members of Bar at that time, two of them are here Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari exemplified wholesome court craft and professional decorum. I got from them much more than possibly I did. We all need to remember reflections of United States Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story who in 1829 said: "The law is a jealous mistress and requires long and constant courtship. It is not to be won by trifling favors, but by lavish homage." In all earnestness I engaged in placating the jealous mistress. On a lighter note - absence of 'jealous mistress' was felt ever since oath of office as Governor on July 30, 2019. As West Bengal Governor for three years missed the wit, humor, occasional subtle rebuke in court and sarcasm of friends. I would be ever indebted to the extraordinary exposure of intellect and wisdom of the Bench and Bar that I benefited all these years and missed in last three years.

Our Shastras say 'धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः' - 'the law protects us if we preserve its sanctity'. This is 'nectar' of democracy and rule of law. There is widespread and well premised perception that this wholesome principle is contemporaneously under strain.

All in the country need to realize what Thomas Fuller reflected three centuries ago and severally emphasized by this Court :

"Be you ever so high, the law is always above you." People in authority and high positions need to take cognizance of this in larger public interest and to further and enhance democratic echo system.

Spinally strong, fair and independent Justice System is safest guarantee to blossoming and flourishing of democratic values. Dignity of judges and respect for judiciary is inviolable as these are fundamentals of rule of law and constitutionalism. Recent unfortunate emergence of pernicious trend to target individual judges in public domain calls for exemplary containment.

As foot soldier of Bar and Bench I would strive for harmony and working in togetherness of constitutional entities. In Bharat in view of constitutional ordainment spirit and essence all institutions need to appreciate and realise the primacy of the aspirations of people reflected through their representatives. I look forward to continued enriching engagement with the Bar and the Bench in the period ahead. I find no words to express a deep sense of gratitude to the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges of the court for being so kind and considerate. Thanks."

STATESMAN, AUG22,2022

Free and fair elections: A far-fetched dream or a possible reality?

Five decades ago, an independent country was built on the belief that elections are a reflection of the people's desires.

Fifty-one years ago, Bangladesh was founded on many noble principles such as nationalism, socialism, democracy, and secularism. Without oversimplifying, to a large extent, the truth remains that the 1971 revolution and the plight of the Mukti Bahini were rooted in anger against a very real threat to democracies around the world: Unfair elections. In December of 1970, the Awami League won an absolute majority of the seats in the constituents' assembly elections. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's party won 167 of the 169 seats assigned to East Pakistan in the National Assembly; this gave the AL an overall majority in a chamber of 313 members. Sheikh Mujib and the AL party had the constitutional right to form a government and, if all was fair, Sheikh Mujib would have served as prime minister for the entirety of Pakistan. This would then have allowed the AL to implement its six-point programme, meant to provide a constitution that would be fair to both wings of Pakistan.

But Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, refused to allow Sheikh Mujib to become the PM, instead proposing that Pakistan should have two prime ministers, one for each wing. This incident triggered Bangladesh's War of Liberation. Looking back, it should also have set precedence for the people's right to elect its candidate and its leaders' right to be elected. Bangladesh as a nation was founded on a key principle of fair democracy. Five decades ago, an independent country was built on the belief that elections are a reflection of the people's desires. When the people were not heard, the people revolted. Because after all, what is a democracy, if not a reflection of the people's wants? This brings one to question what our politics look like today and this history should be a reminder that politicians serve us, not the other way around.

Politicians should always be a reflection of the people's choice. Today, because elections are a preplanned ordeal and political campaigns are almost non-existent, politicians rarely interact with the common people largely because they don't have to. Complex democracies require politicians to interact, to be well-liked, propose new policies, garner the most votes and, most importantly, be held responsible by the people. But at times, Bangladeshi politics, from the outside, looks like a chess game being played by the ultra-rich, and it's time for a change. For much of Bangladesh's history, election tampering has taken place. The first general election took place in 1973, and as one foreign journalist wrote, "Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would have won handsomely even if the election had been conducted by the United Nations and supervised by the Red Cross." Despite this truth, the legitimacy of the electoral mandate has been compromised by a handful of AL workers who "resorted to strong-arm methods, and false ballots in their desire to win all of the seats of government."

DIGITIZATION

ASIAN AGE, AUG 26, 2022

E-passport move welcome

Digital identities are safe and can be scaled to meet common global standards so that e-passports become the norm India has decided to give a push to e-passports and, as per the latest announcement of the ministry of external affairs in Hyderabad recently, the first of such passports would be issued to citizens by the end of the year. The ambitious plan, even if it meets the later part of the deadline, which is to roll out the first of e-passports early next year, will put India in the club of pioneering nations in the world to take the move. The digital revolution has spanned and conquered most facets of our lives — from media and entertainment, communications, healthcare to legal and government matters. Digital identities are safe and can be scaled to meet common global standards so that e-passports become the norm. The current plan is to issue a physical copy of the passport, with an additional element of an electronic chip. The e-passports, thus, are regular passports but with an additional layer comprising a chip and an antenna, which will enable them to be “read” and scrutinised by machines. This will enable airport, immigration and security staff to process travellers faster. But India’s ambition is larger and the government is considering a plan to roll out cloud passports eventually — a reality which most people on earth would be delighted with — a global travel made possible without a physical passport but a completely digitally available proof of nationality — easy to verify by devices globally. India, with over 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs) and people of Indian origin (PIOs), is in a position to make a strong disruption with technology in the domain and create a good captive entry of the new standard in passports. It is a right interpretation and approach to being a vishwaguru, by making a good difference to people of the world, with our knowledge capital.

EDUCATION

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG22,2022

Snags that have riddled CUET must be quickly corrected. Government must pay attention to concerns over format

With an aspirant being allowed to appear in up to nine papers, resulting in more than 50,000 subject combinations, the CUET — conducted in more than 550 cities in the country and 13 foreign centres — is a much bigger exercise than the entry tests to the IITs or medical institutions.

The Central Universities Entrance Test ([CUET](#)) was envisaged as a corrective to a system based on high marks and cut-offs. It promised to end the anxiety that many students graduating from schools to colleges and universities inevitably suffer. However, technical glitches have meant that instead of serving its stated purpose of simplifying the admission process to undergraduate courses, the new examinations have added to the stress of the youngsters. Server failures, admission cards being issued at the last minute and lack of clarity over examination centres have thrown unflattering light on the lack of preparedness of the National Testing Agency, the authority that conducts the CUET. Cancellations and rescheduling of the tests mean that the CUET will not be over before the last week of this month. Consequently, the admission procedure to the universities will stretch into September. This will, no doubt, have a spiralling effect on undergraduate timetables. The pandemic had upset academic schedules in the past two years. But the NTA must take much of the blame for this year's delay.

With an aspirant being allowed to appear in up to nine papers, resulting in more than 50,000 subject combinations, the CUET — conducted in more than 550 cities in the country and 13 foreign centres — is a much bigger exercise than the entry tests to the IITs or medical institutions. Over 1.4 million students have registered for admissions to undergraduate courses in 44 central universities, 12 state universities, 11 deemed, and 19 private universities. A lot of preparation should have gone into conducting an operation of this scale. For instance, the pivot to online education during the pandemic had shown up the country's digital deficits. The experiences of the past two years had given enough indications of the challenges the country's IT architecture would face in conducting the CUET. It's now apparent that the smooth conduct of the CUET will require an upgrade in the IT systems of at least the network of centres where the examinations are held. No time must be lost in making such improvements.

The CUET for post-graduate courses is scheduled to be held in the second week of September. Several academicians have questioned the MCQ format of these examinations. In an Idea Exchange with this paper, the Vice Chancellor of JNU, Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, underlined that admission tests to masters-level programmes should assess the critical capacities of an aspirant and requested the government to rethink the format. The education ministry should take note of concerns such as hers. The CUET is a work in progress: The learnings from this year's experiences must not be lost on the NTA and other educational authorities.

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG22, 2022

JNU to set up new school for Indian languages and Centre for partition studies

Speaking at an Idea Exchange session of The Indian Express, the university's vice-chancellor said the university was looking at putting some of its courses online, especially M.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Public Administration and in Business Economics. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is in the process of setting up a school of Indian studies and a school of Indian languages, the university's vice-chancellor Santhishree Dhulipudi Pandit said at [The Indian Express](#)'s Idea Exchange session last week.

Speaking about the school for Indian languages, Pandit added, "This is by corpus funding by every state. So, the central government doesn't give us any money. Every state government institutes its chair professor and makes the selection. That professor works at JNU. Their salary and everything is looked after from the corpus grant."Till now, states have come forward with grants for Tamil, Kannada, Odiya and Urdu. Additionally, the university will be creating a centre for translation interpretation alongside Indian language labs, she said. Pandit said she was "hopeful" to establish a 'Sardar Vallabhai Patel Centre for Partition Studies' at the university. "Dhaka University has a genocide studies centre. We want to work with neighbours as well as other parts of the world, of how they looked at Holocaust, how they look at partitions... Instead of just having exhibitions and talks, I think real research and other things would be very useful as a database. We are suggesting this, we don't know whether we will get it from the government and the UGC," she said.

She added: "We are looking at putting some of our courses online, especially M.A. in Political Science, M.A. in Public Administration, in Business Economics. There is a great demand for the introduction of Korean as an online course. We hope to make money there. Many of the Taiwanese and Korean industries are coming to India. So, if they recruit plumbers, mechanics, they want them to know languages – Korean, Taiwanese Mandarin. So for that certificate course, they are ready to give money to JNU and we are expected to run it as a certificate course, where even Ph.D. students and others can teach."

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG 22, 2022

List of new courses launched by IITs this year

IITs in Delhi, Jodhpur, Mandi, and Madras are offering these new courses focused on programming skills and data science expertise among others.

Deeksha Teri

Several new courses have been introduced by branches of the [Indian Institute of Technology \(IIT\)](#) across the country. From BSc in Programming and Data Science at IIT-Madras and M. Tech in Electric Transportation at IIT-Mandi to M. Tech in Electric Mobility and MS(R) in Transportation Safety and Injury Prevention at IIT-[Delhi](#), students can choose from an array of courses. Here's a list of some of the programmes:

IIT-Patna

The Indian [Institute of Technology \(IIT\), Patna](#) is launching [six unique academic programmes](#) that would not require the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) score. Interested candidates will be able to apply for these programmes. The new programmes being launched are B.Sc. (Hons) Computer Science and Data Analytics (CSDA), B.Sc. (Hons) Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity (AICS), B.Sc. (Hons) Mathematics and Computer Science (MCS), B.Sc. (Hons) Accounting and Financial Management (AFM), B.Sc. (Hons) Business Management and Analytics (BMA) and Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA).

IIT-Madras

BSc in Programming and Data Science/BS in Data Science and Applications

This programme is offered with a focus on developing programming skills and data science expertise. It has multiple exits with a foundational certificate, one or both diplomas, the BSc or the BS degree. Students will come out as full-stack developers, skilled in Python and Java programming, DBMS, developing full-fledged applications and also well versed in Machine Learning Techniques, Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Big Data, and tools such as Power BI and Tableau, etc. The courses can be taken as per one's convenience and time availability and the programme can be paced by the student. The fee is also paid as per the courses registered for. While the contents are offered online, the exams are all in person at designated centres in more than 130 cities within and outside India.

Eligibility criteria: Anyone who has cleared Class 12 or equivalent in any stream is eligible to apply. Mathematics and English should have been studied in Class 10. Learners can also be doing another degree in college and do this along with it or be a working professional and study from this.

Four weeks of the content of four courses are taught by IIT Madras and a qualifier exam based on this is conducted. Students who clear a cutoff of 50 marks overall are eligible to continue studying in this programme.

IIT-Jodhpur

BS in Physics with Specialisation Programme

The Department of Physics is now offering an undergraduate programme in Physics to attract highly motivated students interested in basic science and cutting-edge technologies in the broad discipline of physics blended with engineering, and wish for a flexible programme to consider a variety of challenging career paths through capability-linked specialisations in Energy, Photonics, Quantum, and Advanced Plasma Technologies.

It will provide strong fundamentals in basic sciences and mathematics that are critical in developing analytical thinking and form the basis of the diverse tools used in fundamental and applied physics linked with engineering problems to innovate, design and develop future technologies.

To be eligible, candidates should have successfully cleared Class 12 in the Science stream, and will be selected on the basis of their JEE Advanced score.

IIT-Mandi

M. Tech in Electric Transportation (E-Transportation)

IIT-Mandi introduced a two years master's programme in Electric Transportation this year. This programme has been jointly launched by the School of Computing and Electrical Engineering (SCEE) and the School of Engineering (SE) at IIT Mandi and aims to focus on the demand for skilled personnel in the electric vehicle industry and job opportunities for the youth.

Eligibility: For this course, a valid GATE score is mandatory. Candidates should have a qualified Bachelor's degree in Engineering /Technology with minimum first-class or 60 per cent aggregate marks (or equivalent CGPA) in all four years from a recognised university with the following specialisations:

- B. Tech/BE– Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)/Electrical Engineering (EE)
- Mechanical Engineering (ME), Automobile, Production, Aeronautical– Instrumentation and Control– Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)
- Associate membership of professional bodies equivalent to B.Tech/BE in the above disciplines

IIT-Delhi

M. Tech in Electric Mobility

This new programme is being hosted by the Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) at IIT-Delhi. It solely focuses on concepts related to electric vehicles, drivetrain, chargers and charging infrastructure, battery energy storage systems, Battery Management System, reusability of energy storage elements, reliability, automotive health monitoring, Automotive NVH (Noise, Vibration, and Harshness), vehicle dynamics, autonomous and connected vehicles, vehicular telematics, and materials for electric vehicles, along with hands-on practice and design in laboratories.

Eligibility criteria: Candidates should have a four years Bachelor's degree in any of these: Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Production Engineering, Mechatronics, Automobile, Manufacturing Science/Engineering. They should be GATE qualified in either Electrical Engineering (EE) or Mechanical Engineering (ME) or Production and Industrial Engineering (PI) disciplines.

Bachelor of Design

The Department of Design will offer a full-time B.Des programme with the first batch scheduled to start in 2022-23. This programme will be of four years and admission will be done through the UCEED score. The programme offers courses from all the major domains of design like product design, interaction design, and communication design to name a few.

This year, 20 students have been selected for the B.Des programme. After completing this course, the graduate “becomes a responsible designer and is able to translate ideas into demonstrable solutions through the adoption of a human-centred design process,” an official note from IIT Delhi reads.

M.Tech. in Machine Intelligence & Data Science

The IIT-Delhi senate recently approved the MTech programme in Machine Intelligence & Data Science (MINDS) offered by the Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI). This will be an industry-sponsored programme where students will be expected to work on industry-relevant AI problems. The test and interviews for M.Tech/MSR/Ph.D. admissions will be conducted online.

The curriculum will include graduate-level courses in core AI technologies such as deep learning and data science, application-oriented courses like computer vision and natural language processing, and also fundamental courses on Mathematics underlying modern AI technologies.

Eligibility: Four Year B.Tech. / B.E. Degree (first class) or any equivalent degree (e.g., B.S. from a foreign university, and M.Sc., MCA, or other Master's degrees done as part of a 3+2 model) from any Engineering or Science discipline. A valid GATE score would be needed where such a requirement is not waived, such as for students from an IIT with a CGPA exceeding a threshold. A strong interest and background in computational mathematics and programming are preferred.

MS(R) in Transportation Safety and Injury Prevention

The new Master of Science (Research) programme in Transportation Safety and Injury Prevention has been launched this year at the new centre named ‘Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre (TRIP-C)’ by converting the ‘Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP), which is running at the Institute since 2002 as an interdisciplinary programme.

The focus will be to produce state-of-the-art knowledge to address Road Transport and Traffic Safety in India and regions with similar socio-economic conditions. Students will be trained in the field of transportation safety and prepare the students for the research careers.

“The Master's programme will offer a unique blend for professionals from varied backgrounds...to be trained with the knowledge of developing safe and sustainable mobility

leading to the enhancement of overall human life quality,” said K Ramachandra Rao, coordinator, TRIPP.

M.Tech. in Biomolecular and Bioprocess Engineering

For the M.Tech. in Biomolecular and Bioprocess Engineering programme, candidates should at least be B.E./B. Tech./ M.Sc. or equivalent degree holders of a particular discipline. The minimum duration of M. Tech./MS(R) programmes is 4 semesters (24 months) for full-time and 6 semesters (36 months) for part-time programmes. The M.Tech in Bioprocess Engineering aims to develop manpower with specialised skills in the area of Biological Engineering.

PIB AUG22, 2022

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah conducts Bhumi Pujan of National Forensic Science University campus and inaugurated and laid foundation stones of residential and administrative buildings of Madhya Pradesh Police. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about a radical change in every field since 2014. To strengthen the economy, to curb corruption, to bring a new national education policy, to strengthen internal and external security, Shri Narendra Modi has begun to develop such an India. More than 35,000 police personnel have laid down their lives, due to which Naxalism and terrorism have ceased, a new era of peace has begun in Kashmir and the North East. The Madhya Pradesh government's decision to provide housing to 25,000 police families has brought happiness and peace to them. 1,304 families will receive keys to their homes worth Rs. 262 crore in 14 districts, and modernization of 254 police station buildings and 200 police posts is also in progress.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh led by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has brought a radical change in the law and order situation in the state and today Naxalism has been eradicated from Madhya Pradesh. Malwa region had become a SIMI stronghold under the previous government, however the Government led by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has completely uprooted SIMI from all of Madhya Pradesh. If police are responsive, they remain concerned about the people, if the police is sensitive, then the public is protected and if the result is focused on by the police, then prevention is efficiently executed.

The National Forensic Science University has gained worldwide fame during its 12 to 13 years of existence. Students from 70 countries are studying at the Forensic Science University, this is a great achievement for any University in the country. The Government is making radical changes in CrPC, IPC and Evidence Act, by changing sections to suit the needs of the times, working on making police functioning completely modern, sensitive and targeted. Forensic science evidence should be made compulsory in offenses punishable with more than 6 years and forensic team visits at the crime scene should be compulsory. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah performed the 'Bhoomi Pujan' of the Bhopal Campus of the National Forensic Science University today. Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of the residential and administrative buildings of Madhya Pradesh Police. Many dignitaries including the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were present.

In his address, the Union Home Minister said two very important programmes of the Madhya Pradesh Police and law and order of the State are being held from the same platform. On the one hand, the State government is concerned about the families of personnel who have continuously fought for the happiness and well-being of crores of people of Madhya Pradesh.

On the other hand, to meet the lack of trained manpower in forensic science to keep the police two steps ahead of criminals, the Bhumi Pujan of the National Forensic Science University that is going to be built on a 27-acre campus has been held and about Rs. 58 crore will be spent. This will provide an opportunity to the youth of Madhya Pradesh to work in forensics at the national and international level. He said students who want to make a career in forensic science will no longer need to go anywhere for studies and it will be on this campus that a versatile and state-of-the-art University will be available to them.

The Union Home Minister said out of all the departments of the government, the police force is the only force that has neither job hours nor holidays. The police force is ready to face any challenge 24 hours and 365 days. The public has time for festivals, but police personnel are always on the alert. Be it Holi, Rakshabandhan or Diwali, when the people celebrate festivals, police personnel are alert to prevent untoward incidents. In the face of every difficulty, police only work with the mantra of protection of society. Shri Shah said more than 35,000 policemen have laid down their lives in the country protecting internal security. As a result, the nation is safe, Naxalism and terrorism have come to a halt and a new era of peace is beginning in Kashmir and the North East. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kamakhya to Dwarka, this will not be possible if policemen are not ready, that is why there should be an effort to change the image of the police.

Shri Amit Shah congratulated the Madhya Pradesh Government for providing houses to 25,000 police families. He said when the family is insecure, no one can discharge their duty with confidence and the decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government to provide houses to 25,000 police families has brought them happiness and peace. He said today 1,304 families in 14 districts will receive keys to their homes worth of Rs. 262 crore. 254 police station buildings and 200 police posts have also been given modern equipment by the State administration. Shri Shah said a 50 bedded hospital, 50 virtual classrooms in 10 police training institutes and a digital studio in a training wing have also begun today.

The Union Home Minister said the Madhya Pradesh Government led by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has brought about a radical change in the law and order situation. He said today Naxalism has been eradicated from Madhya Pradesh. Development is taking place but where strictness was needed, strictness was shown. Shri Shah said under the rule of the previous government, the Malwa region had become a stronghold of SIMI and from there SIMI used to carry out terrorism across the country. However, now the Government led by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has completely uprooted SIMI from Madhya Pradesh, especially the Malwa region. He said the State's police has become responsive, sensitive and result oriented. When police are responsive, then they remain concerned about the public, if the police are sensitive, then the public is protected and if the result is focused on by the police, then prevention is efficiently done and Madhya Pradesh has done a very good job in these three areas.

Shri Amit Shah said earlier Madhya Pradesh was in the list of BIMARU States and was backward in every field. But, under Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan it has done very good work in many areas. Agriculture and irrigation has especially been greatly strengthened. Shri Shah said it is very easy to increase industry and services contribution to the GDP, but it is very difficult to maintain an agriculture growth rate at 10 percent in GDP continuously for many years, and this has been achieved by the Madhya Pradesh government. The area under irrigation has increased almost two and a half times, production has increased in every sector from wheat and pulses to soybean and the change that has come about in agriculture cannot have come about without good planning and hard work.

The Union Home Minister said after few years students from many countries would be studying here with the students of Forensic Sciences in Bhopal. The National Forensic Science University has gained worldwide fame during its life span of 12-13 years. From 2003 to 2009, efforts were being made to strengthen Gujarat's Forensic Science Laboratory and Shri Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at that time. The problem of trained manpower came to the fore at that time. Then an idea came that a course of forensic science and a university should be developed so that after 12th Class students can pursue BSc, MSc directly in forensic science, and then go for R&D and then go out into the world from Gujarat in forensic sciences. Keeping this in mind, the foundation of the Forensic Science University was laid. Today students from 70 countries are studying at the Forensic Science University, which is a great achievement for any University in the country.

Shri Amit Shah said the government is making radical changes in CrPC, IPC and Evidence Act. We were working to make police functioning completely modern, sensitive and targeted by changing sections to suit today's needs. During this process an idea arose that evidence of forensic science should be made mandatory in all the offenses for which punishment is more than 6 years. A criminal cannot be punished on the basis of witnesses alone, because the era of third degree is no longer there. If crimes are to be prevented, then we have to bring in scientific evidence and therefore forensic science evidence should be made compulsory in crimes punishable with more than 6 years and visits of forensic teams at crime scenes should be made compulsory. He said then it was found necessary to fulfill the need of expert manpower, and that the Gujarat Forensic Science University should be made a National Forensic Science University and as an institute of national importance, its campus should be opened in most of States and the youths should be engaged and promoted in the field of forensic science. Today this fifth campus is starting and a very good campus is going to be built in Bhopal on 27 acres of land, due to which the youth of Madhya Pradesh will have opportunities with immense potential. Apart from this, it has been decided to set up campuses in Manipur, Assam and Karnataka as well. Rajasthan and Chandigarh are also under consideration. He said gradually these campuses will grow in every corner of the country and within two years NFSU will be present in more than 10 States including Gujarat. Shri Shah said there will also be arrangements for training of police officers, judicial officers and private companies in forensic science, cyber security, digital forensics, fraud investigation, wildlife crime, narcotics and drugs. This University is not only for students but also for the officers, judges involved in the work of justice, lawyers working in the prosecution and private industries.

The Union Home Minister said conviction and collection of evidence through forensic science technology instead of third degree would be considered a revolution in this field. He said the University till date has also filed several patents and is working on major research international projects. A new department has also been opened for drone forensics. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has prepared an action plan under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. The four pillars of this action plan are - increasing the number of laboratories for forensic science, rapidly increasing manpower of forensic experts, in which the Forensic Science University will play a big role, along with providing of forensic technology it should have openness to adopt and should also promote R&D. The concept of a mobile forensic van has also been placed before the country and many States have accepted it.

Shri Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about a radical changes in every field since 2014. Whether it is to emerge as a major global economy by strengthening a

dilapidated economy, to strictly curb corruption, to bring about a new national education policy, to bring radical change in the pathetic condition of education, to strengthen the law and order situation and internal and external security, Shri Narendra Modi has started creation of a new India. The campus of the Forensic Science University that is being built today is a pearl in that necklace and will be successful in fulfilling all objectives.

TELEGRAPH,AUG25 , 2022

UGC unveils draft guidelines for experts appointment from industry

The higher education regulator has sought feedback and comments from all stakeholders by September 6 on the draft. The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday unveiled draft guidelines for the appointment of experts from industry as “professors of practice” in universities and colleges. The higher education regulator has sought feedback and comments from all stakeholders by September 6 on the draft “guidelines for engaging professors of practice in universities and colleges”. According to the guidelines, those with “proven expertise” in their professional fields and working at senior levels can be appointed by individual institutions as professors of practice, a full-time assignment. These professionals can be from fields such as engineering, science, technology, entrepreneurship, commerce, social sciences, media, literature, fine arts, civil services, armed forces, law and public administration. “Those who have proven expertise in their specific profession or role with at least 15 years of service/experience, preferably at a senior level, will be eligible for Professor of Practice,” the draft guidelines say.

The professors of practice will be engaged for up to one year, which can be extended to a maximum of four years. Academic qualifications usually required to apply for teaching assignments in institutions of higher education will not be considered essential in the case of professors of practice, nor will they be required to have published research papers. A panel of experts set up by an institution to hire professors of practice will assess their skills that will be required to impart industry-specific training to students, in addition to taking regular classes. The number of professors of practice in an institution should not exceed 10 per cent of the sanctioned posts, the guidelines say. However, these posts will be exclusive of the regular sanctioned positions. According to the UGC guidelines, the recruitment of professors of practice will help “take real-world practices and experiences into the classrooms and also augment the faculty resources in higher education institutions”.

The responsibilities of the professors of practice will include involvement in developing and designing course curriculum, delivering lectures, mentoring students in innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on industry-academia collaboration, carrying out joint research projects and holding seminars in collaboration with regular faculty members. Their salaries can either be funded by industry or by the institutions hiring them from their own resources, the guidelines say. Some professor of practice can also be recruited on an honorary basis where the institution will pay honorarium. The salary amounts will be fixed by the respective institutions. The universities will invite applications or nominations for these posts while a selection committee comprising two senior faculty members and one external member from industry will pick eligible candidates. Bikramaditya Kumar Choudhary, a faculty member at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, welcomed the concept but expressed apprehensions about its implementation. “In the appointment of professors of practice, mostly individuals loyal to decision-makers could make the cut. These professors of practice will have zero accountability to anything, let alone students, the

institution and academic activities,” Choudhary said. A teacher at Delhi University questioned the lack of financial commitment from the UGC for the project. “Where will the institutions generate money from? Ultimately, the burden will be passed on to students. This will make public education costlier and create more hardships for poor and deprived students. When the UGC is proposing such a model, it should fund it,” he said.

TELEGRAPH, AUG 28, 2022

Top 5 Careers in Political Science

Mehwash Hussain

Summary

Anyone who wants to learn how political systems work or who wants to improve their analytical and critical thinking abilities should study political science. Political Science has a wide range of financially viable employment possibilities that can accommodate their interests and the relevance of the subject is not limited to a small number of opportunities. With a wide range of new prospects, political science is helping students in reaching new heights professionally. For those interested in learning and analyzing how politics, the government, and society function, studying political science is the best option. But that’s not all, studying the subject will also improve your analytical and critical thinking abilities, opening up a range of different opportunities for you. Let’s check out the top 5 most popular career opportunities after a BA (Honours) in Political Science:

Legislative Assistant

A lot of people are unaware that members of parliament and other elected representatives frequently employ aides to assist them in carrying out their legislative obligations. Professionally referred to as legislative assistants, these new hires work closely with MPs. They coordinate and communicate with other officials of the jurisdiction, and conduct research on pending legislation and policy issues. They also look into the problems of citizens falling within their employers’ jurisdictions. Additionally, legislative assistants maintain records and make reports for the MPs on current issues and the planning and execution of policies.

Political Analyst

A policy analyst’s responsibility is to assess the effects of implementing a policy and utilize the results of the study to create arguments for or against its implementation. They carry out an in-depth analysis of the current circumstance, pinpoint the issues, and develop solutions. A policy analyst must have the ability to think critically, write persuasively, and carry out thorough research. Political science students are at an advantage here because they not only gain a thorough understanding of public policy as part of their curriculum, but are also taught the key skills of critical thinking, analysis and reporting. With the necessary knowledge of the nation’s political and legislative systems and the required skills, graduates of political science programs should consider this career path. Check out: Career as Political Analyst: The 3-Step Formula

Civil Services

One of the most common career paths for political science majors is a job in civil services, particularly the IAS (Indian Administrative Service) and IFS (Indian Foreign Services). In essence, the job includes influencing legislative decision-making, representing India on a global platform, and assisting in various initiatives taken by the administration of the country. However, these roles are filled through the UPSC and other government competitive exams. To be recruited, one needs to cover the syllabus and prepare specifically for them. Studying political science at the undergraduate level will offer students an advantage in the exams as a lot of the study material will already have been covered in your bachelor's.

Journalist

As anyone will tell you, politics dominates media coverage, print and digital, and as public awareness of politics rises, more and more people look to the news for comprehensive analysis of political issues. Graduates of political science programs, with their in-depth understanding of politics and the political landscape, are in an excellent position to analyse, criticise and write on key political issues. This makes political journalists, writers, editors, and correspondents a very good career option for them. An optional specialisation that may further improve their prospects could be a degree or certification in journalism or mass communication. However, this is not mandatory and they may decide to start working in the sector as soon as they graduate.

Political Scientist

A political scientist's job involves studying numerous facets of governmental systems, how cities and countries function and interact, and the effects of governmental actions, and providing their expert input to government bodies and other large organisations. However, individuals in this and similar roles are highly qualified, often holding an MA or even a PhD in the subject. So if you are academically inclined, then you may want to fill up the undergraduate degree with higher qualifications, with the aim of becoming a political scientist. The job prospects in political science described above are only a few of the interesting opportunities available. One might choose their own path based on where their interests lay. If you are interested in the operation of political systems, a BA (Honours) in Political Science is the perfect course for you. Students of BA (Honours) Political Science have a wide range of financially viable employment possibilities that can accommodate their interests and the relevance of the subject is not limited to a small number of opportunities.

FOOD CALAMITY

STATESMAN, AUG 27, 2022

Is civilization in decline, clashing or rejuvenating?

Without any exit strategy on the Ukraine war, we face a prolonged period of stalemate, devastation and less willingness to negotiate even cease-fires.

Andrew Sheng

We have been here before – catastrophe, carnage, collapse, climate calamities, war. This hottest summer of discontent is prelude to a freezing winter of gas shortage, inflation and more conflicts. As Europe, China and parts of America are facing heat waves and drought, a global food calamity is looming. Without any exit strategy on the Ukraine war, we face a prolonged period of stalemate, devastation and less willingness to negotiate even cease-fires. The rising global uncertainties mean that businesses around the world are all taking short-term action of self-preservation, rather than investing in the long term for climate action, investment for higher productivity and carbon Net-Zero. Huawei Chairman Ren Zhengfei is just one of the corporate captains openly and honestly asking staff to prepare for more hardships and tough times. Is the Clash of Civilizations inevitable, as Samuel Huntington predicted three decades ago? In an unconfirmed leaked speech, French President Macron was reputed to have said that “Western hegemony is coming to an end.” Recognising that democracy is fragile and rule of law is precarious, he reflected Europe’s growing pessimism that ‘this war [that] is thundering at our doors’ with ‘devastating climatic disasters.’ How did we shift so quickly from a “Grand Bargain” in which China and the emerging markets provided cheap goods to the West in exchange for paper money that could be printed at will, into “sleep-walking into conflict”? Perhaps the reality is that there is never a free lunch forever. Huntington recognised that saw that the “dangerous source of a global internationalised war is the shifting balance of power between civilisations and their core states.” As the 1 billion rich West (including Japan) begin to age, their security has turned into deep, primal insecurity, fear of rising new powers and the migration of poorer peoples from Latin America, Africa and Middle East northwards.

The Ukraine war split the world into at least three blocs that will contend with each other. On the one hand, NATO and AUKUS see Russia and China as existential threats, even though these two are not formal allies. On the other, a third bloc is emerging, with India choosing no side but her own. I have always maintained that the West is facing the rise of three one-billion plus population power centres in the 21st century – India and China with 1.4 billion population each and roughly 1.6 billion Muslims stretching from Morocco to Indonesia. Each claims civilizational identities that seek at least parity with the West, economically, militarily and culturally. Thus, Indian strategists are busily re-reading Kautilya’s (375–283 BCE) classic text Arthashastra on Indian statecraft, economic policy and military strategy. Islamic scholars are re-examining Arab polymath Ibn Khaldun’s (1332–1406 AD) works on the history and sociology of civilisation, in which he reflected on the decline and fall of civilisations, drawing upon his research into the rise and fall of Arab empires. In his view, civilizations rise from “assabiyya”, the concept of kinship, common social ties that coalesce to form

collective political action. Decline sets in when there is loss of morality or justice, especially allowing poverty to happen, giving rise to loss of assabiyya and moral order. American historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. claims that what distinguishes Western civilization is that it is the “unique source of ideas of individual liberty, political democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and cultural freedom”. But Huntington understood that “the principal responsibility of Western leaders, consequently, is not to attempt to reshape other civilisations in the image of the West, which is beyond their declining power, but to preserve, protect and renew the unique qualities of Western civilisation.” Unfortunately, the reverse is happening with the West taking active steps to retain its status quo, by containing the rising powers through its sanction, financial and media powers, which is exactly why it finds that the Rest do not necessarily agree with that approach. Huntington was prescient in noting that global civilisational war – mutual nuclear devastation – can only be avoided by two basic conditions, which the United States will find hard to accept. First, “the abstention rule that core states must refrain from intervening in conflicts in other civilisations is the first requirement of peace in a multicivilizational, multipolar world”. Second, “the joint intermediation rule that core states negotiate with each other to contain or to halt fault lines wars between states or groups from their civilisations.” In short, unless the West accepts the new reality of accommodating the rising powers, and adopt both Huntington rules which allows a new balance of power configuration, then some clash is inevitable. At the heart of the ideological divide is the question whether sovereignty is absolute in an inter-connected and inter-dependent world. Tiny Finland survived a 1939 war with the Soviet Union and thereafter maintained neutrality and peace by recognising that winning trust with a powerful neighbour is key to survival. That trust has now been broken with the Ukraine war. Daily demonisation of each other is fragmenting trust between nation-states, and that is the risky road to armed conflict and war. The realistic school of international relations is correct to be pessimistic. Until mutual pain from recession or war brings back some realism for compromise and cooperation, even idealists find it hard to be optimistic for the future.

FOREST CONSERVATION

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG25, 2022

Forest or not: Centre vs Chhattisgarh on transfer of 300 sq km for industry

The move has now run into a hurdle — even as paperwork is underway for transferring more land in other parts of the state.

Jay Mazoomdaar

IN MARCH, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced in his Budget speech that the state government has transferred over 300 sq km — an area larger than Raipur — in the Bastar region from the Forest department to the Revenue department to ensure easy availability of land for setting up industries and building infrastructure. The move has now run into a hurdle — even as paperwork is underway for transferring more land in other parts of the state. Chhattisgarh did not seek forest clearance for transferring the land, which the state claims is non-forest land handed over earlier “by mistake” to its Forest department. Now, the Union Environment Ministry has pointed out that the land in question is “undemarcated protected forests”, which cannot be given away without forest clearance. On August 15, in two letters to the Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary and head of the state’s Forest department, the Union Environment Ministry’s Integrated Regional Office (Raipur) asked the state to stop the transfer of land, saying it was in violation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and multiple Supreme Court orders, and return the land already transferred. But Chhattisgarh has stuck to its position. “A reply has been sent to the letter of the Government of India. No transfer of protected forest land has been done. Transfer of areas recorded as non-forest land, such as ghas bhumi (grassland), on revenue records is under process,” Rakesh Chaturvedi, head of the forest force, Chhattisgarh, told The Indian Express. When contacted, C P Goyal, Director General (Forests) under the Environment Ministry, declined comment. A senior official said “the matter is being looked into closely” in the Ministry. “As per the Supreme Court’s definition, any land that is part of the (forest) working plan or under the control of the Forest department is forest land. Irrespective of tree cover, grasslands or rocky surfaces are also forest land,” the official said.

Records reviewed by The Indian Express show that at a review meeting of “the CM’s important scheme” held on February 11, Chhattisgarh Forest officials advised their counterparts in the Revenue department to not use the term “denotification” in official communication regarding the transfer of those patches of “Orange areas”, which were either not notified as forest or are smaller than 10 hectares with less than 200 trees per hectare. Legally classified as “undemarcated protected forests”, the so-called Orange areas are the result of an administrative logjam that remained a bone of contention between the Revenue and the Forest departments since the abolition of the zamindari system in 1951. In the mid-1950s, ex-zamindari forests with the Revenue department of undivided Madhya Pradesh were notified en masse as protected forests under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The areas were subsequently surveyed and either declared reserve forests after settlement of rights, or denotified and returned to the Revenue department. The areas left out of the survey were marked in orange on the map. As reports of rampant illicit felling and encroachment delayed the completion of the survey, the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act in 1980 took away the state government’s powers to denotify forest land on its own. Carved out of Madhya

Pradesh in 2000, Chhattisgarh inherited its share of Orange areas. “After the Supreme Court gave a broad definition of forests in 1996, Madhya Pradesh handed over Revenue forests to the Forest department. That is how 2,328 sq km was added to the original Orange areas of 9,954 sq km during 1997-2007. In that process, some non-forest areas also came under the Forest department, which are now being returned to the Revenue department,” said Sunil Mishra, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (land management), Chhattisgarh.

In May 2021, records show, the Chhattisgarh Revenue department sought a joint field survey with the Forest department to identify non-forest land “that had been included by mistake” in Orange areas. “We barely have any land available for development, particularly in the tribal areas. So this is a pragmatic policy to free non-forest land from the Forest department,” said a senior Revenue official. Not many are convinced. “Any legal transfer of forest land requires giving back twice the area from Revenue to Forest. Since that defeats the purpose, we are turning forests into non-forest areas using the 10-hectare-200-tree formula which was created through an executive order and has no legal standing,” said a Forest officer based in Raipur.

GOVERNANCE

PIB AUG22, 2022

NHA issues hardware guidelines for healthcare institutions at State/ UT level to facilitate effective implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
The National Health Authority (NHA) issued hardware guidelines across States and Union Territories for healthcare institutions like hospitals, clinics and health and wellness centres to promote digitization in hospitals. The guidelines provide a basic framework to States/UTs for planning, assessment and procurement of the IT hardware (including IT specifications of various hardware equipment) to operate applications compliant with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Talking about the guidelines, Dr. R. S. Sharma, CEO, NHA said – “The first step towards ABDM implementation is digitization of hospitals. Several States and UTs expressed the need for some guidelines that gives them an overview of the IT infrastructure requirements based on the health facility size. The hardware guidelines issued by NHA will help the states/ UTs in assessing the requirement and facilitate the adoption of ABDM in their healthcare institutions.”

ABDM will simplify the processes and increase ease of living by connecting the digital health solutions of hospitals and other health facilities across the country with each other. The digital ecosystem will also enable a host of other facilities like teleconsultation, paper-less health records, QR code based OPD registrations etc. The digitization of health records will ensure that old medical records of patients cannot get lost and are accessible to them anytime anywhere. Ensuring necessary IT infrastructure and implementation of Hospital Information Management Systems across health facilities at the State/UT level will play a pivotal role in creation and exchange of digital health records across the ecosystem.

The guidelines on the IT hardware specifications to support this ecosystem is available at https://abdm.gov.in:8081/uploads/Hardware_Guidelines_ABDM_e162cf7a7b.pdf. The document will help the States/ UTs in assessing the hardware requirements while planning and procurement of IT assets for healthcare institutions of all scales. The guidelines published by NHA is suggestive and recommendatory in nature. States/UTs and the health facilities have the flexibility to modify these guidelines based on local requirements and circumstances.

PIB AUG 24, 2022

In a Landmark step, Transgender Persons to get Composite Healthcare services under Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY with new MoU between NHA and Dept of Social Justice and Empowerment. Today marks a Momentous Day for fundamental societal transformation through decisive action of Govt: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya “The move goes beyond ensuring equality; MOU will provide special healthcare benefits to Transgender Community” “Disadvantaged communities can progress with Dignity and Self Reliance with collaboration of Sarkar and Society” Government of India is dedicated for bringing change in the society with steps for five assurances: Education, Life with dignity, Health support, Opportunities for livelihood and Skill Enhancement: Dr. Virendra Kumar .

In a landmark decision today, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National Health Authority (NHA) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide an inclusive and composite health package for Transgender Persons under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY. The MoU was signed by Dr. R S Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority (NHA) and Shri R. Subramanyam, Secretary DoSJE in presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.



Terming this as a momentous day, Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya hailed this MoU as one of its kind in the country which will give impetus to ensuring rightful and respectable place for transgender community by accessing healthcare services under AB-PMJAY. “This MOU has laid the foundation for a landmark transformational reform in the society. The move which provides special healthcare benefits to the Transgender Community goes beyond ensuring equality for the disadvantaged community”, he highlighted. Noting that the transgender community suffers stigma and exclusion, he stressed that the provisioning of healthcare services under AB- PMJAY is a significant and firm step towards an inclusive society. “It is only apt that the MOU is being signed at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre today, as he championed for an inclusive society with equality across all population groups in the country”, Dr Mandaviya stated.

He reiterated commitment and dedication of the government under leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards Antyodaya, where the last person in the chain of delivery of services gets benefits of decisions and actions of the government. Dr. Mandaviya emphasized that the government is working in a decisive way to not only recognize rights of the transgender community but has taken various systematic steps for their welfare. He congratulated the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for taking several initiatives for the transgender community, be it “The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019”, Garima Greh, PM Daksh program or other schemes/initiatives taken recently. Urging all sections of society to join hands in efforts of the government towards an inclusive society under vision of “New India” of Hon. Prime Minister, he stated that “Disadvantaged

communities can progress with dignity and self reliance with collaboration of “Sarkar and Society”.

Dr. Mandaviya said that today’s MoU between National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) will extend all healthcare benefits to transgender persons (holding a transgender certificate issued by the National Portal for transgender persons) across the country. MoSJE will fund Rs.5 lakh insurance cover per transgender beneficiary per annum. A comprehensive package master is being prepared for transgender category including the existing AB PM-JAY packages and specific packages (Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) and treatment) for transgenders. They will be eligible to seek treatment in any of the AB PM-JAY empanelled hospitals across the country, where specific packages are available. The scheme would cover all transgender persons not receiving such benefits from other centre/state sponsored schemes.

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment said that transformative change is happening in the country with strong political will to implement this change. He enumerated several steps taken by MoSJE for implementing package of five assurances: Education, Life with dignity, Health support, Opportunities for livelihood and Skill Enhancement. These steps have been taken to ensure that marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the population can emerge from restrictive social constructs by providing them dignified life and livelihood, he stated.

Senior officials from two ministries and members from transgender community were also present at the event .

PIB AUG 25, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, during last eight years of Modi Govt, development has reached remotest parts of the country. The Minister was addressing a massive gathering after paying obeisance at the Sankri temple at Pancheri near Udhampur.

Dr Jitendra Singh also dedicates to the public a Community Hall constructed from MP LAD funds at Pancheri. Describing Udhampur, Kathua, Doda as among the most developed Lok Sabha constituencies of the country during last eight years of the Modi government, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said today that during this period the development has reached remotest parts of the region which stood neglected during the earlier regimes. Addressing a massive gathering after paying obeisance at the Sankri temple at Pancheri near here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, this was possible because development without any vote consideration has been our motto under Prime Minister Modi. He said, we have followed the culture of providing what was required at whatever place so that there is equitable development of every area and in doing so we have simply followed the bottomline of reaching out to the most needy pockets of region and delivering justice to all, appeasement to none, without any considerations of vote politics and without thinking as to whether the people of that area vote for us or not. On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh also dedicated to the public a Community Hall constructed from MP LAD funds. He said, during his last visit to Pancheri, there were three or four main demands, most of which he had sought to fulfil and one of these was the demand for a Community Hall. The other demand, he said, was to develop Pancheri as a tourist spot and added that this demand has been fulfilled because Pancheri is selected among the list of places of J&K which are to be included in the tourist itinerary. He said, the other demand for having a tourist hub has also been fulfilled for the construction of these

tourist hubs has started while the installation of a new Power Project will address the grievance of long hours of power cuts which the people had to face earlier. While referring to the pamphlet based on 75 important developmental works done in Udhampur, Kathua, Doda Lok Sabha constituency during the last eight years, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the hallmark has been that not only several national projects were initiated and several held up projects resumed, but there were historic projects brought here for which no public demand for this has been made, but as elected representative needs we tried to study and do research to decide which area had the potential for which project. Accordingly, Dr Jitendra Singh said, North India's first River Rejuvenation Project was started at Udhampur river Devika and India's longest express road corridor between Delhi and Katra will be completed in the next one year. Similarly, the country's 2nd Vande Bharat express train was started between Katra and Delhi and the world's highest railway bridge is nearly to complete in Reasi for which lot of efforts had to be made to come out with appropriate Rail alignment which could negotiate the hilly terrain to connect Kashmir with the rest of India.

Udhampur, Kathua, Doda is possibly the only Lok Sabha constituency in the country, said Dr Jitendra Singh, which got three centrally funded Medical Colleges in a short span of time. DDC Chairman Udhampur Lal Chand, J&K BJP Vice-President Pawan Kahajuria and BDC Chairman Jivan Lal, among others, also spoke on the occasion and lauded the massive developments in the region during Dr Jitendra Singh's term as MP.

PIB AUG 26, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviews preparations for the Swachhata Campaign 2.0 and the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters to be conducted in Government of India from October 2nd – October 31st, 2022. Focus of the Swachhata Campaign 2022 on Ministries/Departments and Attached/Subordinate offices. Campaign guidelines issued by DARPG for holistic drive to improve work culture and work place environment Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh reviewed the preparations for the Swachhata Campaign 2.0 and the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters to be conducted in Government of India from October 2nd – October 31st, 2022. The Government announced the Swachhata Campaign 2022 along with the Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters in Ministries/ Departments of Government of India from 2nd October to 31st October, 2022 on the lines of the campaign that was held in 2021. The Special Campaign 2.0 will focus on outstation offices in addition to the Ministries/ Departments and their attached/subordinate offices.

Cabinet Secretary has written to all Secretaries of Government of India seeking their personal involvement for the success of the Campaign. Cabinet Secretary further advised all Secretaries to issue appropriate instructions to the offices and organizations under their Ministry to implement the Special Campaign 2.0 in a befitting manner. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) will be the Nodal Department and oversee implementation of the Special campaign 2.0. The DARPG has issued detailed guidelines for the implementation and monitoring of the Special campaign. This Campaign is a sequel of the first Swachhata Campaign and Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters organized from 2nd October, 2021 to 31st October, 2021. The Special Campaign 2021 was implemented and monitored through a real-time dashboard (www.pgportal.gov.in/scdpm). Technology was leveraged to bring all Ministries/

Departments on a single interactive platform for experience sharing and learning from the best practices of each other. The successful implementation of the Special Campaign 1.0 was reflected in reduction of pendency and efficient management of office spaces. The Swachhata Campaign was conducted in 6,154 sites, 21.9 lakh files were weeded out, 12.01 lakh sq feet of space was cleared and Rs.62 crore of revenue was earned by disposing scrap. Junkyards in Ministries have been turned into a courtyard, cafeteria, wellness centre or parking space etc. 699 Rules were eased off for the benefit of citizens. The entire exercise was documented based on the third-party assessment in the form of e-book.

Dr, Jitendra Singh noted that the campaign not only helped in bringing down the pendency in identified parameters but also established regular institutions for oversight and monitoring for the timely disposal of references and cleanliness in office premises. The Government decided that the exercise in reducing pendency should be a continuous exercise and the Ministries/ Departments shall set apart a few hours on a fixed day every week for this purpose. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Special Campaign 2022 reinforces the importance of timely disposal of references and a clean office-spaces. The Special Campaign 2022 is expected to cover over outstation Post Offices, overseas mission/posts, Railway Stations, and other public offices in mission mode during the month-long campaign. Preparatory phase of the Special Campaign will commence from September 14, 2022 and will continue till September 30, 2022 when, Ministries and Departments will identify the pendency in selected categories and finalize the campaign sites across their offices and complete necessary procedural requirements to conduct the Campaign. Training of nodal officers of the Special Campaign will be conducted on 10 September 2022. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Special Campaign 2022 will bring in significant innovative practices and systemic reform for a conducive work environment.

PIB AUG 28, 2022

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completes eight years of successful implementation More than 46.25 crore beneficiaries banked under PMJDY since inception, amounting to Rs. 1,73,954 crore FM Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman: Financial inclusion is a major step towards inclusive growth which ensures overall economic development of marginalised sections of society PMJDY has become the foundation stone for the government's people-centric economic initiatives: MoS Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad PMJDY Accounts grow 3-fold from 14.72 crore in Mar'15 to 46.25 crore as on 10-08-2022 56% Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 67% Jan Dhan accounts in rural and semi- urban areas 31.94 crore RuPay cards issued to PMJDY accountholders About 5.4 crore PMJDY account holders received direct benefit transfer (DBT) from the Government under various schemes in June, 2022 The Ministry of Finance, through its financial inclusion led interventions, is committed to provide financial inclusiveness and support to the marginalised and hitherto socio- economically neglected classes. Through Financial Inclusion (FI) we can achieve equitable and inclusive growth of the nation. Financial Inclusion stands for delivery of appropriate financial services at an affordable cost, on timely basis to vulnerable groups such as low- income groups and weaker sections who lack access to even the most basic banking services. It is important as it provides an avenue to the poor for bringing their savings into the formal financial system, an avenue to remit money to their families in villages besides taking them out of the clutches of the usurious money lenders. A key initiative towards this commitment is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY), which is one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world. PMJDY was announced by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in his Independence

Day address on 15th August 2014. While launching the programme on 28th August, the Prime Minister had described the occasion as a festival to celebrate the liberation of the poor from a vicious cycle.

On the occasion 8th Anniversary of PMJDY, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in her message said that. “Financial inclusion is a major step towards inclusive growth which ensures the overall economic development of the marginalised sections of the society. The success of the PMJDY since August 28, 2014 is reflected in terms of opening of over 46 crore bank accounts with deposit balance of Rs 1.74 lakh crore with its expanded coverage to 67% rural or semi-urban areas as well as 56% of women Jan Dhan account holders. Continuation of PMJDY beyond 2018 saw a marked shift in approach to meet challenges and requirements of emerging FI landscape in the country. There has been a shift in focus from “every household” to “every adult”, with added emphasis on usage of accounts by enhancing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) flows through these accounts, promoting digital payments through the use of RuPay cards, etc, She added.” “The underlying pillars of PMJDY, namely, Banking the Unbanked, Securing the Unsecured and Funding the Unfunded has made it possible to adopt multi-stakeholders’ collaborative approach while leveraging technology for serving the unserved and underserved areas as well,” the Finance Minister said. The Finance Minister further stated in her message that, “The JAM pipeline created through account holders’ consent-based linking of bank accounts with Aadhar and mobile numbers of the account holders, which is one of the important pillars of FI ecosystem, has enabled instant DBT under various government welfare schemes to the eligible beneficiaries. The advantage of the architecture created under FI ecosystem came handy during the Covid-19 pandemic when it facilitated direct income support to farmers under PM-KISAN and transfer of ex- gratia payment to women PMJDY account holders under PMGKP in a seamless and time- bound manner. Smt. Sitharaman concluded her message and said, “Financial Inclusion needs policy-led intervention based on an architecture linked to suitable financial products, information and communication technologies and data infrastructure. The country has adopted this strategy since the launch of PMJDY to optimise the intended benefits of the scheme for the people of the country. I thank all the field functionaries for their untiring efforts in making PMJDY a grand success.

Expressing his thoughts for PMJDY on this occasion, Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Karad said, “Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has been one of the most far reaching initiatives towards Financial Inclusion not only in India but in the world. Financial Inclusion is among top-most priorities of the Government as it is an enabler for inclusive growth. It provides an avenue to the poor for bringing their savings into the formal financial system, an avenue to remit money to their families besides taking them out of the clutches of the usurious money lenders.” Dr Karad said, “On the 8th Anniversary of PMJDY, the importance of this Scheme is reiterated. PMJDY has become the foundation stone for the government’s people-centric economic initiatives. Whether it is direct benefit transfers, COVID-19 financial assistance, PM-KISAN, increased wages under MGNREGA, life and health insurance cover, the first step is to provide every adult with a bank account, which PMJDY has nearly completed.” “I am confident that banks will rise to the occasion and contribute to this national endeavour in significant measure and re-dedicate your selves to ensure that each and every adult is covered under the Financial Inclusion initiatives of the government,” Dr Karad said. As we complete 8 years of successful implementation of this Scheme, we take a look at the major aspects and achievements of this Scheme so far.

Background

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Objectives:

Ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach Basic tenets of the scheme Banking the unbanked - Opening of basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account with minimal paperwork, relaxed KYC, e-KYC, account opening in camp mode, zero balance & zero charges Securing the unsecured - Issuance of Indigenous Debit cards for cash withdrawals & payments at merchant locations, with free accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh Funding the unfunded - Other financial products like micro-insurance, overdraft for consumption, micro-pension & micro-credit Initial Features The scheme was launched based upon the following 6 pillars: Universal access to banking services – Branch and BC Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of Rs. 10,000/- to every eligible adult Financial Literacy Programme– Promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund – To provide banks some guarantee against defaults Insurance – Accident cover up to Rs. 1,00,000 and life cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015 Pension scheme for Unorganized sector Important approach adopted in PMJDY based on past experience: Accounts opened are online accounts in core banking system of banks, in place of earlier method of offline accounts opening with technology lock-in with the vendor Inter-operability through RuPay debit card or Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) Fixed-point Business Correspondents Simplified KYC / e-KYC in place of cumbersome KYC formalities Extension of PMJDY with New features – The Government decided to extend the comprehensive PMJDY programme beyond 28.8.2018 with some modifications v Focus shift from ‘Every Household’ to Every Unbanked Adult’ v RuPay Card Insurance - Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018. v Enhancement in overdraft facilities - OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000/- to Rs 10,000/-; OD upto Rs 2,000/- (without conditions). Increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to 65 years Impact of PMJDY

PMJDY has been the foundation stone for people-centric economic initiatives. Whether it is direct benefit transfers, COVID-19 financial assistance, PM-KISAN, increased wages under MGNREGA, life and health insurance cover, the first step of all these initiatives is to provide every adult with a bank account, which PMJDY has nearly completed. One in 2 accounts opened between Mar’14 to Mar’20 was a PMJDY account. Within 10 days of nationwide lockdown more than about 20 crore women PMJDY accounts were credited with ex-gratia. Jandhan provides an avenue to the poor for bringing their savings into the formal financial system, an avenue to remit money to their families in villages besides taking them out of the clutches of the usurious money lenders. PMJDY has brought the unbanked into the banking system, expanded the financial architecture of India and brought financial inclusion to almost every adult.

In today’s COVID-19 times, we have witnessed the remarkable swiftness and seamlessness. with which Direct Benefit Transfer (DBTs) have empowered and provided financial security to the vulnerable sections of society. An important aspect is that DBTs via PM Jan Dhan accounts have ensured every rupee reaches its intended beneficiary and preventing systemic leakage. Achievements under PMJDY- As on 10th August’22: PMJDY

Accounts .As on 10th August '22 number of total PMJDY Accounts: 46.25 crore; 55.59% (25.71 crore) Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.79% (30.89 crore) Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas During first year of scheme 17.90 crore PMJDY accounts were opened Continuous increase in no of accounts under PMJDY.PMJDY Accounts have grown three-fold from 14.72 crore in Mar'15 to 46.25 crore as on 10- 08-2022. Undoubtedly a remarkable journey for the Financial Inclusion Programme. Operative PMJDY Accounts –

As per extant RBI guidelines, a PMJDY account is treated as inoperative if there are no customer induced transactions in the account for over a period of two years In August'22, out of total 46.25 crore PMJDY accounts, 37.57 crore (81.2%) are operative Only 8.2% PMJDY accounts are zero balance accounts Deposits under PMJDY accounts – Total deposit balances under PMJDY Accounts stand at Rs. 1,73,954 crore Deposits have increased about 7.60 times with increase in accounts 2.58 times (Aug'22 / Aug'15) Average Deposit per PMJDY account – Average deposit per account is Rs. 3,761 Avg. Deposit per account has increased over 2.9 times over Aug'15 Increase in average deposit is another indication of increased usage of accounts and inculcation of saving habit among account holders Rupay Card issued to PMJDY account holders .Total RuPay cards issued to PMJDY accountholders: 31.94 crore Number of RuPay cards & their usage has increased over time Jan Dhan Darshak App A mobile application, was launched to provide a citizen centric platform for locating banking touch points such as bank branches, ATMs, Bank Mitras, Post Offices, etc. in the country. Over 8 lakh banking touchpoints have been mapped on the GIS App. The facilities under Jan Dhan Darshak App could be availed as per the need and convenience of common people. The web version of this application could be accessed at the link <http://findmybank.gov.in>. This app is also being used for identifying villages which are not served by banking touchpoints within 5 km. these identified villages are then allocated to various banks by concerned SLBCs for opening of banking outlets. The efforts have resulted in significant decrease in number of such villages.

Towards ensuring smooth DBT transactions As informed by banks, about 5.4 crore PMJDY accountholders receive direct benefit transfer (DBT) from the Government under various schemes.To ensure that the eligible beneficiaries receive their DBT in time, the Department takes active role in identification of avoidable reasons for DBT failures in consultation with DBT Mission, NPCI, banks and various other Ministries. With close monitoring in this regard through regular VCs with banks and NPCI, the share of DBT failures due to avoidable reasons as a percentage of total DBT failures has decreased from 13.5% (FY 19-20) to 9.7% (FY 21-22). Digital transactions: With the issue of over 31.94 crore RuPay debit cards under PMJDY, installation of 61.69 lakh PoS/mPoS machines as on June'22 and the introduction of mobile based payment systems like UPI, the total number of digital transactions have gone up from 978 crore in FY 2016-17 to 7,195 crore in FY 2021-22. The total number of UPI financial transactions have increased from 1.79 crore in FY 2016-17 to 4,596 crore in FY 2021-22. Similarly, total number of RuPay card transactions at PoS and E-commerce have increased from 28.28 crore in FY 2016-17 to 151.64 crore in FY 2021-22.

The road ahead

Endeavour to ensure coverage of PMJDY account holders under micro insurance schemes. Eligible PMJDY accountholders will be sought to be covered under PMJJBY and PMSBY. Banks have already been communicated about the same. Promotion of digital payments including RuPay debit card usage amongst PMJDY accountholders through creation of

acceptance infrastructure across India Improving access of PMJDY account holders to Micro-credit and micro investment such as flexi-recurring deposit etc.

PIB AUG28, 2022

Shri Piyush Goyal reviews the progress of Government e Marketplace

Emphasizes on the need to bring all public procurement online to promote economies of scale and social Inclusiveness Suggests bringing in end-to-end online fulfillment and payment for all transactions by buyers on GeM Asks GeM to improve monitoring of delivery against timelines. Calls for strong legal and punitive actions against fraudulent activities on the portal GeM plans significant technical upgrades to improve user experience Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal, reviewed the progress of Government e Marketplace (GeM). Among many other things, various functionalities of GeM, as well as timeliness in procurement and delivery were reviewed in detail. It was noted that more than 95% of all the physical order deliveries since Apr'22 happened on time, in cases where online fulfillment and payment was done via GeM. While consistent improvement was observed in the on-time delivery across all transaction types (Direct Purchase, L1, Bids / Reverse auctions) via GeM, the Minister shared specific suggestions to revise thresholds and add features to further accelerate delivery timelines as well as provide more flexibility to government buyers to choose products as per their delivery needs.

Shri Goyal suggested bringing in end to end online fulfillment and payment for all transactions by buyers on GeM and to improve monitoring of delivery against timelines. The Minister also emphasized on the need to bring all public procurement on the completely online and transparent portal viz GeM for achieving economies of scale and bringing about Social Inclusiveness by promoting Micro and Small Enterprises. GeM's initiatives for tight monitoring and anomaly detection in procurement, including use of AI-ML to detect and report potential collusion and fraud were reviewed. Shri Goyal suggested strong legal and punitive actions against buyers and suppliers against such activities. In addition to detecting anomalies, GeM also plans to use AI-ML to make proactive feature simplifications and product suggestions to buyers to ensure informed decision making and savings in public spendings. Significant technical upgrades have been planned by GeM to enable cutting edge use cases and improve user experience on the platform. Several other initiatives by GeM, including MSME inclusion and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign were appreciated by the Minister.

HEALTHCARE

TELEGRAPH, AUG25, 2022

Sudden Heart Attack or Stroke? Critical Care can make all the difference . A patient who is either seriously ill and needs close monitoring and appropriate organ support. The term “Critical Care” often strikes fear in the hearts of the best of us. But what is critical care and is it really a bane or a boon? Dr Saswati Sinha, Senior Consultant at the Critical Care Unit at AMRI Hospitals, Dhakuria sheds some light on the topic, and dispels the misconceptions surrounding it. A patient who is either seriously ill and needs close monitoring and appropriate organ support. These are patients who may initially be brought to the emergency unit because they may have met with a major road traffic accident, or had a heart attack, or a stroke or even a very severe allergic reaction. What is common to these patients is that they need that extra monitoring and vital organ support because one or organs may be severely compromised from the inciting event . This is where the role of critical care comes in. Critical Care refers to providing organ support and round-the-clock monitoring till such time as the patient’s body has recovered most or all of its normal functioning and the patient can be safely shifted to the ward. With the advancement of medical science, a variety of different devices exist today, which provide major organ support or real-time monitoring. Critical care thrives on “team work “ and according to Dr S Sinha, patients at AMRI Hospitals .Dhakuria, are cared for by an excellent team of trained staff in the critical care unit consisting of physicians, nurses, paramedical staff as well as critical care technicians, ably supported by consultants from all the other specialities who provide their valuable inputs and support as needed. The department is capable of taking care of these patients needs and providing timely and crucial organ support with procedures and devices such as Dialysis, Ventilators, ECMO and other necessary support as the need arises. In fact, particularly in the post Covid era, it is safe to say that they efforts of the able Critical Care unit teams all across the world have brought many a patient back from the brink of death,who are now safely at home with their families. Critical care, especially when provided by teams as competent as the ones at the AMRI Hospitals, greatly increases the chances of a patient making a full recovery. The biggest morale booster for any Critical Care team is to send the sickest patients home in the best possible condition.

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG 25, 2022

India at 75 looking at 100: Equitable access should be the goal

Gagandeep Kang writes: To create the foundation for the next century, we need to invest in education and health in the next 25 years — not just for the elite, but for all.

Gagandeep Kang

India at 100 to me is an equitable country, built on firm access to high-quality education and healthcare. I could add gender parity, employment opportunities for all, reduced or no corruption — both small and large-scale — removing caste barriers, vibrant agriculture and animal husbandry and industries focused on quality. All these contribute to equity in several ways. But these are areas best left to other experts. Education and health are foundational to every society. Examples of India’s capabilities in these areas are easy to find. Indian education produces global CEOs and Indian private healthcare systems have been providing

services to medical tourists from many parts of the world. But these are exceptions and not the rule. Moreover, equity has no place in such outliers.

Foundational education must begin at an early stage at home, and then in schools, before we get to institutions of higher learning. Education that allows all children to achieve their full cognitive potential starts with parents understanding the importance of verbal engagement and sensorimotor stimulation and moves to schools that have trained, competent and engaged teachers. In both nuclear and non-nuclear families, socioeconomic status determines the amount and quality of the interactions children have in their early life — this translates to significant developmental advantages depending on the household into which a child is born. The school environment can mitigate socioeconomic deprivation to an extent. For that to happen, schools have to be functional. The functionality of schools comes not from buildings and administrative structures, but the quality and commitment of teachers. The transformational power of education for children who come from deprived environments can only operate at scale if schools and teachers know what is possible and do all they can to become agents of change. Such change cannot be effected overnight or through mandates and government orders. Whether it is in learning from tribal cultures or adapting reasoning exercises to the environment, school education and assessment cannot rely entirely on a one-size-fits-all approach of a standardized curriculum and limited assessment of knowledge and competencies. The counterarguments — India is a large country, standardisation is needed across states, the government lacks resources, and the timelines for change are too long — cannot be ignored. But these arguments ignore the foundational role of schooling in not just societal development, but equity, gender parity and a host of other consequential shifts. Parallel to improving the schooling system, we must strengthen vocational training centres — Industrial Training Institutes, for instance — that provide skills necessary for employment, while also reducing the number of degrees that do not serve as a gateway to professional development or knowledge acquisition. India has had and will have stars in several fields — historians, mathematicians, doctors, engineers, business leaders and managers — and they will continue to emerge following the principle of the creamy layer rising to the top, but the goal of equity requires us to create and maintain opportunities at all levels of our educational system. Wherever possible, we must ensure that finances are not a barrier to education. A World Bank report from the early 2000s made the case for education of women as the major driver of change in the health status of societies. Reduced fertility, safer births and better health of children and increased social status are causally linked to the education of women, but healthcare must move beyond maternal and child health packages and programmes to treat diseases that we today control far more effectively compared to a few decades ago. Enabling people to increase control over, and improve their health, preventing life-threatening diseases and improving palliative care for patients of such diseases should acquire importance.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 are unlikely to be addressed in full measure by 2047 if we do not address health, health emergencies and catastrophic health expenditures. Although only Goal 3 of the SDGs directly focuses on good health and well-being, the other goals are also linked to health. For example, Goals 1 and 2 — no poverty and zero hunger — cannot be attained if issues related to health are not addressed. To realise the dream of becoming an equitable nation in health by 2047, we must reflect on how best to make primary healthcare truly functional, especially when it comes to preventing illness and high out-of-pocket expenses on health. Treating a bulk of illnesses does not require hospitals. We need to place healthcare providers close to patients by creating proper and functional physical and digital infrastructure. We also need to create the right and rapid referral

pathways, so that delays in care do not result in unnecessary burden on individuals and their families. For this, we need the right people with the right resources at the right places. Appropriate processes must also be in place. In other words, the architecture of health should place individuals and their needs at the centre and ensure that these needs are met without large payments being required at the point of care. This form of healthcare cannot be addressed without governance systems to regulate the private sector and to ensure that no part of the country is a health “desert”. To support this architecture, we need trained and motivated personnel and inexpensive drugs and vaccines for which India is well-known. We have islands of excellence in primary care and outstanding clinical services, but they are patchy and do not always provide sustained care. Equitable access requires that we deliver to all, and not just the privileged few. 2047 may seem distant, but to create the foundation for the next century, we need to invest in education and health in the next 25 years — not just for the elite, but for all. The returns on this investment will then keep accruing for generations to come. The writer is Professor, Christian Medical College, Vellore.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

TELEGRAPH, AUG 25, 2022

Broad vision: Editorial on India-China working together to realise ‘Asian century’ The notion was first articulated in recent times in 1988 by Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, during a summit with Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India at the time China and India have an agreement — not on their contested border, but at least on a broad vision for Asia’s future. Last week, India’s external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, spoke about the concept of an “Asian century” and said that it cannot be realised unless India and China work together. Asked about his comment, the Chinese foreign ministry suggested that it agreed, and that indeed, an Asian century required the development of both of the world’s two most populous nations. Neither Mr Jaishankar’s comment nor China’s response is in itself unique. But coming at a time when New Delhi and Beijing are going through a prolonged chill in relations over the presence of Chinese troops in a pocket of Ladakh that India claims, it is significant that diplomats of the neighbouring nations are echoing each other. The notion of an Asian century, held up by the two countries, was first articulated in recent times in 1988 by the Chinese leader,

Deng Xiaoping, during a summit with Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India at the time. Manmohan Singh, when he was prime minister, spoke of how there was enough room in the world for both China and India to grow. Yet, in recent years, that worldview has increasingly been replaced by one where New Delhi and Beijing have viewed each other almost exclusively as competitors — over the disputed boundary between their nations, their shared neighbourhood, and even developmental projects in other parts of the world. China’s aggression in Ladakh and in Bhutan, its dangerous ambitions in the South China Sea, and its refusal to cooperate with India even on instituting international sanctions on terrorists have helped poison the relationship. But the current Indian government has also tied itself in knots by portraying to its domestic audience a macho image of its foreign policy capabilities that is at variance with the reality. That makes any accommodation with China, even if it is sensible, vulnerable to politically damaging accusations of a compromise with national interests. It is time for both New Delhi and Beijing to take a step back and acknowledge the truth in Mr Jaishankar’s words: neither country can realise its true potential if the other is an existential threat. The differences and tensions between India and China are deep and complex. They will not be resolved anytime soon. But reviving the idea of an Asia where both prosper is a vital first step.

MEDIA

STATESMAN, AUG 2022

Learnings for India

Under the DSA, there are extra obligations for very large online platforms (VLOPs) and,

crucially, for search engines. Earlier this year, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeve Chandrasekhar said in a public interaction that legislation to cover the digital universe which Indians now inhabit was a pressing necessity. Since then, the Centre has been working on a new law ~ a previous attempt to regulate digital media under updated Information Technology rules had sparked a row in 2019 ~ which would apply to digital media and require tech platforms, for the first time, to apply for registration with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The I&B Ministry would be the state's administrative department that would regulate and, if required, penalise platforms disseminating "news on digital media through any electronic device". Legislation to this effect is widely expected to be introduced in the forthcoming Winter Session of Parliament. As policymakers work on the draft of the new law, it may be helpful for them to take a close look at the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA), a landmark piece of legislation which is in the final stages of being fully approved by EU institutions. The thrust of the Bill is that it enjoins specific obligations, rights, and duties on digital companies. The DSA's co-regulatory mechanisms are of particular interest. (Co-regulatory mechanisms are governance structures where state involvement exists but is limited, and most of the actions are taken by other stakeholder groups usually under the oversight of one or more governmental bodies.) Tech expert David Morar makes the point that such mechanisms, fundamentally transparent, can be more inclusive than garden variety policy- formulation and would have built-in buy-in from industry. The EU, of course, has a history with Big Tech of which its antitrust case against Microsoft is an example. In this context, writes Morar, the EU has expressly pointed out that the DSA package is a tool to not just protect the rights of users, but to also "establish a level playing field" given the outsized role of "a few large platforms". Under the DSA, there are extra obligations for very large online platforms (VLOPs) and, crucially, for search engines. The DSA and its accompanying legislation such as the Digital Markets Act have been brought in with the clear purpose of countering the power of the large companies. In its construction and application, the DSA separates very large online platforms ~ defined as having more than 45 million monthly active users ~ from the rest of the online ecosystem. Experts agree that assessments, codes of conduct, and audits are the holy trinity of regulating the digital world. How these are adapted in Indian legislation which would need to take into account the wide disparity in internet-access, educational standards, and socio- cultural contexts of millions of users could well make or break the country's future.

POWER

INDIAN EXPRESS, AUG22,2022

While political parties debate if free electricity is a freebie, discom finances slip and threaten to disrupt the power sector

Distribution companies are the weakest link in the power chain. Rising losses at the distribution level mean that discom dues to gencos continue to go up, who in turn delay payments to coal mining companies, thereby adversely impacting the stability of the entire power sector.

Last week, Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO), the national grid operator, asked three power exchanges to restrict the buying and selling of electricity by 27 power distribution companies (discoms) from 12 states and the Union Territory of [Jammu](#) and Kashmir because of their dues towards power generating companies (gencos). The action was reportedly taken under the Electricity (late payment surcharge and related matters) Rules 2022, which were notified recently. While several of these states have reportedly cleared their dues since, this incident is yet another reminder of the precarious financial position of discoms.

Distribution companies are the weakest link in the power chain. Rising losses at the distribution level mean that discom dues to gencos continue to go up, who in turn delay payments to coal mining companies, thereby adversely impacting the stability of the entire power sector. While there have been various attempts to turnaround the financial and operational performance of state discoms, the results have been well short of expectations. Each time the size of the bailout has only risen. In the early 2000s, the scheme for repayment of state electricity board dues amounted to roughly Rs 41,500 crore; the financial restructuring plan of 2012 involved an outlay of around Rs 1.2 lakh crore; while under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) in 2015, the bailout was in excess of Rs 2 lakh crore. Yet discom losses have continued to rise, as have their obligations/debt burden. In 2020, Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation sanctioned Rs 1.35 lakh crore of loans to discoms to help clear their dues to gencos. Another package was announced in 2022. The RBI recently estimated that if another bailout is to be structured along the lines of UDAY, then along with the cash infusion that will be needed to pay off their power purchase dues, it would cost state governments Rs 4.32 lakh crore. To put this in perspective — this is more than what the central government spends on health, education or rural development.

Improving the financial position of discoms will require timely and adequate tariff revisions and bringing down the aggregate technical and commercial losses, among other measures. However, political parties are not only reluctant to raise power tariffs, they often try to sway the electorate with the promise of free electricity. But, now, the issue of whether subsidised/free power is a “freebie”, or whether such fiscally imprudent decisions need to be regulated, are being contested with the Prime Minister targeting what he calls the culture of “revdi”. While that debate has now shifted to the Supreme Court, a business-as-usual scenario is unsustainable for the power sector.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

PIB AUG22, 2022

IREDA signs MoU with MAHAPREIT to provide loans for Green Energy projects

IREDA to provide Techno-Financial consultancy to MAHAPREIT for RE projects

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed an MoU with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT), a wholly owned subsidiary of MPBCDC (49% owned by Govt. of India and 51% owned by Govt. of Maharashtra) yesterday. In accordance with the MoU, IREDA will offer financing facilities to MAHAPREIT for the Renewable Energy projects to be implemented for state utilities, local bodies and the infrastructure of Renewable Energy Parks.

The MoU was signed by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA and Shri Bipin Shrimali, CMD, MAHAPREIT. Under this collaboration, IREDA will also undertake Techno-Financial due diligence of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency & Conservation projects for MAHAPREIT.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD, IREDA said: "We are pleased to partner with MAHAPREIT and offer our techno-financial expertise to MAHAPREIT for the sustainable development of Maharashtra. Through this kind of collaboration, we will be able to support Govt. of India achieve its targets of 50% share of energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030. Also, these initiatives could encourage green investment and generate thousands of jobs."

IREDA established a specialised Business Development and Consultancy division two years ago to meet the growing demand in the RE sector. This is the ninth MoU inked by IREDA in the last two years to provide consultation services for the sustainable development of the country. SJVN, NHPC, TANGEDCO, NEEPCO, BVFCL, THDCIL, GSL, and CIPET have signed MoUs with IREDA to enhance their techno-financial expertise for green energy projects and IREDA has already started work on most of the MoUs.

ECONOMIC TIMES, AGU 25, 2022

India pushes for renewable energy initiative with Central Asia: invites region to join International Solar Alliance

DIPANJAN ROY CHOUDHURY

Despite complementarities, the share of energy exports from Central Asian countries to India

remains minuscule, said Bandaru Wilsonbabu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, at the webinar: India- Central Asia Business Council Webinar on Energy Cooperation, organized by FICCI. Wilsonbabu alluded to India's substantial progress and initiatives, notably, the installed renewable energy capacity, which stood fourth largest globally, and stated that the "share of non- fossil fuel energy has reached 40% of India's energy mix." "India stands ready to share its experience and expertise in renewable energy and welcome the Central Asian countries in the International Solar Alliance and the One Sun, One World, One Grid initiative," he added.

However, he noted that "India remains dependent on fossil fuel imports" and underlined "the need for enhanced connectivity between India and Central Asia." He averred that Central Asian countries endowed with rich natural resources could enhance trade ties with India in the energy space. "Turkmenistan is among the top-five countries of the world in proven reserves of natural gas, Tajikistan has substantial reserves of crude oil, and considerable reserves of natural gas are found in Uzbekistan. In addition, the mountainous countries of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic have a huge hydropower potential," he added. Dinesh D. Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, also spoke on occasion. He said, "India is implementing one of the largest and the fastest energy transition programmes by focusing on large-scale development and deployment of renewable energy." He noted that India had achieved 40 per cent of its installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources nine years ahead of schedule. "India has gained a lot in RE experience, and we will be happy to include this as a part of our exchange capacity-building programmes," he said. He added that by 2030, we expect renewable energy to become the front runner in the overall energy mix. "For it to happen," he said, "we need to work on storage elements and hydropower." Joint Secretary Jagdale noted, "Some Central Asian countries have much more hydro potential. So we will also be very keen to look at the opportunities there as well." Dilshod Akhatov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India, said, "a special place is given to the growth of electricity generation, including projects of renewable energy sources (in Uzbekistan)," adding, "one of the main aims is to increase the installed capacity of solar and wind power plants to 8GW by 2026.

Noting the Indian initiatives in the renewables space, Akhatov said, "Uzbekistan is ready to establish cooperation with India on the implementation of joint projects or the production of solar modules, batteries for energy storage and the production of other renewable energy systems. Representatives from chambers of commerce from Central Asian countries and industry persons also spoke on occasion.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PIB AUG23, 2022

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, DST is setting up 75 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country, exclusively for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to promote scientific talent and uplift the socio-economic status of these communitiesThe Minister was addressing an International Conference on “Significance of Technology in Empowering Tribal Community of India” at JNU Convention CentreSTI Hubs will directly benefit over 30,000 SC and ST population through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm, other allied livelihood sectors and various livelihoods assets like energy, water, health, education: **Dr Jitendra Singh**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that Ministry of Science and Technology is setting up 75 Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Hubs in different parts of the country, exclusively for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to promote scientific talent and uplift the socio-economic status of these communities.

Addressing, as chief guest, the inaugural session of 2-day International Conference on “Significance of Technology in Empowering Tribal Community of India” at JNU Convention Centre, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that 33 such STI Hubs have already been established and 7 are going to become operational soon by DST.



The Minister said that these Hubs will directly benefit over 30,000 SC and ST population through various interventions spreading across farm, non-farm, other allied livelihood sectors and various livelihood assets like energy, water, health, education, etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh also said that the Science for Equity Empowerment and Development (SEED) division of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is providing grant-in-aid support to several Knowledge Institutions (KIs), and Science and Technology (S&T) based Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for the holistic development of SC and ST communities.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed charge in May, 2014, the Tribal Community was given a “New Deal” and efforts were made in the last 8 years not only to give them more representation in government, but also to empower them through different schemes and interventions including in the areas of Education and Skill Development. The Minister also pointed out that during the UPA, only Rs 21,000 crore were provided for the welfare of tribal people, but under Modi, it has been enhanced to Rs 78,000 crore.

Dr Jitendra Singh also quoted Prime Minister Modi’s Independence Day Address this 15th August, wherein he said, “When we talk about the freedom struggle, we cannot forget to acknowledge our tribal society living in forests. There are countless names like Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Sidhu-Kanhu, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Govind Guru, who became the voice of freedom movement and inspired my tribal brothers and sisters, mothers and youth in the remotest jungles to live and die for the motherland”. Dr Jitendra Singh also said that it was the Modi Government which decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda every year on 15th November as Tribal Gaurav Diwas, coinciding with the Amrit Mahotsav

Dr Jitendra Singh said, for the first time in the country after independence, on such a large scale, the art-culture of the entire country's tribal society, their contribution to the freedom movement and nation building is being remembered and honoured with pride.

Dr Jitendra Singh concluded that when India will take the high pedestal on the world map in 2047, during the 100th Independence Day celebrations, the role of more than 25 percent SC/ST Communities will have their own golden history to tell in the Amrit Kaal of next 25 years.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

TELEGRAPH, AUG25, 2022

Tweak it: Editorial on making MGNREGA more women-centric This has been prompted by data from the past five years that shows more than 50 per cent of the participants under this scheme are females. The parliamentary standing committee on rural development and panchayati raj has proposed the need to make the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act more women-centric by bringing additional activities that are done by women under its purview. This was prompted by data from the past five years that showed more than 50 per cent of the participants under this scheme are women. The stipulated proportion of women required to avail of these jobs is 33 per cent. The proposal would also bring about greater economic empowerment of women. The committee has suggested that a lot more work has to be done in identifying the strongest linkages to livelihood opportunities open to women, especially in agriculture-related jobs. Not only women as individuals but self-help groups could be provided with new opportunities to augment their income and wealth. The MGNREGA is a demand-driven scheme. The fact that women have been availing of opportunities under this scheme more than men suggests that they are in greater need of additional income. Women's labour force participation is very low in India. This, thus, could be one possible way of raising the ratio. The force driving higher women's participation in the MGNREGA is the fact that as men move to cities for work, women left behind in rural areas are eager to avail of guaranteed opportunities. Any fresh assessment of MGNREGA schemes to make them more women-centric should also give an opportunity to the government to streamline the entire programme. But challenges exist. For instance, many women need jobs and are willing to go out and work but are constrained by the lack of support to look after children at home. The other set of issues pertain to making economic remunerations regular and fairer. Then, there is the matter of states not receiving their dues on time. There is also the need to ensure that every state has a reasonably similar real wage. Inflation indexing should be done on the basis of local price pressures and not on some national average index. Finally, the outcomes emanating from this scheme need to be assessed objectively. Decentralised, district-level planning could be done to nudge the outcomes into becoming more directly linked to infrastructure, local livelihoods and human development. This fine-tuning could draw out an enormous quantity of useful labour that could create socially necessary assets. It could potentially evolve into a powerful instrument of grass-roots development.