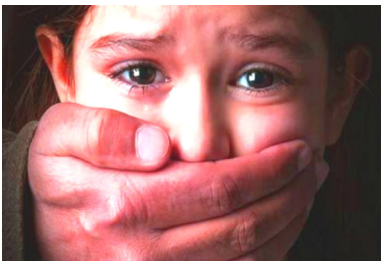
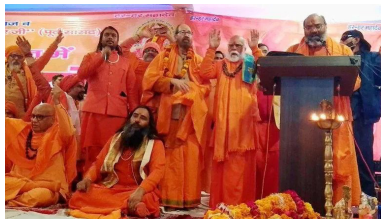




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Growing religious intolerance in India



www.google.com

Two spates of incidents shocked me last month and shook my conscience.

The first one was the hate speech scandal that erupted from sadhus (holy men) meeting in Haridwar. There were many counter-protests, including a section of sadhus, and many statements by eminent citizens condemning the incident. These did not include many who felt that the protests were one-sided and the same lot of liberals do not condemn the hate speeches made by minority leaders and who incite violent actions. Both need to be examined in the framework of communal harmony and its impact on society and the economy. If we have to recover our economy from the ill effects of COVID and even otherwise, we need to ensure peace and stability.

Here, one is reminded of what Swami Vivekanand spoke of more than a century at Chicago in the World Congress of Religions. He said that Hinduism is one religion or a way of life that respects all other faiths and teaches tolerance and acceptance. My 5000-year-old Hindu DNA also says the same thing to me subconsciously. Our ancient texts also say: "Om survey bhavantu sukhinah, survey santu niramaya". This is further buttressed by Narendra Modi's call: "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas".

There were calls made for the ruling regime to condemn the Haridwar statements, but it was only the Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu, who sent a strong message on secularism in early January. He expressed his strong disapproval of attempts to ridicule other religions and create debates in society. He said that every person has the right to practice and preach their faith.

The second spate of incidents is the horrible rape of young minor and infant girls, which appears to be going on without scaring people. Many of these continue to create headlines. Rapes of any type are condemnable because they attack a person's self. Recently, another Nirbhaya type incident took place in Alwar, which screamed on the front page of *Dainik Bhaskar* as its first lead. Like in Nirbhaya's case, the mentally sick perpetrators also damage the teenager's private parts. The perpetrators were not apprehended by the police when I write this.

On the other hand, reports appeared that the medical examination did not show any rape. Does it matter because it was not her modesty that was attacked but her private parts? This was an absolute height of depravity.

Among other cases, many get a speedy trial and conviction that is good but does not work as a disincentive to the sex-starved mentally sick marauders. I wonder what their families say or are also inure to the dastardly criminal act done by their male family members. Can we hold the family accountable for the misdeeds of their male family members? Legally, it may not be possible, but a social boycott of the family can act as a dissuader. In our rural areas, communities often declare an offender as excommunicated. The members warned that no relationship can be entered into with the family and no one will eat with them.

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Pradeep S Mehta
Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

President's daughter becomes a Hindu

The daughter of Indonesia's former President Sukarno, Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, underwent conversion from Islam to Hinduism on October 26, 2021.

For the conversion, a ritual ceremony was held at the Sukarno Center Heritage Area in Bale Agung Singaraja, Buleleng Regency, Bali.

Ida Ayu Nyoman Rai Srimben, the late Balinese grandmother of Sukmawati, seems to have played a significant role in influencing her decision to embrace Hinduism.

(DB, 24.10.21)



Global Trustworthiness Index, 2021

Doctors are rated as trustworthy by almost two-thirds of people, according to the Ipsos Global Trustworthiness Index 2021. Scientists came in second, at 61 percent and teachers third, at 55 percent. How to restore trust is a key and growing theme for policymakers.

Shaping a more sustainable, resilient world in the wake of the pandemic is a focus of the World Economic Forum.

The perception of trustworthy doctors has risen in the past few years, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept around the world, putting them in the spotlight.

(DB, 23.10.21)

IITian of Kota made fragrant urine



Consumption of urine is beneficial in many diseases. But the biggest problem comes that it has to be drunk fresh and filtered 8 times before consumption. Apart from this, drinking it is not for everyone due to the smell.

Kota's IITian Rakesh Agarwal, has found a solution for this. Because of their research, now they can keep urine for six months. This urine will also give fragrance so that there will be no problem drinking it. His invention also got a patent and research paper published in the International Journal of Advanced Research in August 2021.

(DB, 15.11.21)

Law for chemical castration of rapists

A government official said that Pakistan had introduced chemical castration as a possible punishment for serial rapists under a law that calls for faster trials of suspected sex offenders.

Parliament passed the law and it came into effect immediately. Chemical castration, carried out by drugs and reversible, is practiced in Poland, South Korea, the Czech Republic and some US states.

(Reuters, 18.11.21)

Woman sues doc for being born

A disabled equestrian showjumper in the UK won the right to millions of pounds in damages after claiming she should not have been born. Since birth, Evie Toombes, a spina bifida victim, sued her mother's doctor in a unique "wrongful conception" court case.

She said Dr Philip Mitchell failed to advise her mother to take vital folic acid, which minimises the defect's risk before becoming pregnant.

Had he done so, she claimed, her mother Caroline would have delayed conception until she had taken the supplement and, as a result, Evie would never have been born.

(IE, 03.12.21)

Milkman distributes sanitary pads

A milkman from Hanumangarh has distributed over 20,000 packets of sanitary napkins among girls in rural areas of the state and neighbouring states of Haryana and Punjab in 19 months.



Rajesh Suthar took up the task after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to raise awareness about menstrual hygiene and ensure that girls do not skip school because of the same.

Travelling almost 100 km regularly, Suthar visits slums and small rural colonies to hand over sanitary napkins to all women of reproductive age.

(Tol, 29.11.21)

Father of the year!

A two-year-old toddler in China has only months left, but his father has left no stone unturned in finding a treatment for his 'rarest of rare' ailment.

Haoyang suffers from Menkes Syndrome, a genetic disorder where the body does not properly process copper, which is crucial for developing the brain and nervous system. People with the ailment rarely live beyond three years of age.

The medicine found helpful with Menkes was unavailable in China. His father, Xu Wei, could not fly out and procure the elixir for his son with international borders shut due to COVID-19.

Xu, a small-time online businessman with a high school education, felt as helpless as a parent would. While most would have given up, he decided to try the impossible and made the medicine himself.

(DNA, 24.11.21)



Crackdown on celebrity culture and fans

China has banned its celebrities from showing off their wealth on social media in the latest crackdown on the entertainment industry.

The rules also prevent celebrities from publishing false or private information, provoking fans against other fan groups and spreading rumours.

Additionally, social media accounts of both celebrities and fans will be required to adhere to 'public order and good customs, adhere to correct public opinion orientation and value orientation, promote socialist core values, and maintain a healthy style and taste'.

(FT, 24.11.21)

China sighting of 'cube' on moon

A photo of a cubelike object captured by a Chinese rover on the moon's far side has fanned speculation over what it could be and inspired a host of memes by Chinese internet users.



The solar-powered Yutu, or 'Jade Rabbit' in Chinese, will cover the distance of 80 metres in two to three lunar days or two to three Earth months.

The rover was deployed in January 2019. The mission was a historic first, with no other nation having landed on the moon's far side until then.

(JT, 08.12.21)

Penn State hires first woman

Indian-origin professor Neeli Bendapudi has created history as the first woman and person of colour to be named the president of America's prestigious Pennsylvania State University, the educational institution.



Bendapudi, born in Visakhapatnam and came to the US in 1986 for higher studies, is currently serving as the president and professor of marketing at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. She will begin her appointment as Penn State's 19th president in spring 2022.

(IE, 10.12.21)

Nasa's spacecraft to kick an asteroid

A Nasa mission to deliberately smash a spacecraft into an asteroid — a test run should humanity ever need to stop a giant space rock from wiping out life on Earth — blasted off from California.

It may sound like science fiction, but the Dart (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) is an actual proof-of-concept experiment, the goal of which

is to slightly alter the trajectory of the asteroid Dimorphos.

To be clear, the asteroids pose no risk to our planet. But they belong to a class of bodies known as Near-Earth Objects, which approach within 30 million miles.

(IT, 24.11.21)

First orbital flight for Moon rocket

Elon Musk said that the Starship developed by his company SpaceX and selected by Nasa for the Americans' return to the moon would attempt its first orbital flight early next year. Starship has already made several suborbital flights.

He said Starship will be operational to transport loads outside the framework of tests in 2023. Nasa is betting on Starship to become the lander used as part of its Artemis programme to take humans back to the moon in 2025 at the earliest.

(Tol, 19.11.21)

No babies in parliament

After a parliamentary official rebuked her for bringing her sleeping baby to a debate, a British MP called for reforms.



Stella Creasy, an opposition lawmaker who has campaigned for MPs to be offered maternity leave, received a warning after speaking at a debate while holding her three-month-old son Pip.

The British government in February announced it would introduce six-month paid maternity leave for senior ministers, but MPs are not entitled to this.

(IT, 25.11.21)

Man kills father on God's order

Khandar police of Sawai Madhopur arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly killing his father. Police said the accused claimed that his 68-year-old father was ailing and suffering and God had directed him to send his father to him.

During investigations, it was found that the accused had also killed his

mother during the holy month of Ramzan, but the family kept the whole matter under the wraps.

Police said the accused has also confessed that his next plan was to kill his sister-in-law, his elder brother's wife.

(Tol, 01.11.21)

Paralysed man post tweet using his mind

A paralysed man from Australia has become the first person to tweet a message using only direct thought. In other words, he tweeted using only his brain and not his fingers.

The feat was made possible by a microchip the size of a paperclip that was implanted into the brain of Philip O'Keefe, a motor neuron disease patient.

The tiny brain implant, that picks up his brain signals, was able to read the 62-year-old man's thoughts and translate it into a text.

Philip has been suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis since 2015. Due to the condition, he is unable to move his upper limbs.

(DB, 29.12.21)

Bride dons sherwani, rides horse

Breaking away from the stereotype, a 25-year-old bride from Sikar's Ranoli wore a sherwani and rode a horse in a pre-wedding ritual of 'Bandori' before tying the knot. Initially reluctant, her family decided to go ahead with the bride's wish to promote gender equality.

As bride Kritika Saini is the youngest of six siblings, her father wanted to fulfill her wishes. They thought this would be a novel way to



promote gender equality and raise awareness about the same.

While Kritika has studied fashion design from Jaipur, the groom is an accountant by profession and works in a bank.

(Tol, 06.12.21)

India rolls out precaution 'booster' dose for 60 above

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that the vaccination process of the third precautionary dose would begin from January 2022. As the country kickstarts the process of providing an additional layer of protection for the vulnerable groups, here's what you need to know:

Will vaccine boosters prove effective against the new Omicron variant?

Omicron cases have rapidly surged in a short period and scientists are still finding answers to why. While the new variant is said to be mild so far, the high rate of transmissibility has become a source of concern.

Preliminary studies have suggested that the two standard doses of coronavirus vaccines show little to no efficacy against the new COVID variant Omicron, which has raised another wave of alarm. While more research is awaited, experts believe that a third shot might provide higher efficacy against the new variant.

Who is eligible for the booster shots?

As per government guidelines, the 'precaution dose' will be given to citizens above 60 years facing comorbidities such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, kidney disease (people on dialysis), those receiving stem cell transplant, cirrhosis, cancer, sickle cell disease and more.

Older adults with highly compromised immune systems also qualify for the shots. Having a weak immune system puts them at a greater risk of contracting the virus and falling severely ill. In the past, most cases of hospitalisation and death reigned in vulnerable groups of people.

Apart from that, healthcare and frontline workers are to be prioritised for the booster shots since they are more prone to contact patients suffering from COVID-19 or the new variants.

Why are some groups of people being prioritised over others?

People above 60 with pre-existing health ailments are more prone to developing severe COVID-19 infection, so government and health officials have decided to prioritise them for booster shots.

Additionally, since senior citizens and healthcare workers were the first 'priority group' among the general population to receive both their COVID vaccine doses, the possibility of waning immunity is comparatively higher in them. This is why a booster dose is likely to re-expose a person's immune system to the immunising antigen, the memory of



which (after the previous dose) could have been lost over a period of time.

Required gap between the second and third 'precaution' dose

If you are above 60 years of age and have taken both doses and the gap between the second dose and the day you are registering is more than nine months (39 weeks), you are eligible. The National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation also considers a 9 to 12 months' gap between the second shot and the precautionary dose for healthcare and frontline workers and senior citizens with comorbidities.

No nod for mix and match of COVID-19 vaccines

While several countries have begun mixing and matching COVID-19 vaccines to expand the vaccine horizon and explore the chances of increased efficacy, people eligible for the booster vaccines will be administered the third dose of the same COVID vaccine they received earlier, which is Covishield and Covaxin.

Several studies have suggested that mixing vaccines triggers a robust immune response against the SARs-COV-2 virus. However, the Centre has not given the nod for the same as of now.

How can you get the booster shots?

The registration process will be the same as was done previously for 45-plus individuals with comorbidities. One will have to complete the process on the CoWIN vaccine platform. Those above 60 years of age will have to provide a medical certificate to prove that they have the comorbidities that the government specifies to get the booster shot.

The news item appeared in The Times of India on December 29, 2021.

Sodala elevated road to be operational

Traffic snarls between LIC circle and Sodala will soon be a thing of the past as the work on the elevated road will be completed soon.



As per the records, Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has completed 95 percent of the work and the road is expected to be operational by mid-February 2022.

The traffic at this stretch moves at 17 kmph speed. Once the elevated road is operational the speed will improve to 60 kmph. (Tol, 31.12.21)

Worker shortage adds to sanitation woes

Labour shortage has added to the sanitation problems of the residents of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) Heritage. The civic body has been facing difficulties maintaining hygiene due to the lack of hoopers.

Residents of some wards have complained that the workers were not reporting on time and were inefficient, while others said there was a shortage of workers.

Many sanitation workers were not reporting every day and some of them had bribed the sanitation inspector to regularise their attendance.

(Tol, 31.12.21)

2nd genome sequencing lab in Jodhpur

The state government is expanding its genome sequencing labs to speed up tracking Omicron cases and other variants. It will soon start the state's second genome testing lab in Jodhpur from January 2022 onwards.

Currently, the only genome sequencing lab at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) hospital is functional for identifying the variants of Corona infected. The health department maintains that samples of every COVID infected should be sent for genome sequencing.

(Tol, 28.12.21)

Shelter to orphans, footpath dwellers

In accordance with the Supreme Court, the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) directed the state government to run a special drive to ensure availability of shelter homes for the orphans and footpath dwellers.

Aiming to provide shelter homes at the Panchayat levels, RSLSA has also been creating awareness about the same. RSLSA will also ensure timely benefits to the orphans and poor people through the Social Justice Department in the government schemes.

(www.vishwadha.news, 28.12.21)

Raising age may not stop child marriages

The Union cabinet raised the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years to curtail child marriages and prevent abuse of minors.



However, experts working in this field claimed that the change, which has brought the age of marriage for both men and women on a par, will have a negligible effect on preventing child marriages. The raised age is only a step forward in addressing gender discrimination and curbing early pregnancies.

Specialists in child welfare believe increasing women's age of marriage is like treating symptoms instead of the cause.

(Tol, 18.12.21)

Adani to manage Jaipur Airport

Adani Group took over the responsibilities of the Jaipur International Airport from the Airports



Authority of India (AAI). The airport has been leased out to the group by the Government of India for a period of 50 years.

Airport director JS Balhara handed over a symbolic key of the airport to Chief Airport Officer Adani Jaipur International Ltd Vishnu Jha in the presence of other officials. Balhara said that the company will work on the operations, management and development of the Jaipur airport through public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

(BS, 11.10.21)

'Back to Work' scheme for women

Rajasthan government has come up with a 'Back to Work' scheme for women who sometimes have to quit their jobs due to family circumstances.

The scheme targets to provide jobs to 15,000 women with the help of the private sector in the next three years. Priority will be given to widows, women abandoned, divorced and victims of violence.

The facility of a single-window system will be developed to provide employment opportunities to women willing to join employment through the Directorate of Women's Empowerment and CSR organisation.

(TH, 30.11.21)

First wheelchair clinic on the anvil

A wheelchair clinic, developed according to WHO guidelines, was launched at the government-run Jaipuria Hospital.

The hospital aspires to provide wheelchairs to 600 children and adults with disabilities in the next three years. The initiative will ensure that people get the right wheelchair in the right way, the hospital claimed.

Urban Jaipur has 6,968 people with mobility disabilities, while Jaipur rural has 10,957. At least 3,600 people require a wheelchair in Jaipur. Without the right wheelchair, persons with mobility disabilities are isolated socially and economically with little or no access to healthcare, education, and employment.

(Tol, 19.12.21)



JDA to fix use of greenfield airport land

The JDA will soon decide the land use of the 2,100 hectares after de-reserving the area where the greenfield airport in Shivdaspura was proposed to be built.

After the decision was taken that the airport will not be constructed on the reserved land, the town planning wing has started the exercise to earmark the area as 'special area' in the Master Plan 2025.

Farmers living near Shivdaspura heaved a sigh of relief as their land reserved for the airport was freed after 16 years. However, in the absence of land-use change, the owners could not reap the benefit. (Tol, 26.12.21)

Three metro stations to be renamed



Three metro stations in the city will be renamed after big brands or companies. On the lines of big cities, including Delhi, Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation (JMRC) also gave branding and 'semi-naming in rights' to companies whose name may appear as a prefix to a station's name.

The rights have been provided for seven years, which can be later extended for three years as per the contract. "Three station includes Mansarovar, Sindhi Camp and Railway station. They will be renamed after a real estate company, a coaching institute and a vernacular newspaper." (Tol, 26.12.21)

Cabinet decision for computer instructors

The cabinet has approved the draft notification of amendment in Rajasthan Educational (State and Subordinate) Service Rules-2021 for recruitment to the posts of primary computer instructor and senior computer instructor created for teaching computer education in secondary and higher secondary schools of the state.

The decision will facilitate the recruitment of about 10,000 computer teachers from classes 9 to 12. The cabinet has also approved to amend the rules of study leave to state employees under the Rajasthan Service Rules. (www.tv9hindi.com, 23.12.21)



Promoting startup ecosystem

In a major boost to startups, the state government has directed its departments, corporations and boards to purchase goods/services worth up to ₹1 crore from startups registered at ebazaar-rajasthan.gov.in by relaxing procurement norms. The aim is to promote the startup ecosystem in the state.

The departments can directly procure products/goods and services up to ₹15 lakh from the registered startups. Over 100 startups have been registered at E Bazaar, pushing their business ideas. (Tol, 23.11.21)

Bassi flyover as part of infra push

Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot inaugurated two infrastructure projects and laid the foundation stone for six projects, including signal-free traffic junctions. There is a lot of traffic

load at the B2 Bypass intersection on Tonk Road.

Given this, an underpass will be constructed for the traffic going from EP Road towards Mansarovar. On the other hand, a cloverleaf will be built on Tonk Road in front of the petrol pump near Taaron Ki Koot and on Ramdas Agarwal Tirahe, the road leading to Hotel Marriott. The entire project will cost ₹155.06 crore. (BT, 19.12.21)

'Jal Jeevan Mission' in action

The Centre allocated ₹2,345 crore to the state government under PM Narendra Modi's flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The programme is intended to provide tap water connections in rural households in the country, including 1.1 lakh households in Rajasthan.

The allocation is part of the total allocation of ₹10,180.50 crore for 2021-22. Under the scheme, 57,285 schools and 28,186 anganwadi centres have been given tap connections. (Mint, 19.12.21)



Sajak Gram initiative on cards

With the Sajak Gram initiative started by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), the officials reach out to the villagers of selected 51 hamlets. They motivate them to approach the sleuths if anyone asks for bribes, such as releasing pensions or making Bhamashah cards.

The ACB officers are also telling how they can approach them if they are deprived of government officers' government schemes and benefits. (www.republicworld.com, 06.12.21)

Experts discuss front of package labelling

A multi-stakeholder consultation on 'Front of Package Labelling (FoPL)' on all foods packages for healthy eating was inaugurated by Parsadi Lal Meena, Minister of Health and Excise, Rajasthan. Public health experts and food industry representatives called for urgent action on FoPL. Food Safety Standards Authority India (FSSAI) has already published a draft regulation for the labelling.

CUTS has been advocating since April 2018 with FSSAI to strengthen the proposed Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2018 and notify for implementation. The FSSAI is considering implementing symbol-based front-of-pack nutrition labeling, which they intend to make mandatory. These regulations will form a major stepping stone for India to target HFSS and Trans-fats in packaged food products.

Consumers will get an opportunity to select and choose products based on front-of-package information about the amount of salt, added sugar, saturated fats/trans fats, etc.



Another leopard safari park soon

Pink City is set to become the country's most sought-after destination for leopard safaris. The Forest Department plans to open the Galta region, which is home to 17 wild cats, for visitors.

As Jhalana bursts at the seams, the move will also come as a breather. The Jhalana forest spreads 20sqkm in the southeast of Jaipur and houses a healthy population of 44 leopards that tourists from 10-20 feet can spot. The extension of Jhalana will be an added attraction for tourists and new routes will be explored. (IT, 14.12.21)

'Neki ki Deewar' serves needy

Every city has 'Neki ki Deewar' (Wall of Righteous) as a collection point where the donors drop their old clothes and the poor pick them up as per their need.



The wall in Chittorgarh has gone beyond the usual by dry cleaning, ironing and packing the donated clothes before the needy take them. Also, civil society members have appointed a cobbler who repairs and polishes donated slippers and shoes for the needy.

Every day, hundreds of low-income families and the homeless queue up at the wall, which the local administration has converted into a proper shop. Here the beneficiaries get clothes of their size and can select the colours and fabric. (Tol, 15.11.21)

₹4.3cr AYUSH hospital inaugurated

On National Ayurveda Day, the integrated AYUSH hospital was inaugurated by Health Minister Raghu Sharma at Pratap Nagar.

The hospital, built at ₹4.36 crore, will have facilities of treatment in Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani. It took 21 months to construct the

building where outdoor, indoor, diagnosis and facilities of medicines will be provided. A separate unit for pregnant women and a separate unit for the geriatric population has been prepared at AYUSH hospital.

Also, yoga facilities have been developed. Such AYUSH hospitals are also coming up Ajmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Sikar and Churu. (Tol, 03.11.21)

Padma Shri 2021 for 3 from Rajasthan

Three persons from Rajasthan were awarded Padma Shri 2021 in different categories by President Ram Nath



Kovind. Sarangi player Lakha Khan Manganiar, environmentalist Shyam Sundar Paliwal and educationist Arjun Singh Shekhawat have been awarded excellence in their respective fields.

Khan comes from a traditional family devoted to music based in Jodhpur. He started singing from village to village and from house to house with his family members. His life turned 360 degrees after he met renewed anthropologist Komal Kothari, who spotted his sarangi skill as extraordinary.

The next awardee, Paliwal, had launched Kiran Nidhi Yojana by planting 111 trees for every girl child in his village with a financial scheme to improve the sex ratio in his village Piplantri in Rajsamand. His initiative was readily adopted by other villages, leading to improving the sex ratio in his village.

A retired principal of a government college, Shekhawat is the next recipient of Padma Shri from the state in education and literature. He immensely contributed in highlighting the buried aspects of tribal culture, history, food, etc., in his book, which has become a repository of information of tribes.

(www.news18.com, 08.11.21)

Food testing 'labs on wheels'

Rajasthan Health Minister Raghu Sharma flagged four 'food testing labs



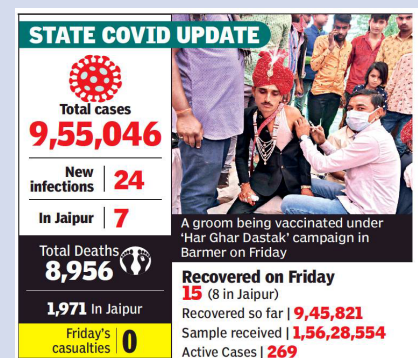
on wheels'. These vans will help people test food items on the spot and collect samples from remote areas. The vans will be deployed at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Ajmer.

The state already has five such mobile food testing labs provided by India's Food Safety and Standards Authority in 2019-20. They are deployed in Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bharatpur and Bikaner. Since Kota and Ajmer did not have any mobile food labs, the state government has decided to deploy new mobile labs there. (Tol, 03.11.21)

'Har Ghar Dastak' gains pace

The 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign, which was launched to scale up COVID-19 vaccination, has gained momentum and more than 46 lakh doses have been administered under the drive so far.

The campaign continued till December 31, 2021. The health department has issued directions to its officials across the state to ensure 100 percent administration of the first dose of COVID-19 by the end of December. Pratapgarh has already achieved it, while the rest of the districts have been asked to achieve the target. (ET, 02.12.21)



Realising the Resolution of 'No One Should Sleep Hungry'

Under the Indira Rasoi scheme, started with the resolution of 'no poor should sleep hungry', the grant amount per plate has been increased from ₹12 to ₹17.



The amount of grant per plate has been increased from ₹12 to ₹17 under the Indira Rasoi Yojna launched by the Gehlot government to realise the resolution of 'No one should sleep hungry'. The state government has taken this decision to maintain food quality and rising inflation. Now Indira Rasoi will get ₹5 more per plate, due to which the quality of food will increase even in this inflation.

With this decision of CM Gehlot on New Year, given the increased prices of food items, the operation of Indira Rasoi will be facilitated and quality and nutritious food will be provided to the needy people continuously. With this decision of the Chief Minister (CM Gehlot), 358 Indira cooks operating in the state will get an additional grant of ₹5 per plate.

The state government will bear an additional financial expenditure of ₹27.63 crore per annum. ₹8 per plate will continue to be taken from the beneficiary as before. It is noteworthy that Indira Rasoi is being operated based on 'neither profit nor loss' by more than 300 servicemen / NGOs in the state. Due to the increased prices of food items and LPG, the kitchen operators were facing problems in the operation of the kitchen. In view of inflation, they demanded the Chief Minister to increase the grant amount.

Urban Development Minister Shanti Dhariwal had also urged to take appropriate decisions in this regard. Taking a sensitive decision on this, the Chief Minister approved to increase the grant amount so that hot and nutritious food can be provided to the poor, deprived sections, labourers,

rickshaw pullers and other needy people by sitting respectfully for just ₹8.

So far, 4.79 crore food plates have been served under the scheme. Out of these, about 1.25 crore beneficiaries have been served free food. During the COVID period, this kitchen proved to be very useful for the needy, patients and their families and free food was provided to 71 lakh infected and needy people. Food is also being provided to the candidates appearing in various competitive examinations through Indira Rasoi.

There is a real-time online entry of beneficiaries in the scheme, a transparent process for kitchen operation. On arrival at Indira Rasoi, the name and mobile number of the beneficiary and his father are entered on the online portal. On reaching the kitchen on the beneficiary's mobile, thanks and a toll-free number are sent. Based on these entries, the online data of the portal is paid directly to the kitchen operator in their bank account. A penalty of ₹2,000 per coupon has been made for the entry of any wrong coupon by the kitchen operator.

Arrangements have been made for Aadhaar authentication of invoices to pay state grants to operators. When the kitchen operator prepares the bill, the payment is made online directly in his account. There is a provision of 12 percent annual penalty on the concerned officer for non-payment of kitchen operators within seven days.

The article appeared in zeenews.india.com, on January 01, 2022



Community Kitchens: An Idea into Reality

CUTS initiative has provided sustainable self-employment to 15 persons with disabilities who served 245,000 meals in Chittorgarh under Community Kitchen Programme, 'Indira Rasoi'. The Government of Rajasthan honoured our best community kitchen service and gave a Certificate of Appreciation and memento to the organisation.

Sources: BS: Business Standard; BT: Bharat Times; DB: Dainik Bhaskar; DNA: Daily News & Analysis; ET: Economic Times; FT: Financial Times; IE: Indian Express; IT: India Today; JT: Japan Times; TH: The Hindu; Tol: Times of India

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