

## New Year with New Hope & Directions

**- Lalit Garg**

Departing the passing year and receiving the New Year - is a new path where life takes a new turn. We welcome the New Year in such diverse scenarios like the Corona epidemic, natural crisis, economic turbulence and political upheaval, international change, peasant movement and the establishment of peace and democracy in Kashmir with the thought and resolution that we should now do something new in the upcoming year. It is to be made new, to establish new footprints and to compensate for the losses of the past year. Keeping an eye on the shortcomings and disaster situations of the past year, we have to take a pledge to heal the wounds caused by such ill circumstances of the past year and to create new life by filling them with new enthusiasm and energy.



Accepting the existence of another, development of all, support of all, environmental protection, development of immunity and giving preference to others views - these are the pillars of peace-loving, healthy, good governance and civil society and this is the basis for making the New Year's Resolution.

Today everyone considers their understanding as the ultimate truth. And this is where the battle of beliefs starts. Five thousand battles have been fought in three thousand years.

The unanimous sentence is that "more wars are fought with brains than on the field." Even today India is struggling with the misdeeds and conspiracies of Pakistan and China and we have given the befitting reply to both of them and we have to give them strong replies in future also. In the crisis of 2020, we also have seen faith and hope in the form of various activities like the foundation of the temple of Lord Shri Ram, lit lamps and done clapping, sent medicines and medical aid to foreign countries.

The year 2020 became challenging not only from Corona catastrophe and disease to the standard of living but also from the point of view of economic, political, social, employment and business. In the past one year, there have been many major changes in the Corona period. Various social events like marriages, entertainments and travelling should be controlled by following the lockdown and social distance. People's entertainment mediums also changed during the lockdown. The means of entertainment like theatres, bars, shopping malls have closed and people sit in front of the TV at their homes.

Doordarshan started old serials like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Sri Krishna; and these epic sagas became a big hit and when new episodes of different serials did not come due to the shooting stops, people started spending time watching web series etc. Not only this, big screen films are also being released on the third screen. During lockdown in the houses, people were seen doing household chores on their own, all the families started playing games like Ludo, carrom board etc. for the time pass and most of the offices



are still closed due to work from home.

India has become an established culture. Drastic situations such as dozens of earthquakes, floods in the Northeast, storms in eastern India and deaths due to lightning strikes in Bihar have also been included in this year's major problems. Apart from this, as far as politics is concerned, it was also fierce in the year. The BJP, through its mass rallies, interacted with the activists and publicized the achievements of the government on the first anniversary of the second term of the Modi government. The Congress, while doing negative politics the whole time, has also been isolated among the opposition parties. This year has broken into havoc for terrorism. Many districts of Jammu and Kashmir became terrorism-free this year and so far hundreds of terrorists have been killed in many operations. The special thing is that most of the terrorist commanders have also been piled up. Several incidents of ceasefire violations were reported from Pakistan which was given a befitting reply. Kashmir now has a peaceful atmosphere than before.

In the same year, the Narendra Modi government has made many impossible

announcements. They have fulfilled the dreams which this country had seen. The people of the country had seen. In Jammu and Kashmir, along with the step of making Article 370 ineffective, the work of dividing the state into two parts also took place during this period. After this decision of the Modi government, one country, one legislation and one mark has come into force in Kashmir. Amid the ongoing lockdown caused by the Coronavirus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the chaotic economy of India with a special relief package of 20 lakh crore rupees to boost the country's economy.

This year the determination to be vocal towards the local became firm. A defence expo was also held in the capital of Uttar Pradesh, in which foreign companies saw and appreciated the defence products of indigenous companies. Defence contracts were also signed with many foreign companies during this period. In the parliamentary elections in Britain, when Boris Johnson was once again elected Prime Minister. There had been interesting presidential elections in the US and Jo Biden became the President.

Narendra Modi started projects worth Rs 1250 crore in

his parliamentary constituency Varanasi and flagged off the Kashi-Mahakal Express. The Shaheen Bagh movement became an irony. US President Donald Trump came to India with full tussle. India became the fifth largest economy in the world, overtaking France and Britain. Jyotiraditya Scindia resigned from the Congress and joined the BJP during the political turmoil. In a week-long political development in Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath's government fell and Shivraj Singh Chauhan once again took power in Madhya Pradesh. The gathering of members of the Tablighi Jamaat and not following the lockdown became a major issue in Markaj, located in Nizamuddin, Delhi. When it came to light that most of the Jamaati are Corona positive then the difficulties of the governments increased.

Due to the lockdown, migrant labourers migrated towards their home states due to loss of livelihood. Since the means of public transport were not available, these workers returned to their homes on foot, riding bicycles and trucks, even in container trucks and concrete mixing machine vehicles, and many workers were also victims of accidents.

The President, Prime Minister and his cabinet members and MPs decided that they would get their salaries reduced by 30 percent for one year and this amount would be spent in fighting covid-19. In the same month, the program of online education started on the initiative of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

In the same month, the issue of homecoming of students studying in Kota of Rajasthan also arose.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh launched Arogya Setu App. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package was announced under which free food grains were announced for three months to poor families. 7 people died and many fell ill due to gas leaking from a company's plant in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Apart from this, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the link road for Mansarovar Yatra through video conferencing. Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan was also elected as Director of WHO Executive Board. The same month began a tussle over LAC with China, and Nepal too changed its map showing its eyes to include three Indian regions. This year took many celebrities away from us.

Emerging from complicated circumstances, the New Year is appearing with a new message, a new address, a new question, a new goal. To make the New Year truly successful and meaningful, we need to wear some life-mantras. Just like this, our scriptures are full of life-mantras. Each mantra is directional.

One feels like reading it, as if the road to life has been paved. It is difficult to walk on that path, but those who walk get great success which is permanent.

There is a mantra in the Kathopanishad - 'Utishat jagrat prapya varanibodhat.' It means - get up, wake up and go to such superior people, who can introduce you to the Supreme God, introduce you to pleasant situations. This courageous journey will give meaning to power; time and this will make the New Year meaningful.

## LAUNCHES MISSED CALL FACILITY FOR LPG CONSUMERS

**New Delhi:** Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, in a step towards improving ease of living, launched from Bhubaneswar, the facility of LPG refilling and new connection registration by giving a single missed call. IndianOil's Indane LPG customers can use single missed call number 8454955555 for refill booking - for all India and for registering new connections. Currently the option of registering new connections is available only in Bhubaneswar and will soon be rolled out to the rest of the country.

Inaugurating the missed call facility and terming it as a New Year Gift to the country, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel said, "It is the desire of Hon'ble Prime Minister to ensure energy availability, accessibility, and affordability to the common man of the country. While our Ministry has ensured LPG penetration in the country is now almost 99% up from 55.9% in 2014, we are now looking at making this kitchen-friendly fuel more accessible to all. Until a few years back, it was very difficult to get an LPG connection, and customers had to wait for a prolonged period to obtain one. Today now with just a missed call a new connection can be obtained. This has been made possible due to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a Digital India."

Advantages of the missed call refill booking facility over



the IVRS facility include quicker booking as customers do not have to hold on call, no call charges, customers who are not adept with IVRS like senior citizens can opt for refill booking via missed call. This facility will also ease life of rural consumers.

XP100 - flagged off from Digboi Refinery - now available in Bhubaneswar

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also rolled out the second phase of IndianOil's world class premium grade petrol (Octane 100) branded as XP100. In this second phase, IndianOil's branded XP100 was rolled out in seven more cities including Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Indore, and Bhubaneswar today. The Minister had launched XP100 and rolled out the first phase a month ago on December 1, 2020 at select outlets in 10 Indian cities.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan on the occasion of launch said, "India is part of an exclusive club of countries globally where petrol with 100 or higher-octane number is sold. XP100 has reiterated our commitment for providing better energy solutions to all. XP100 has been developed indigenously and is in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and our Hon'ble Prime Minister's Energy Vision."

On this occasion, the Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also green flagged the dispatch of first load of XP100 from the country's oldest operating refinery at Digboi. This advanced petrol produced from Digboi Refinery will cater to the needs of retail outlets in cities located in country's North-East region.

"The Digboi Refinery started the fuel revolution in the country over a hundred years back, and this very refinery today has produced the most superior form of petrol in the country. This will go down as a watershed moment in the India's energy journey," said Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

"Digboi now joins the elite group of Mathura and Barauni Refineries by producing XP-100 Petrol using existing infrastructure and secondary processing facilities. Established in 1901, the Digboi Refinery was Asia's first oil refinery and currently one of the world's oldest operating refineries. This is indeed a commendable achievement, being the oldest Refinery, producing the most advanced petrol available in the country," said Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

## Another Feather in Cap: DM Varma announced Opening of Janta Clinic

District will get gift of Janata Clinic in new year 2021



**Sriganganagar:** District Collector Shri Mahavir Prasad Verma will give the first Janta clinic in Sriganganagar District in 2021. District Collector Shri Mahavir Prasad Verma directed the Education Department

to issue a No Objection Certificate by prohibiting the District Education Officer Secondary to open the Janata Clinic at the Government School which is currently lying vacant in the Gram Panchayat Kalyan. Chief Minister Mr. Ashok Gehlot has asked to open five Janta Clinics in each District. Under which the first Janata Clinic will be available soon in Sriganganagar District. The district collector made this quick decision during the review meeting held on 5th January. He is well known for his favourable decisions for poor people. Rajasthan Government has announced different schemes for the benefit of poor people. Opening of Janta clinic is one of them. These clinics will give huge relief to the common people. Chief Medical and Health Officer Doctor. Girdhari Lal Mehra said that two other proposals have been sent for the clinics. Cowin preparations in progress - District Collector instructed to complete all preparations for Covid-19 vaccination and the Chief Medical and Health Officer informed that 63 sites have been selected for this, including 58 state and 5 private institutions. Dry run will be on 7 January for vaccination in which rehearsal of vaccination will be done by mock drill. District collector was conscious from day one to control the spread of corona virus in Sriganganagar. After the struggle of 6 months, Corona cases are dropped in the District.

## Hindustan Zinc reinforces its commitment to sustainable mining, becomes #COP26 Business Leader

**Udaipur:** Sustainability is embedded in the business philosophy of HZL and the company is fully committed to adoption of sustainable practices and conservation of natural resources. Reinforcing its commitment to responsible mining, the company has become #COP26 Business Leader and is consistently working towards achieving Science-Based Targets (SBT's) to curb carbon footprint.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Arun Misra, CEO, Hindustan Zinc said, "HZL as a responsible corporate is committed to adopting and maintaining global best practices for reducing carbon footprint from its business operations. Setting Science Based Targets has helped us to define our sustainable roadmap and is certainly expected to reduce the company's overall energy consumption, safeguard its future and enhance brand value".

Meeting science-based targets in the context of a growing business can be difficult but responding to this challenge, HZL has implemented a range of measures to reduce its Scope 1 and 2 emissions throughout its supply chain. The company has been diligently investing towards efficient use of energy and gainful utilization of wastes using environment-friendly methods. The company has green power capacity of 349 MW, which includes 275 MW of wind (non-captive), 40 MW (captive) solar capacity and 34 MW of waste heat power. Importantly, most of the company's projects have been rated under Gold Standard.

In the past 17 years, Hindustan Zinc has invested more than \$3 billion in expansion projects and has achieved a mined metal capacity of 1.2 million tonnes, adding value to state and nation's development. The company also employs more than 19,000 people across its units and is Great Place to Work-Certified™ by Great Place to Work Institute. The induced impact on India's GDP is 0.53 per cent and contributes around 1.8% to the GDP of the state of Rajasthan.

In terms of scale, Hindustan Zinc has gradually increased its capacities and product portfolio, without compromising on quality and efficiency parameters. The company recognizes that being more sustainable is being more successful. From innovations to scaling sustainable mining models to long-term environmental and community growth, the company's sustainability strategies are driven with the purpose of caring & growing together across the value chain. Continued efforts towards sustainable mining have resulted in HZL being ranked 1st in Asia Pacific by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, being a 2.41x water positive company, a member of the FTSE4Good Index for the 4th consecutive year among other achievements and has scored 'A' rating by CDP for climate change.

The company has also taken a holistic view in setting its sustainability goals 2025 and over the next five years, it will focus on expanding its efforts work towards creating positive changes. The five-year sustainability development goals will provide the company with additional opportunities to improve performance and also enable it to focus on reducing the carbon impacts across the value chain. The purpose of the COP26 Business Leaders is to bring an exclusive & experienced group of industry leaders from across a diverse number of economic sectors to get perspectives on how to drive further climate action across value and supply chains.

**About Hindustan Zinc Limited - Hindustan**

Zinc, a Vedanta Group Company, is one of the world's largest and India's only integrated producer of Zinc-Lead and Silver. The Company has its Headquarter at Udaipur in the State of Rajasthan where it has its Zinc-Lead mines and smelting complexes. Hindustan Zinc is self-sufficient in power with captive thermal power plants and also has ventured into green energy by setting up wind power plants. The Company is ranked 1st in Asia-Pacific and globally 7th in Dow Jones Sustainability Index in 2020 amongst Mining & Metal companies. Hindustan

Zinc is a certified Water Positive Company, a member of the FTSE4Good Index and has scored 'A' rating by CDP for climate change. As a socially responsible corporate, Hindustan Zinc has been relentlessly working to improve the lives of rural and tribal people residing near its business locations. The company is amongst the Top 15 CSR Spenders in India and are currently reaching out to 500,000 people in 184 core villages of Rajasthan and 5 in Uttarakhand. As a market leader, Hindustan Zinc governs about 77% of growing Zinc market in India.

## MLSU- VC reaches NCC Headquarters

**Udaipur:** Vice-Chancellor Professor Amarika Singh himself reached NCC headquarters in Jaipur on Monday to start National Cadet Corps (NCC) branches in all constituent colleges at Mohanlal Sukhadia University. Vice-Chancellor Prof Singh met senior NCC officials and said that at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, NCC activities are currently conducted only in Science College. Students of Commerce, Arts, Law, and Management cannot take NCC as it does not have units in the respective colleges. There was also a long-standing demand of the students that units of NCC be started in all colleges. In this regard, Vice-Chancellor Professor Amarika Singh reached NCC headquarters in Jaipur on Monday and met NCC Director Lt Col Dr. PS Rathore and apprised them about it. After talking to the Vice-Chancellor Professor in Colonel Rathore, he assured me that he would arrange to start the NCC unit in all the colleges soon after negotiating at the departmental level, preparing the proposal.

## Press Statement on Restricted Emergency approval of COVID-19 virus vaccine

The Subject Expert Committee of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) met on 1st and 2nd January, 2021 and made recommendations in respect of proposal for Restricted Emergency Approval of COVID-19 virus vaccine of M/s Serum Institute of India and M/s Bharat Biotech as well as Phase III clinical trial of M/s Cadila Healthcare Ltd.

The Subject Expert Committee consists of domain knowledge experts from the fields of pulmonology, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology, paediatrics, internal medicine, etc. M/s Serum Institute of India, Pune has presented a Recombinant Chimpanzee Adenovirus vector vaccine (Covishield) encoding the SARS-CoV-2 Spike (S) glycoprotein with technology transfer from AstraZeneca/Oxford University. The firm submitted safety, immunogenicity and efficacy data generated on 23,745 participants aged ≥ 18 years or older from overseas clinical studies. The overall vaccine efficacy was found to be 70.42%. Further, M/s Serum was granted permission to conduct Phase-III/III clinical trial on 1600 participants within the country. The firm also submitted the interim safety and immunogenicity data generated from this trial and the data was found comparable with the data from the overseas clinical studies. After detailed deliberations Subject Expert Committee has recommended for the grant of permission for restricted use in emergency situation subject to certain regulatory conditions.

The clinical trial ongoing within the country by the firm will continue. M/s Bharat Biotech has developed a Whole Virion Inactivated Corona Virus Vaccine (Covaxin) in collaboration with ICMR and NIV (Pune), from where they received the virus seed strains. This vaccine is developed on Vero cell platform, which has well established track record of safety and efficacy in the country & globally. The firm has generated safety and immunogenicity data in various animal species such as mice, rats, rabbits, Syrian hamster, and also conducted challenge studies on non-human primates (Rhesus macaques) and hamsters. All these data has been shared by the firm with CDSCO. Phase I and Phase II clinical trials were conducted in approx. 800 subjects and the results have demonstrated that the vaccine is safe and provides a robust immune response.

The Phase III efficacy trial was initiated in India in 25,800 volunteers and till date, ~22,500 participants have been vaccinated across the country and the vaccine has been found to be safe as per the data available till date.