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SNU
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THE SNU POST

REG NO. SNU/MCAJ/2020

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

KOLKATA

4 PAGES

ISSUE 001

PM Modi to unfurl tricolour on 74th Independence Day

The Centre has asked all states to avoid large congregation, ensure social distancing and webcast the Independence Day events as the novel Coronavirus cases continue to spiral unabated.

Favipiravir now available In India

Favipiravir is the only oral anti-viral treatment approved in the country for the potential treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 disease.



West Bengal: Schools, colleges to remain closed till August 31

Schools and colleges may reopen from September 5, if the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic curve flattens; West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.



Independence Day 2020: INDIA to conduct celebrations digitally; MHA issues advisory

The Centre has asked all states to avoid large congregation of people, and ensure social distancing and wearing of masks while celebrating the Independence Day amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. In an advisory, the Home Ministry said COVID-19 warriors like doctors, health and sanitation workers should be invited in the ceremony as a recognition of their noble service in the fight against the pandemic. According to the Home Ministry, this year the iconic fort will be shut for public from August 1 on wards for sanitisation and preparation ahead of the Independence Day event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag and deliver a speech at the Red Fort in Delhi on the 74th Independence Day on August 15.

"The ceremony at Red Fort will consist of the presentation of a Guard of Honour by the Armed Forces and the Delhi Police to the Prime Minister, unfurling of the National Flag accompanied by playing of the National Anthem and firing of 21-gun salute, speech by the Prime Minister, singing of the National Anthem immediately after the PM's speech, and release of tri-coloured balloons at the end," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in an advisory sent to all states and Union territories. There will definitely be the 'At Home' reception at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi. However, no programme details of the 'At Home' reception has been shared by the Home Ministry. All the states have also been asked to give a fresh push to the theme of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India.

COVID-19 in Kolkata: Cases continue to rise; healthcare infrastructure could soon collapse

While July marked West Bengal's worst month during the Covid-19 pandemic, senior health officials believe the situation may worsen further if people do not take health protocols and restrictions seriously.

"In July, the situation was stressful. In August, it may even be more stressful. It will depend on human behaviour. We are ready to face any situation that prevails, and continuously we are increasing beds and medical facilities for Covid patients," said Director of Health Services Ajay Chakraborty.

Sounding a warning, a senior Department of Health official said, "People of the state are very reluctant about

the infection rate and other fatal aspects of this disease. So, if people are not aware, how can someone expect the caseload to decrease? People are not at all maintaining the precautions to contain the infection."

Renowned virologist Suman Poddar said, "The situation is going to be even worse in August. If the government is serious about the bi-weekly lockdown, then the situation may improve. But, it will actually not happen. We basically need a 15-day strict lockdown to take control of the situation. Otherwise, August and September will be even worse."



SNU FILE IMAGE

Sun Pharma Company Launches COVID-19 Drug Favipiravir In India

New Delhi: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has said it has launched Favipiravir (200 mg) in India under the brand FluGuard at an economical price of Rs 35 per tablet for the treatment of mild to moderate cases of COVID-19. Favipiravir is the only oral anti-viral treatment approved in the country for the potential treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 disease. With over 50,000 COVID-19 cases being reported daily in India, there is an urgent need to provide more treatment options to healthcare professionals, said Kirti Ganorkar, CEO

of India Business at Sun Pharma. "We are launching FluGuard at an economical price to make the drug accessible to more and more patients, thereby reducing their financial burden. This is in line with our continuous efforts to support India's pandemic response," he said in a statement. The company will work closely with the government and medical community to ensure the availability of FluGuard to patients across the country. The stocks of FluGuard will be available in the market this week.



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Modi Cabinet approves National Education Policy 2020

New policy emphasizes early childhood care and education, and 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, released this Wednesday, has introduced a new outlook on education itself. It is a comprehensive guide to the reforms, the Modi government wants to implement on the existing education policy. The existing education policy was set up in 1986, last modified on 1992, hence it was a long time ago. The NEP includes an extension to the Right To

There shall, by 2030, be at least one large multidisciplinary institution in or near every district. Selected universities like those from among the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India. Higher education institutions shall move away from high-stakes examinations towards continuous and comprehensive evaluation. High performing Indian univer-



Education (RTE) from 6 to 14 to 3 to 18, and a plan to increase spending of around 6% of GDP from the usual 4% with the thoughts of bringing it on par with western education systems. According to the policy, there will be no hard separation of learning areas like science and humanities in terms of curricular. There will also not be any separation between co-curricular and extra-curricular areas and all subjects, including arts, music, crafts, sports, yoga, community service, etc. will be curricular.

The focus of school reforms will be to develop a scientific temper in students since a young age. The curriculum would integrate 21st century skills and mathematical thinking. Major reforms in school education would include developing a play-based curriculum of Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE), which will be match the universal standards. From the existing 10 + 2 the NEP will be overseeing its change into 5+3+3+4 which is have 12 years of education with 3 years of anganwadi and preschool, putting a heavy emphasis on foundations of the young children. By 2040, all higher education institutions (HEIs) shall aim to become multidisciplinary institutions, each of which will aim to have 3,000 or more students.

sities will be encouraged to set up campuses in other countries. There has also been talks of clearing the air around the concept of 'year waste'. Every student in University will presumably get appropriate certificate if they choose to leave their line of education at any given time. The announcement came after the NEP 2020 was cleared by the Narendra Modi-led Union cabinet.

"The Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given approval to a new education policy for the 21st century. It is important as for 34 years there were no changes in the education policy," said I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar at a press briefing. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has been renamed as the Ministry of Education. "The much awaited NEP now stands on strong foundational pillars. The super structure must be built through statutory or regulatory interventions during a calibrated and accelerated manner," said Vaidya Subramaniam, the Dean of SASTRA. E-courses are going to be developed in regional languages and virtual labs are going to be developed and a National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) is being created.

Changes in Education System Post-COVID-19

Post covid-19, the world gradually changing its course. In few years, it will definitely be a different place. There are visible changes across a range of behaviours, from shopping and eating out to travel. Understandably, the impact of the pandemic has already been felt on education sector too. It is reasonable to assume that this impact will be here to stay for a fairly long time. This pandemic is an event that has given rise to push to digitalisation of businesses, especially in the education sector. The classroom will be supplemented by online coursework. This way, students may be required to physically attend classes on fewer days and will be free to study at their own pace. All the teachers will have to be trained for online teaching as well. This will go a long way to ensure that they are comfortable with technology and will be able to seamlessly switch between online and offline modes of teaching the curriculum. With information readily available just a click away, the role of a teacher from that of a 'knowledge-giver' will gradually move to one of a 'facilitator' in the development of learners and helping them to become life-long learners.

Educators will have to bring in a lot of innovations to bring in the element of interactivity and collaboration in their e-learning modules.



As and when schools, coaching centres and other educational institutions open up after Covid-19, the new social distancing rules will necessarily change the existing ways of imparting education. Schools might consider working in shifts, classrooms will follow strict sanitization processes and social distancing will become a norm for all activities.

With the rise in use of technology and artificial intelligence, this pandemic is clearly a sign of changing times and human behaviour.

-Srijita Banerjee

Assam and Bihar continue to battle floods

Six people died in Assam and Bihar on Wednesday due to floods which have affected over 55 lakh people in the two states, while heavy rains lashed parts of Kerala inundating low lying areas and partially disrupting rail and road traffic.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Kerala's high-range Idukki district with a forecast of widespread extremely heavy showers. However, a fresh spell of rains brought relief to the national capital from the sultry weather but caused waterlogging in low-lying areas, affecting traffic movement, electricity and water supply.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said, "The monsoon trough will be close to Delhi-NCR from Tuesday evening to Thursday."

"During this period, southwesterly winds from the Arabian Sea and easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal will reach Haryana, Delhi-NCR, West Uttar Pradesh and northeast Rajasthan," he said, adding that under the influence of these systems, heavy to very heavy rainfall will occur over these areas.

In Assam, three people drowned in floodwater and close to 17 lakh people across 21 districts remained affected by the deluge despite an improvement in the flood situation across the state, according to an official bulletin on Wednesday Till Tuesday, more than 19.81 lakh people were suffering due to the deluge across 21 districts. At present, 1,536 villages are inundated and 92,899.95 hectares of crop area has been devastated across Assam, the ASDMA said.

The death toll due to the flood in Bihar rose to 11 with three fresh fatalities while the number of people affected by the calamity reached close to 40 lakh, the state disaster management department said.

All the three deaths were reported from Darbhanga district, it said.

The number of people affected by the floods, caused by heavy rainfalls in catchment areas along the Indo-Nepal border, has now reached 38.47 lakh. Residents of nearly a thousand villages across 12 districts of Bihar have been hit by the calamity.

Ayodhya Ram Mandir: History behind the architecture marvel in Ayodhya

The five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi (now retired) had on November 9, 2019 unanimously delivered its verdict that the land in Ayodhya where Babri Masjid once stood, belongs to Ram Lalla. The court's order brought an end to a long fought legal battle and paved the way for the construction of a grand Ram Mandir. The top court ordered the Centre to set up trust to oversee the temple construction world. Besides, it also directed the government to allot a five-acre plot to Sunni Waqf Board at a prominent location in Ayodhya for the construction of a mosque.

Chronology of events leading to construction

1528-1529: A mosque was built on the site by the then Mughal emperor Babur and hence, it is known as Babri Masjid.

1850s: Beginning of the dispute, following which communal violence took place. Hindu side sought possession of the site, however, denied by the then colonial rulers.

1946: Akhil Bharatiya Ramayana Mahasabha, a wing of Hindu Mahasabha, started an agitation for the possession of the disputed site.

1949: An idol of Lord Rama was found inside the Babri mosque. This led to a protest from the Muslim side, after which both sides moved to court and filed a civil suit. Following the development, the state government had declared the entire area as 'dispute' and lock the gates until further orders.

1950: Two suits filed in Faizabad civil court by the Hindu side in which it sought permission to worship the idols of Ram Lalla.

1959: Nirmohi Akhara had filed the third suit claiming to be the stakeholder of the site.

1961: The Sunni Central Wakf Board of the Uttar Pradesh moved to court demanding the removal of idols and possession of the site.

1986: On the direction of the District Court, the lock was removed and was opened for the Hindus to worship.

1992: The demolition of the Babri masjid took place on December 6, following which a riot took place between Hindus and Muslims. The Government of India has set up Liberhan Commission



1993: The centre on April 3 passed 'Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act' for the acquisition of land in the disputed site.

1994: In a landmark Ismail Faruqui case on October 24, the Supreme Court of India had stated that a masjid was not an integral to Islam.

2010: In a 2:1 majority, the Allahabad High court on September 30, had ruled three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

2011: The Supreme Court had put a stay order on the Allahabad High Court verdict.

2016: After the formation of the BJP government at the centre, former Union Minister Subramanian Swamy filed a petition in the apex court seeking construction of Ram Temple at the site.

2017: On March 21, the then CJI JS Khehar had suggested out-of-court settlement among all the parties. On August 7, the top court constituted three-judge bench to hear pleas challenging the 1994 verdict of the Allahabad High Court.

2019: The apex court had referred the case for mediation, asked the panel to complete all the required proceedings within 8 weeks. However, the panel failed to come to any conclusion.

August 06, 2019: The top court begins marathon hearing on a day-to-day basis. Hearing goes on for 40 days.

November 9, 2019: The Supreme Court delivers its verdict. The SC ruled that the land belongs to Ram Lalla and ordered the government to provide an alternative five-acre land to the Sunni Waqf Board.

December 12, 2019: The Supreme Court rejected multiple pleas for a review of its November 9 ruling handing over the land in Ayodhya to Ram Lalla.

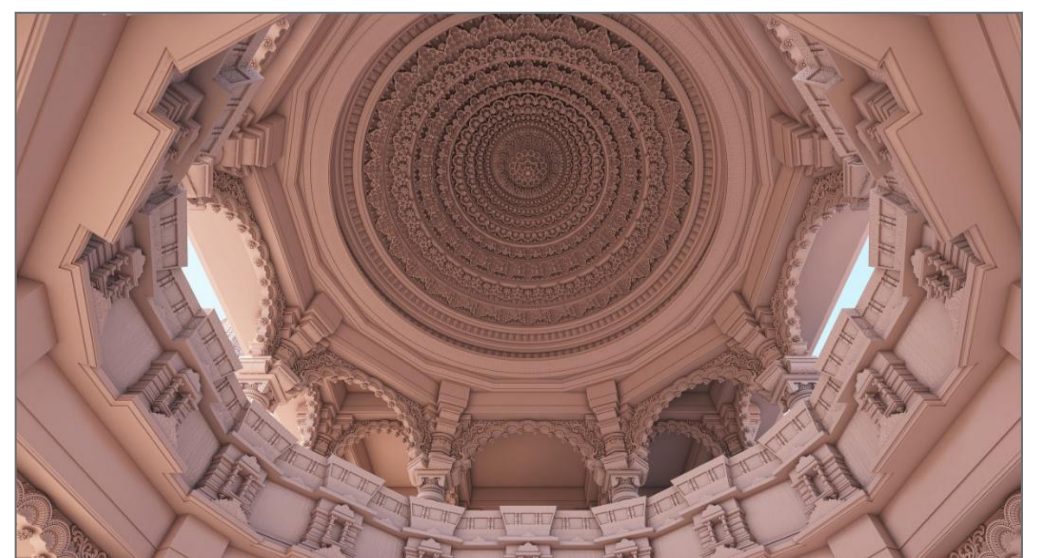
February 5, 2020: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces the formation of a 15-member Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra to oversee construction of a Ram Mandir at the erstwhile disputed site in Ayodhya.

Ayodhya's Magnificent Ram Mandir

The upcoming Ram Temple in Ayodhya will stand tall at 161 feet, and have three floors supported by 318 pillars. The structure has been designed

to allow a 'parikrama' (circulation) of devotees. Design for the proposed temple was first drafted between 1985 and 1986.

However, the initial design has now been modified to ensure that the temple can accommodate more devotees. The proposed width of the structure is 140 feet. Spread over 69 acres, this will be the only temple in the world with five domes. That the temple will take about three and a half years to complete. Over two lakh bricks with the 'Sri Rama' inscribed in different languages collected from all over the country thirty years ago will be used in the foundation.



ARTVOCACY- More than just a Hashtag A gloomy lockdown period? Not for SNU's Mass Communication and Journalism Department!

To draw or not to draw (attention), that is the question! Artists have been using artwork and graffiti to teach and raise concerns over issues that matter since archival times and thus a portmanteau word was born combining Art and Advocacy-Artvocacy! One of the biggest incognito teachers of all time!

The best example of Artvocacy would be that of the global case in China where five girls regularly used art and graffiti to drive home the message of feminism in light of the MeToo movement which started exposing criminals hidden in plain sight but they were arrested on March 8th, as they were planning to commemorate International Women's Day by handing out stickers about sexual harassment on public transportation. News of the arrest of the Feminist Five spread quickly through the hashtag campaign #FreeTheFive, which went viral on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook globally, sparking an international outcry from rights organizations and world leaders. And in a world where hashtags win more wars than missiles, #Free

The Five movement led to the release of the girls under huge, global outcry and pressure. That's the power of Artvocacy. Similarly, #NotInMyName movement in India had an illustration of a pair of blood-spattered chappal made by artist and activist Orijit Sen as the battle sigil in their cause of the nationwide movement against intolerance.

Since you reached the end of this article, why not Google about "Artivism" and the non-conformist way the "Guerilla Girls" are Artvocating and teaching the society to unlearn. So the next time the rebel in you needs to protest, how about challenging creatively for the cause?

-Swagata Dey

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been a big support in fight against coronavirus: Modi

Prime Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a week-long campaign to free India of garbage and stressed that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been a big support in the fight against coronavirus.

Delivering the inaugural address at the launch of the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra here, which was also attended by students, Mr. Modi urged children to follow social distancing norms and wear masks to guard against coronavirus.

"Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been a big support in fight against coronavirus," he said. The week-long campaign to free India of garbage will be till August 15. Mr. Modi said the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's

India keeps 2021 T20 WC; 2022 edition in Australia

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has retained India as the host of the 2021 T20 World Cup and reassigned the deferred 2020 edition to Australia in 2022. While finalising these decisions on Friday, the ICC Board also postponed the Women's ODI World Cup from early 2021 to 2022.

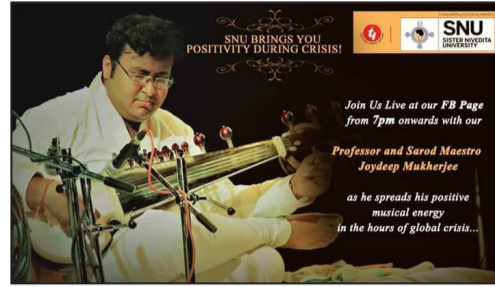
Aatmnirbhar Bharat: Apple Starts Manufacturing iPhone 11 In India

Apple has started production of its flagship iPhone 11 at Foxconn near Chennai, India. It is the first time in the country that the tech giant can build a flagship unit. Retail sources tell that iPhone 11 is now available in stores with "Assembled in India" tags. As of now, consumers do not see the downturn in the market, although it is assumed that we may eventually see this happen as making these devices locally saves Apple 22 percent on import duty.

Going forward, Apple may consider exporting the 11s of the Indian-made iPhone, and we still need clarification on that.

Experts agree that for India to become a manufacturing and export hub for handsets due to the drive of the Indian government, massive opportunities lie ahead. OEMs are expected to set up production bases in India, following the introduction of the PLI scheme in April.

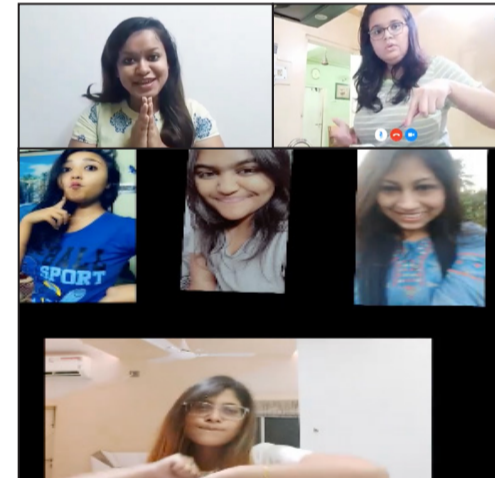
Not only is Apple planning to move its smartphone production from China to India to exploit the PLI program, but homegrown brand Lava also plans. Apple also aims to transfer smartphone production from China to India by 20 percent, and this move by Apple is a step in that direction. Piyush Goyal tweeted calling the change a "Huge boost to make in India!"



- It all began with a humble initiative: 'Distant Socializing to maintain social distance' where the students and faculty members of Sister Nivedita University performed live from their home to spread the power of positiveness among us through Songs, Recitations, Instrumentals, Book reading sessions and many more.



- With the lockdown finding normalcy in our lives, we glimpsed through how our students and teachers were adapting to their new normal through adopting new or reconnecting with the old hobbies, multitasking while working from home to expert pet care to name a few.



Presenting audio visual content is a big part of Mass Communication and Journalism where lockdown period saw submissions of ideas such as:

- The amazing female students grooved to the song Pinjra Khol, making use of technology just to bring a smile of happiness.
- Few came up with the new meaning of every alphabet reminding us how important it is to stay United with the hash-tag campaign- #FirMuskuraegaIndia

- A quirky video by students posing as types of students we find in this growing Video Call formats.
- 'The Aftermath!?', the students came up with an educational documentary on COVID 19 where they pointed us to the fact that the pandemic has been a blessing in disguise for the nature. With hash-tag campaign #ConsumeWithCare.



Catapulting the number of guest lecture and workshops series, the lockdown period saw the following industry experts turning our lockdown life into a series of learning with fun. We had esteemed Guests, namely: Jayanta Ghoshal, Suchita Kudale-Motwani and Gazal Madan from Entre Nous Experiences Debjani Choubey, Shishir Sinha, Nikhil Naz, Debasis Basak, Subhajt Sengupta, Debesh Chattopadhyay, Shashidhar Nanjundiah, Ketan Vaidya, Tarunjeet Rattan, Carl Savio, Anurag Jetley, Saurabh Bhowal, Cyrus Dastur, Kankana Chakraborty talking to the SNUites about Metamorphism in Film-making.



THE GROUND HEROES, celebrating the courage and struggle of Journalists during the time of crisis. Organised by the department of Mass Communication and Journalism the panelists were esteemed journalists from various news houses: Gautam Bhattacharya, Snehasis Sur, Moupia Nandy, Minal Pareek, Manogya Loiwal, Tamal Saha.



Evolved Communication and New Normal, moderated by Prof. Arindam Basu, we had the pleasure of learning from some of the thought leaders talking about communication in the new normal, who spoke on the following topics: Parvati K: Changes in handling lifestyle PR, Neha Khandalgaonkar: Sports pr in New normal, Tituraj Kashyap Das: PR in Medical World Changes and Challenges, Swetank Jain: Corporate PR in New Normal Mrinall Kanti Dey: Agency PR challenges and Road map ahead. -Swagata Dey