

Assured MSP is the key

LEGALISING the Minimum Support Price (MSP) recommended for all 23 crops by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is the best way to boost the farmers' income. The uncertainty over assured payment on their crop yields is one of the major reasons for the ongoing farmers' protests against the new farm laws.

Assured MSP on all crops will give farmers freedom to grow other crops besides wheat and paddy. This choice will provide relief to the underground water reserves that have dwindled due to paddy plantation. Farm economist has been repeatedly saying that at the current rate of water usage, particularly for paddy, Punjab could go dry within 25 years. "Our groundwater level of India is falling at the rate of about 20-25 cm each year and farmers don't get an assured price on most of their crops.

"Privatisation of agriculture has failed in the US, Canada, Europe and China. India is no exception; so, unless the ground reality of farmers' costs and returns is not made a part of the agriculture policy, the farming sector will not thrive." Besides paddy and wheat, the CACP has also recommended MSP

for cotton, chana, masur, mustard, sugarcane and jute. A progressive farmer, Ram Singh says, "The MSP, by definition, is the minimum justifiable price that is offered

to the farmer. It is supposed to be 25 per cent above what he spends. The Swaminathan Commission wanted this to be raised to 50 per cent."

On the impact of lack of assured MSP, Gurdeep Singh, a farmer from Bathinda district, says, "In the absence of MSP, our government imports maize, oilseeds and other products. If our crops get assured prices, we can grow more of them and become self-sufficient." Currently, maize grown during February-March goes for as low as Rs 800-900 per quintal against the MSP of Rs 1,850. Sunflower sells for Rs 3,500 per quintal against the MSP of Rs 5,885, he adds.

Agri economist Prof SS Gill recently argued that if the government also started buying crops other than wheat and paddy at MSP, through its own agencies or aligning with the private sector, farmers would be benefited.

The government's target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 is meaningless, as "There is no scientific basis to work out the average of a farmer's income today

Editorial

ACB to ensure complainant's legal work is get done- Dinesh MN

Udaipur: Additional Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau Dinesh MN said 2020 had been a successful year for the department with more than 300 officials including an IAS, trapped for corrupt practices.

"CM Ashok Gehlot launched the ACB helpline 1064 in the month of June and since then, we have become more accessible to the common public which is stepping ahead to report about the corrupt officers and staff in different departments" Dinesh said in a brief interaction with the media said. The ADG on an official tour in Udaipur met people from various walks of life and even took suggestions from various associations on their dealings with government offices.

"Any person, even from a village, who wishes to lodge a complaint against any corrupt official, can simply dial 1064 and speak to our team which will guide him where to take up his complaint in any city. Maybe the ACB team would reach the complainant, verify the complaint and trap the corrupt official like we did in Chidawa recently" Dinesh said.

He further said ACB Rajasthan had always been ahead in traps and exposing corrupt people and now with the Zero tolerance policy and proactive measures of the state government, public is trusting the department which is the reason for the increase in trap cases in recent times.

"No one can escape unscathed be it anyone from our department or an IAS, our recent actions have proved it" Dinesh said. He also said that the ACB will now monitor if the complainant who got someone trapped, has been able to get his legal work done from the concerning department.

"The state government is particular to see that the complainants get their genuine works done after traps. The Home Secretary recently took a meeting of the ACB and heads of all departments to impart directions, high level monitoring would be done on all traps to ensure that the complainants do not have to suffer" he said.

Speaking about his attachment with Mewar and in particular Udaipur where he had served as the Superintendent of Police, Dinesh said he could never forget the love and respect showered by the people of Mewar who stood by him and the team during their bad times when they were jailed in connection to the Sohrabuddin encounter case.

SS Rajamouli, Karan Johar launch Santosh Sivan's Mumbaikar poster

New Year marks new beginnings for our film industry, with ace directors SS Rajamouli and Karan Johar releasing the poster of Mumbaikar, an action thriller with the heart and emotions of Mumbai. Said Karan Johar, "I am very very pleased and honoured to share with you, two gentlemen whose work I have admired and applauded in Cinema. One is Santosh Sivan, the prolific cinematographer and director whose work is tremendous, and the world has acknowledged it and continues to. The other is the brilliant artiste, the genius artiste Vijay Sethupathi Sir. His work has been again world-acclaimed, applauded and for everyone to see how it has been. These two formidable gentlemen are coming together to make a film, and I have the grand pleasure of actually sharing the first look. It has a formidable ensemble and I cannot wait for you to actually have a look. There is much more coming up..."

State Senior Kala Ratna Award to Artist Subodh Ranjan

Udaipur: International Modern Realist artist Subodh Ranjan Sharma, who was awarded the International Awards, was announced by the National Art Festival Shreyans (Anta rang Arts and Welfare Society), Tonk to confer the State Senior Kala Ratna. Awarding to Director Dr. Hanuman Singh Kareda and Secretary Pushpendra Jain, this honor will be presented to Subodh Ranjan in honor of the Society on the 14th International Festival of Arts.

PHDCCI Economy GPS Index January 2021

The trinity of the Stimulus of Policy, Financials and Confidence instilled by the Government during the last 9 months have enhanced the economic activity at significantly higher level, the December month economic activity based on the composite index of three broad economic indicators including GST collections, Passenger Vehicle Sales and SENSEX is at its 33 months high, said Sh. Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a press statement issued here today.

The composite PHDCCI Economy GPS including three lead indicators; GST Collections, Passenger Vehicle sales and movement SENSEX is indexed at 100 with a base year of 2018-19 to check quickly the momentum of the economy based on three broad indicators representing not only demand and supply but also revenue growth of the government, financial markets

movement in the country. GST collections indicate the momentum of business activity, passenger vehicle sales is broad indicator of demand activity in the economy and movement of SENSEX indicate mood of the investors both domestic and foreign and India's attractiveness to the foreign investors on the back of various reforms undertaken by the government, said Sh. Sanjay Aggarwal

PHDCCI Economy GPS Index has shown a sharp recovery from the lows of 43.8 in April 2020 to 55.3 in May 2020, 81.8 in June 2020, 92.8 in July 2020, 97.8 in August 2020, 108 in September 2020, 118 in October 2020, 115.4 in November 2020 and 124.1 in December 2020.

The value of PHDCCI Economy GPS Index stood at 124.1 in December 2020, showing an improvement by around 15 points as compared to its value in December 2019 which indicate that the econ-

omy has significantly recovered in the recent months, said Shri Sanjay Aggarwal. The continuous improvement in the broad economic indicators reflect that the worst is behind us. The series of stimulus announce-



ments by the Government in last 9 months under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 along with the calibrated measures undertaken by the RBI have pulled the economy from the lows of Q1 FY 2020-21 (-) 23.9% in Q1 2020-21 and (-) 7.5% in Q2 FY 2020-21, said Shri Sanjay

Aggarwal. With the continuous improvement in the broad economic and business indicators, expectations of a positive GDP growth at 0.1% to 2% in Q3 and 2% to 4% in Q4 FY 2020-21 are becoming strong with a higher growth trajectory in FY 2021-22 at more than 7.7%, said Sh. Sanjay Aggarwal

To continue the momentum of economic and business activity at the same pace, immediate policy attention is required towards credit access to industry and services sectors. Credit disbursement should be the top most priority at this juncture by the banking sector. The focus should be on ensuring provision of hassle-free disbursements of loans vis-à-vis enhanced liquidity for MSMEs, especially in rural sectors, said Shri Aggarwal.

Going ahead, demand creation will have a multiplier effect on enhanced production possibilities, expansion of employment in factories, expansion of capital invest-

ments and overall virtuous circle of growth and development of Indian economy. The increased spending on infrastructure will give a multiplier effect to rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy and to mitigate the daunting impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

Undoubtedly, robust growth of infrastructure is the key ingredient to realize the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The Government can consider raising investment funding for the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) through borrowings from overseas markets by issuance of overseas bonds through an SPV that could act as a mega Development Financial Institution- DFI, said Shri Sanjay Aggarwal.

Also, there is a need to lower interest rates for consumers and businesses, lesser compliances for MSMEs vis-à-vis ease of doing business at the ground level and a lower tax regime to increase

the personal disposable income of the people. Strengthening the MSMEs sector must also be on priority. It is suggested that the value chains of MSMEs should be enhanced; thus, making them more structurally competent to add to their efficiency, share in manufacturing sector, employment generation and the country's overall export growth momentum, said Shri Sanjay Aggarwal.

PHDCCI Economy GPS Index is a composite index of 3 lead economic and business indicators with base year at 2018-19=100, which is a measure of the broad based economic and business activity. The PHDCCI Economy GPS Index is based on the monthly value of three high frequency indicators viz., GST Collection (Rs. Crore), Passenger vehicle sales (units) and SENSEX (Daily average) which provides movement of economic trajectory of the country.

JK Tyre's Kankroli Plant Wins National Water Award



Udaipur: JK Tyre & Industries Limited, a leading Tyre manufacturer, has been on the forefront of sustainable growth. As its ethos, it has been making all out efforts to maintain its leadership in energy usage and this reduc-

tion in carbon footprints.

JK Tyre's efforts have been recently recognized by 'being' conferred with two prestigious recognitions from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

JK Tyre's plant in Kankroli, Rajasthan won National Water Award for its exemplary efforts in water conservation taking a 3M approach to water conservation - Measure, Monitor and Management. The award was announced during the 14th CII National Awards for Excellence in Water Management 2020. JK Tyre's Kankroli plant has the lowest water consumption in the world, in the Tyre Industry.

The Company's Chennai plant was recog-

nized as Excellent 'Energy Efficient Unit' for the sixth consecutive time since 2015. Additionally, the plant also qualified for the recognition of 'National Energy Leader' during the 21st National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2020 Forum by CII.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Anil Makkar, Manufacturing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd said, "JK Tyre has set industry benchmarks for its efforts towards carbon footprint reduction and judicious use of resources. Our effort to create an environmentally conscious organization will help pave the way for industries to go green in the future. Both Kankroli and Chennai are special projects and receiving such prestigious recognitions for our efforts will further motivate us to continue in this path towards sustainable development. Our aim is to adopt and promote sustainable practices

across our plants globally."

The Company has successfully provided a plethora of water saving solutions in its Kankroli plant. The Air Handling Unit has had a replacement from nozzle type to cellulose pad, to decrease water loss through evaporation. Additionally, rainwater harvesting points have been set up across 4 points in the plant, which has led to a decrease in lake water consumption from 620 KLD to 348 KLD and an increase in rainwater consumption to 13.6% of total fresh water use. The Chennai plant has effectively reduced the energy consumption by 11.6% that resulted into excellent cost savings in the span of three years. The plant has also achieved 13% reduction in total CO2-e Emission intensity at 0.88 ton/ton of production. Additionally, the plant is using 57% of total power from renewable source of wind and solar.

Anurag Thakur : Brightening star of youth politics

Not only did the Bharatiya Janata Party win a resounding victory in the election results of the District Development Council in Jammu and Kashmir but the people of the Valley have shown faith in the party, and for this achievement the credit goes to the BJP's youth leader, Union Minister of State for Finance and Company Affairs Anurag Thakur. His far-reaching thinking, mature politics, aggressive attitude and nationalist ideology create a positive aura around the people of Jammu and Kashmir. There is no doubt that he won the hearts of the people of the province through his stormy election campaigns and speeches in these elections. Thakur was not only successful in this new role but he also enthused his leaders.

While playing a successful innings in a sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir, he strengthened the roots of democracy in the province, while sensing the attitude of the people, the parties of the secretive coalition, especially the National Conference and People's Democratic Party leading this alliance, were destroyed. As all know that there was a fair turnout in the Kashmir Valley, where these parties created an atmosphere that people may prefer to stay away from these elections due to the abolition of Article 370 and 35-A. Nothing like this happened. By taking an active part in these elections, the people of the valley proved that they have full faith in India's democratic process.

Thakur's role in creating such an environment has been remarkable. He has previously served in the Leh Hill Council elections and also played his role in Bihar elections.

Anurag Thakur's fast-growing stature has not only surprised his political colleagues, but has also given wings to his stature and potential to jump higher in the party. They have such abilities and political skills that they can carry out every responsibility well. Anurag Thakur has always kept juggling controversies and his charismatic personality came to the light in the election of District Development Council in Jammu and Kashmir. Thakur is not only a fun player of politics but is also very popular. In every role as an officer in the Board of Control for Cricket in India, as President of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association, as MP for Himachal

Pradesh or as a Minister in the Central Government, he created a positive atmosphere by turning the heat of controversy into an opportunity.

There are two different aspects of Anurag Thakur's personality which are clearly seen to be different. The first of these is the graph of his political journey rising rapidly in 12 years. After winning the by-election for Hamirpur parliamentary constituency, he not only took over the political legacy of his father, former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, but he became so adept at the game of power politics that he won four consecutive Lok Sabha elections in succession. Significantly, the Hamirpur parliamentary seat was once the 'karma boom' of his father Dhumal.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee started to create a terrorism-free province in Kashmir and to establish a democratic process; Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought it further. After the abolition of Article 35A, Article 370 etc. and the significant public participation in the recent District Development Council elections, Jammu and Kashmir has now entered a new era. Everything is normal there. Anurag Thakur's activism has established new footprints to give a new impetus to these new laws and democratic winds. He called for voting for development, freedom of terrorism and peace. He has created a wide impact. The state voted in the name of education, employment and development.

Anurag Thakur also effectively raised the issue of Roshni scam. Thakur's efforts to bring the Kashmiri youth into the mainstream made a unique impact, as the youth there were fed up with the monopoly language and the monopoly of some families over the resources of the state.

The leaders of the Gupkar alliance may insist on their demand for the withdrawal of Article 370 afresh, but leaders like Thakur are on fronts like a successful warrior to eradicate their misdeeds. That is why the leaders of the Gupkar alliance should become two-four with the ground reality that this will never happen. Apart from this, it was also working to destroy separatism along with fomenting separatism. The Gupkar coalition should also not ignore



that despite all its negative publicity, the BJP was successful in establishing its roots in the valley. The BJP's fight against the Gupkar coalition and the skill, hard work and prudence that Anurag Thakur carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restore democracy in the valley is being appreciated not only at the national but also the global level. Anurag's assessment is timely because of his unique grip and skill on the fronts of the valley; his work and political character have been such that the public's trust in him is unwavering. He is also capable and fulfilling all his responsibilities.

Anurag Thakur is the combative and living young man of Indian politics, it is true that he belongs to Himachal Pradesh; it is also true that he belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party but even more true is that he belongs to the nation, youths and presents the country on international front. He is now a rare personality in politics. He is a 'Karma Yogi', always ready to serve the country, whether he holds any position or not, his activeness and livelihood is there in every situation, the politics of a nationalist thinking is moving around him.

He symbolizes a series of individuals living on principles and ideals. The legislative perception, aggressive tone and realistic thinking associated with his life are such powerful weapons whose blows have never been vacated.

Anurag Thakur is the Minister of State for Finance these days and has won the confidence of the supreme leadership by handling the economy in a chaotic manner during the Corona epidemic. He is a strong and powerful minister in the Narendra Modi government. He gave an effective presentation of many new innovative approaches, political thinking and many economic plans of Modi and improved the lives of millions through various development and economic projects, communicated hope among them. He is a gem of the BJP. His entire life is a laboratory of practice. It was said in his mind that without practice, experimentation and condolences, no work will be successful.

He always worked for a good cause, not for a compliment. Living life to express oneself, not to please others. The effort of his life is not to make people feel his existence but to feel his work. He gave a new dimension to his life every moment and dominated the hearts of the people. His personality is an ideal political personality that can be called the renewable dictionary of passion, service and reformism. The windows of your life are always open to give a new vision to the nation and society. India is feeling the breath of fresh air coming from these open windows, whatever responsibility has been given to them, they will meet it, there is no doubt.

- Lalit Garg

Udaipur District Administration meets stakeholders to ramp up preparations for COVID-19 Vaccination

Udaipur: Vaccine storage, identification of vaccine centres, vaccination teams, transportation of vaccine and data consolidation of first phase beneficiaries that include healthcare workers were among the topics discussed. Training plan and training of vaccinators was also discussed.

Post the dry run that was carried out last week and yesterday across 116 districts in India, a meeting of key stakeholders in the COVID-19 Vaccination project for Udaipur was held under the Chair of Udaipur District Collector Chetan Deora at 4pm today. The agenda of the meeting included comprehensive planning and review of COVID-19 Vaccination preparedness for Udaipur district. Participants discussed data collection and consolidation of the beneficiaries in phase 1 of the vaccination project, which included health workers at all government hospitals, private hospitals, hospitals and clinics under the ayurvedic and homoeopathic departments across the district. Among the other preparatory matters discussed, the main ones, as per CMHO Dr Dinesh Kharadi, included: Drafting and approving a block-wise micro plan for vaccination preparedness across the district.

Training plan and training of all vaccinators. Formation of Vaccination Booth Teams as per instructions of the Chief Secretary. Identification, preparedness and arrangements at all vaccination booths. Vaccine cold chain management Arranging and earmarking manpower to transport vaccine and storage of the vaccine.