

ALL ARE 'VIRTUAL'

Now COVID-19 Pandemic Proves Technology Can't Stop Rhythm of Mankind



Mrinal Kanti Bhowmik, Ph.D.

are highlighted below:
Virtual Office Work Culture:
 In this pandemic situation, a virtual work system has been already implemented for all types of official work from the government sector to the private sector. The virtual world likewise gives chances to various public sectors so as to upgrade its e-government facilities and other related information of public sector. They would build citizen participation between the users of Internet in fact while giving the data of public sector via superior interactive media. Likewise, all private sector works are taking place as work from home. Every employer are doing their work by sitting inside a home during their office hours and if needed extra hours also. Though a vast majority of office work are carried out digitally, but lack of internet speed and fluctuating disturbance of the network may hamper the work and increase the workload for the working people.
Virtual Education System:
 One of the main sufferers of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown has been institutionalised education. Virtual universes also offer an opportunity for the staff to push ahead from an educator focused on a scholarly focused model of guidance. They likewise



become a fantastic open door for teachers to actualize student-focused instructional methods that advance dynamic, constructivist, and request or issue-based teaching methods. The students plays a dynamic role in being continually engaged with the learning cycle through their encounters. Some activities of learning are very tough to execute in an actual world because of high expenditures and deficiency of infrastructure facility. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic in our education system is high, students from every part of Tripura as well as rural areas of India facing a huge problem. To cope up with situations, educational institutions including schools, colleges, and

universities have progressed to virtual classrooms via video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Google Hangouts and Microsoft Teams. Also universities and colleges are conducting webinars across the globe for the students so as to enrich and gain knowledge in the respective domains. But there are some still struggling to get online. For this the government is also trying to stay connected with students and provide education via YouTube videos and local TV channels so as to make online classes as engaging as offline ones.
Virtual Medical Facility System:
 Even though virtual medical facility has not been used broadly, it became an instrument area in evolving

and broadcasting protocols for providing health care in the context of COVID-19. The effectiveness of virtual medical facility as a complementary medical/healthcare tool has been extensively studied in the areas such as pain management and psychotherapy. For example, it has been fruitfully used in exposure therapy, during which patients are presented with stuffs they fear, thereby slowly decreasing their fears. With suitable implementation of this approach, medical researchers, doctors, and patients can create a healthier environment to overcome and compete with various diseases especially for taking healthcare to rural areas. As a concluding remark, the idea of virtual reality has

provide a widespread advantage to secure and challenge the current COVID-19 pandemic situation by improving the skill, self-reliance, and overall performance of peoples across the globe. The presented features can provide a significant development in current learning and case handling approaches. The main advantages of virtual reality are: (a) Computer-generated reality gives the differing kinds of information accessible in moment structures; (b) It gives pictures from various purposes of perspectives; (c) It can show the non-obvious information to the client as if there should arise an occurrence of geochemistry; (d) Permits an individual to 'visit' the spots ordinarily blocked off to people; (e) Gives an encounter that can be reshaped and re-examined; (f) It can cover the instruction and information identified with practically all fields of life. Indeed, even kids just as grown-ups can get an advantage from it.
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NEC FUTURE

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Oracle joins hands with NIC, IEEE for virtual hackathon

New Delhi: India's National Informatics Centre (NIC) and global technical professional organisation IEEE have joined hands with Cloud major Oracle to organise a virtual hackathon, Gov-TechThon 2020, to incubate new ideas, boost innovation and use technology in agriculture and allied sectors.
 Gov-TechThon 2020 -- from October 30 to November 1 -- will be facilitated by IEEE Computer Society.
 The virtual hackathon is open to students, working professionals, startups, freelance technologists, faculty, and IT services firms in India.
 "The youngsters are an important part of India's digital ecosystem and I look forward to their participation in the hackathon and their solutions to the challenges," Ajay Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, said in a statement.
 Shortlisted teams will operate virtually. During the hackathon, they will receive mentorship and advice from domain experts from NIC, IEEE Computer Society, Oracle and experts from the Union Agriculture Ministry, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 Participating teams will have access to the latest tools from Oracle, including Oracle Autonomous Database, built-in and easy-to-use cloud security, and compute -- to help them develop prototypes that are practical and scalable, the company said.
 Additionally, they will be able to leverage open source technologies that bring in benefits of high performance, reliability and data security.
 For Gov-TechThon 2020, NIC has shortlisted five key problem scenarios including Artificial Intelligence-based crop recommendations, Blockchain based seed certification, automated vigilance in exams/tests, automated fitness check process for commercial vehicles and easy document uploads that aims to permit citizens to quickly and efficiently scan and submit necessary documents while availing different government services.

India's human space flight may face slight delay: ISRO chief

Chennai: India's human space flight mission Gaganyaan will be "slightly delayed" owing to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic even as ISRO resumes rocket launch activities from the first week of November, space agency chief K. Sivan said on Monday.
 Answering a query at the plenary session of the International Astronautical Congress 2020, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman said India's first human space flight was targeted in August 2022, but owing to Covid-19's impact on the operations, there will be a slight slip in meeting the mission's target date.
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2018, had said when the nation is celebrating 75th year of Independence in 2022, an Indian son or daughter will be flying into space under the Gaganyaan mission.
 Sivan said that the Gaganyaan mission has advanced well and the country is taking the help of other space-faring nations like Russia for training the astronauts and some other critical aspects, France in the space medical area and is also approaching US space agency NASA.
 On resuming rocket launches, he said some missions were delayed as officials were unable to travel to the rocket port from different cities.
 Sivan said ISRO is planning to launch its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C49 (PSLV C49) during the first week of November.

This IoT-based solution promises better yields sans fertilisers

New Delhi: A group of students has developed a farm-friendly Internet of Things (IoT) system that reduces water usage and minimises dependency on fertiliser, an innovation that can help produce greater yields minus fertiliser costs for farmers.
 The team from Sona College of Technology, Salem, secured first place in the hardware category at the 'Smart India Hackathon 2020' conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, for their solution that uses the principles of Internet of Things (IoT) and magnetisation.
 "Our project aims to help farmers by purifying their available borewell water significantly, with zero waste," Dr R Malathy, Dean (R&D) and Professor, Department of Civil Engineering who mentored the team said in a statement on Thursday.
 Of the 343 problem statements released for all participants across 40 nodal centres, solutions from four teams from across India were recognised in the finals. While borewell water is used for almost all farm applications, the nature of such water causes scaling.
 This, in turn, leads to non-uniform water supply to plants and poor mineral absorption. The limescale deposition also

hard water is absorbed by the plant cells with difficulty.
 According to the college, if through intervention, the water's minerals are broken down into smaller particles, they become more bioavailable to these plant cells. The solution achieves this by using a designated permanent rare earth magnet. The water is passed through a magnetic field and undergoes electrolysis and magnetisation.
 "This breaks the larger water clusters into smaller, hexagonal-shaped clusters. Such magnetically treated, hexagonal-structured water molecules not only stop scaling, but also remove existing scaling," the college explained.
 The magnetic structuring breaks all minerals into smaller particles, and in the process, the salt in the soil is also broken down.
 As a result, the salt sinks deep into the soil and can be washed away easily.
 The desalination happens quickly over a season, creating much healthier plants and greater yields, and a better final product.
 "With minimal usage of water, the plants were hydrated well, and were able to absorb maximum minerals. This resulted in greater yields, larger and better end product, earlier maturation, longer shelf life, and healthier plants".

Volta launches Maha Adjustable PureAir AC

Kolkata: Volta Limited, the undisputed market leader for Air-Conditioners in India, has been taking proactive measures and initiatives to help the nation fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The No. 1 AC brand, from the house of the Tata's, has further reinforced its leadership position in the Cooling Products space, by launching the new Volta PureAir AC, a UV based split inverter AC.
 The Volta Maha Adjustable PureAir AC comes with state of the art AC LED system, with peak emission wavelength of 180nm to 280nm, which quickly disinfects the indoor air by killing germs and pathogens like virus and bacteria. Commenting on the launch of this unique range of Air Conditioners, Pradeep Bakshi, Managing Director & CEO, Volta Limited said, "We, at Volta, are always listening to the evolving needs of our customers and the launch of the Volta Maha Adjustable PureAir AC is one such example of our customer centricity in times of a pandemic. Recognized as a pioneer in the Air Conditioning market in India, Volta has been a front runner in the usage of UVC against viruses. Volta has also recently launched a new line of Ultraviolet Light (UV) powered offerings for Duct, Air and Surface disinfectant solution.

STATE/REGION

4 deaths, recovery 89%

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 including the number of admitted patients has been decreasing continuously across all Covid care centres as the majority of active patients are asymptomatic and they are in 'home isolation'. On Thursday again the fatality rate remained the same at 1.10%. Significantly the spike in number of positive cases across Tripura has also continuing and after registering 108 positive cases on Sunday, 217 cases on Monday, 181 positive cases on Tuesday, 171 cases on Wednesday, a total of 205 positive cases detected on Thursday from eight districts of the state through Rapid Antigen and RTPCR tests. Among the eight districts, on Thursday West district reported less positive cases in comparison to other districts of the state. Among the total 205 positive cases detected on Thursday, a total of 62 positive cases detected from Unakoti district through Rapid Antigen tests. But, 34 persons tested positive through Rapid Antigen tests from South Tripura district, which has detected with second highest number of positive cases through Antigen test conducted on Thursday, while the West district detected 32 positive cases through Rapid Antigen tests, while 7 more positive through RTPCR tests and the North district found only 3 positive cases through RTPCR tests after testing of 34 swab samples. The state has now 3,148 active cases including patients who are in 'home isolation' and among the reported positive cases of Covid-19, a total of 25, 742 patients have recovered from their viral infection due to infection for SARS-CoV-2 in the state with fresh discharged 371 patients from the past 24 hours after their swab sample tested negative for Covid-19.

IPFT stakes claim for 22 ADC

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 22 seats of the ADC. Jai Reddy assured that the IPFT will be given maximum seats in the upcoming elections to the tribal council. We hope the BJP leadership will keep its promise as far as seats are concern", he said.
 Jamatia further said they have plans to meet Union Tribal Welfare Minister Arjun Munda but currently he is sick. However, there could be a video conference with the Union Minister tomorrow.
 Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda are busy with the Bihar Assembly elections. "In case we fail to meet Amitji, the delegation hopes to meet the Minister of State for Home Affairs to place our demands. Let's see what happens tomorrow", he added.

Indo-Bangla trade, re-explore

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 low-cost products. In a way, encouragement of such trade in local products will contribute to loud the voice for 'Vocal for Locals' along with sustainable development in the border areas between Bangladesh and India as deterrent to cross-border illicit smuggling. Removal of port-specific restrictions on tradable commodities, establishing quarantine facilities, testing laboratories and up-gradation of waterway channels by dredging are some of the major issues required to be addressed to silken the movement of trading a smart leap.
 India and Bangladesh should make further efforts to increase the depth of navigation by dredging specific stretches of the Gomati and the Bhairab River. Both the countries should preserve and retain the optimum level of river water conducive for voyage of the small vessel and discharge it through sluice gate mechanism as and when required, along with the removal of port-specific restrictions on trading with reduction of high tariffs on some Indian goods that Bangladesh imposes. "Small boats can navigate on low-depth conditions and is economical for short-haul trading and commerce. Trade can happen throughout a year."

Change in administration

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 the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister. He is holding another additional Charge of Health and Family Welfare.
 The second transfer order issued on October 14, 2020 has removed Secretary Tanusree Debbarma from the charge of Finance Department to be replaced by Apurba Roy. Sources in the secretariat say it has been done as she was overburdened. With the new development that brought Covid under Disaster Management, the importance of the department has increased and needs to devote more time to one officer.

Dissidence in Delhi

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 Singhji about the functioning of the government as well the party. He has given a patience hearing to us and took notes of points we have taken up with the central leader. It was our duty to brief the Central leadership about happenings in the state without any aggregation. Now, the ball is on their court. Whatever decisions the party's central leadership takes, we will accept it", he said over telephone from Delhi on Thursday night.

Covid concern, pandle

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 proper sanitization. After frequent visits in all shopping complexes, the administration has now ensured that no masks, no goods are maintained in all places and shopkeepers were requested for strictly maintaining the social distancing whenever customers are visiting their shops.
 He also said that the administration is now conducting 'Mask Enforcement' days on Saturdays and violators are strictly dealt with imposition of fines. Similarly, for violation of social distancing norms, traders were penalized with Rs. 1000 fine.
 Saha requested the city dwellers to take their own responsibility and to keep themselves safe from COVID-infection. The Sadar subdivisional administration are monitoring the construction of all pandals, where no in-out systems would be allowed and devotees have to view the idols of Goddess through one big door without any queue system.
 He added that keeping in view the physical distancing norms, event sites should have adequate floor area with a distance of 6 feet gap and proper markings at all locations which are being inspected by the Sadar administration.
 The clubs have to ensure that volunteers should be appropriately stationed to ensure thermal scanning, physical distancing and wearing of masks and installation of Close circuit cameras etc, said Saha and also urged the organizers that persons above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years should stay away from visiting puja pandals. During the meeting SDPOs of Sadar and NCC along with other civil authorities were also present and stressed on proper maintaining of all SOPs to contain the further spread of the infections.

Bangla may go ahead

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 own aspirations".
 Chokhani added a clipping of Bangladesh overtaking India and China's booming economy and stock markets. The tweet was tagged to business and stock market leaders Samir Arora, Nilesh Shah, Anand Mahindra, Harsh Goenka and Harsh Marwala.
 Till five years back, India's per capita GDP was 40 per cent higher than Bangladesh. In the last five years, Bangladesh has grown three times the rate of India, at 9.1 per cent compared to 3.2 per cent for India, a much larger economy.

ADC bandh cripples life

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 is imperative that all the offices, government undertakings and organizations under the state government should function normally and any violation of the above instructions by the government employees and employees of all such undertakings will be viewed seriously, said the government notice and asked all top officers and head of departments including TTAADC administration to bring this instruction to the notice of all employees under their administrative control.
 The notice signed by P. Debnath, undersecretary also strictly ordered that a report regarding attendance in different offices, under takings and organizations on the day of the general strike should be sent to the General Administration (AR) department by 12 noon on October 15 positively. The state government also requested the police to maintain law and order arrangement on the strike day in all government offices and its premises.
 Since Wednesday morning, the activists of ruling IPFT have organized picketing through gathering and demonstrations amidst deployment of a huge contingent of security personnel deployed all across Tripura.
 IPFT Assistant General Secretary and party spokesman Mangal Debbarma said that the shutdown was spontaneous and peaceful and no untoward incident had occurred.
 Reports said during Bandh supporters, one pregnant woman was forced to deliver her baby at the ambulance, when she was on her way to hospital, but the authorities of the ambulance stopped the vehicle as she was suffering from high pregnancy pain. Later, the woman identified as Sumita Jamatia delivered a girl child. After successful delivery, both mother and her daughter were admitted to Killa hospital.
 It may be mentioned here the IPFT has been agitating since 2009 for creation of a separate state by upgrading the TTAADC, which has jurisdiction over two-thirds of Tripura's 10,491 sq km area which is home to over 12,16,000 people, 90 per cent of whom are tribals.
 Meanwhile, a five-member delegation of IPFT led by party General Secretary and Forest Minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia left here on Wednesday to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda and other central ministers and leaders to pursue their demands.
 The IPFT's demands include, upgrading the TTAADC as a full fledged state, settlement of 35,000 Reang tribal refugees, sheltered in Tripura for the past 23 years and early conduct of the TTAADC elections.