

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.

William Jennings Bryan.

Central
Chronicle

Founder : Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari
Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

EDITORIAL

G.S.T. Slash

Under the deep impact of electoral defeats in the three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh the panic stricken Modi Government taking many public oriented decision as a prelude to coming Lok Sabha election in the year 2019 in the month of March-April.

Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi has hurriedly announced that 99 per cent items to be kept under 18 percent of less G.S.T slabs. The highest G.S.T. slab of 28 per cent will soon only be restricted to few select luxury items.

Generally such decisions are taken by the G.S.T. Council comprising the all the Finance Ministers of states headed by Union Finance Ministers but this time the Prime Minister announced it before next meeting scheduled to be held by the end of this week at New Delhi. Prime Minister is not directly involved in its decision. But the Prime Minister himself pledged drastic slashing of G.S.T. rates to keep the items of the regular use would not face the top 28 per cent rate. All things of use of common man will be in the 18 per cent or below that slab. It is expected that 99 per cent articles would be 18 per cent or below the 18 per cent slab. He also suggested that the G.S.T. should be made as simple and as convenient as possible. This could mean that cement, marble, air conditions, dishwashers, camera etc. would become cheap. Only 1

Vyapam Probe

The Kamal Nath Government has ordered probe into Vyapam scandal in the group-4 examination in of the recruitment in the jobs stenographers, assistant grade three and assistant revenue inspectors. About one and a half lakh candidates appeared in 40 cities examination centers in state. It is alleged rules of the examination were changed five time to accommodate to favour certain persons.

The Vyapam scandal is now considered as biggest scandal of the country in professional medical, dental and engineering examinations and almost in all the job

or 0.5 of luxury items would remain in the slab of 28 per cent such as flagging planes, expensive cars, alcohol and tobacco products like cigarettes, revolvers.

In the G.S.T. there are four slabs of 5-12-18 and 28 per cent taxation.

The G.S.T monthly collections are around one lakh crores of rupees. The tax base have has expended from 65 to nearly 1.2 crores.

It is feared that G.S.T. reduction on cement will be cornered by the house building sectors that their cartel will take away the gains and only a part of the benefits flowing to home buyers. The G.S.T. cut in cement will reduce the G.S.T. collections around 25,000 crores of rupee annually.

The recent elections have over shadowed other issues like construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The Assam Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party have also waived the loan of farmers of Rs. 600 crores and it will benefit 8 lakh farmers. The Assam Government has now followed the election manifesto of the Congress party that swayed the voters to Congress victory in the three states.

The Congress President Mr Rahul Gandhi said that he would compel the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi to announce agriculture loan amnesty nationally.

If the Government would not do it than Congress as assuming power at Centre would do it on national scale.

seeking test examinations conducted by the Vyapam.

For a long time the BJP Government of Chief Minister Mr Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan had resisted the demand for the C.B.I probe into it but ultimately on mounting pressure by the Congress than in opposition it had to agree to it. The matters being probed by the C.B.I.

With the change of the Government in the State and Congress coming into power the much more is likely to come up. The education Minister of the BJP Minister Mr Sharma was found involved in it and he was sacked and jailed.

It's Time: Match words with actions to #endTB

Bobby Ramakant, CNS

Alongside research and development of new tools to prevent, diagnose and treat TB, there is an acute need to optimally deploy and maximally utilize existing tools for preventing, diagnosing and treating TB, says Dr Nguyen Viet Nhung, head of national TB programme in Vietnam and Director of National Lung Hospital, Hanoi.

Dr Nhung was conferred upon the 'Honorary Associate Professor' title by University of Sydney Central Clinical School, Faculty of Medicine and Health, on 13th December 2018 (a day after the Universal Health Coverage Day - UHC Day).

Dr Nhung said that well-documented studies provide the data for decision making on policy innovation and scale-up of new interventions in Vietnam. "There are gaps in

explained: "X-ray is very sensitive for TB screening but not for confirming the disease. If we screen people using x-ray first, and those who are found with abnormalities consistent with TB, are tested with GeneXpert, then it is not only optimal but also a cost-effective strategy. We have increased active case finding which has now reached above 90% now."

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE MUST SHAPE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
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feasible solutions can be found to reduce or eliminate such barriers. "We can seek support from foundations or charity or health insurance systems to ensure there is no medical cost that is preventing people from accessing TB care. We have a patient support foundation to end TB in Vietnam to help those who get diagnosed with TB (especially those who do not have health insurance card). This foundation also helps patients when they need to be hospitalized. Non-medical expenditure is the bigger chunk of catastrophic expenditure for TB patients. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) will help reduce some of these costs, as well as, making healthcare services friendly and easier to access at the grassroots will help. We have to help establish and strengthen community based management to avoid hospitalization when possible, said Dr Nhung.

Dr Nhung further

where client is community and not just the patient" emphasized Dr Nhung.

Reducing and eventually ending TB related stigma is of prime significance, said Dr Nhung.

CATASTROPHIC EXPENDITURE IS BLOCKING PROGRESS

Dr Nguyen Viet Nhung emphasized on yet another major obstacle which impedes efforts to fight TB: catastrophic expenditure. Even with TB diagnostics and drugs are free, there are a range of medical and non-medical costs that become a barrier for people with TB. All countries including Vietnam had unanimously supported the adoption of the World Health Organization (WHO) End TB Strategy in May 2014 World Health Assembly, of which, promise to end catastrophic expenditure is among the major pillars.

Dr Nhung stresses on the need to have local data to estimate TB costs so that locally

implementation of TB control too, which can be bridged by better management, resource maximization, and using budget to support key activities, integration of services and making services friendly and accessible to our clients (patients)" reflected Dr Nguyen Viet Nhung.

We cannot ignore sustainability, said Dr Nhung, as it is vital to ensure full support to fight against TB till the 'finish line'. At the United Nations High Level Meeting (UNHLM) in September 2018, Dr Nhung was among those who advocated with heads of nations to end TB. Since then, TB is rising up on the agenda of Vietnam's national commission which is tasked with multistakeholder accountability framework. This may soon reflect in the law, approved by the national assembly, and eventually result in national action plan to end TB by 2030. A very concrete development, said Dr Nhung.

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