

## PSG's GAIT Watch, a gift for elderly!



From Left: P.Sureshkumar of Agna Inc., K.Prakashan, Principal (i/c), PSG College of Technology and Dr.J.S.Bhuvaneshwaran, Director, PSG Super Speciality Hospital during the launch.

### The Covai Mail

Did you know more than 60% of elders above the age of 70 years fall down due to gait imbalance? Of that falls, 80% result in a hospitable injury or fracture. The gait disorders are common in adult population, and they are caused due to neurological problems, orthopedic problems and medical conditions.

A team of researchers from PSG Center for Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering Solutions (PSG CARES) have successfully developed a first-of-its kind Wearable Gait Monitoring and Fall Prediction Device named as Gait Watch TM. This product is designed for the second category of falls – it estimates the fall risk score of an individual taking into account all possible intrinsic fall risk factors

including spatio temporal gait characteristics of the individual accurately captured over a trial walk session.

It then provides a combined fall risk score taking into the qualitative and quantitative fall risk factors using an innovative fall risk assessment model developed by the research team. Gait watch screens patients with geriatric, neurological or orthopedic conditions for their stability problems resulting in timely identification and avoidance of an imminent fall thus saving huge cost as well as mental agonies of the family members and care takers. This device is designed for elderly and by and large for people suffering from movement related disorders. It is a simple and effective solution to conduct accurate assessment of the gait quality of an individual in just a few minutes.

The research team comprises of Jayashree, Professor, Department of CSE as the Principal Investigator and Swathi and Soundaryan as the Project Associates. The trials are being conducted at Orthopaedic Dept of PSG Institute of Medical Science, Salem Neuro Foundation, Stroke Rehab centre of PSG IMSR as well as in few other physiotherapy centres (Alvernia pics, if available) on more than 700 patients till date and the study is still going on. Gait watch has now reached full scale commercialization stage. The technology has been transferred to Agna Inc. for mass production and commercialization.

The technology has been chosen as one of the promising technologies for incubation mentoring programme (SPARK) of Stanford University through PSG STEP.

## Rathinam Institutions get ARIIA's Excellent grade

### The Covai Mail

Two of Rathinam Educational Institutions have secured 'Excellent' ranking from the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) Ranking 2021, a statement from Rathinam CAS said.

ARIIA is a path-breaking policy initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India implemented through AICTE and MoE's Innovation Cell to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to promotion and support of "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties.

Around 3500 higher education institutions in India registered and participated in the ARIIA Ranking 2021.



R.Manickam, CEO, Rathinam CAS cutting the cake along with Muralidharan, Principal of the institution (left) and other various heads of department and students.

The result for the same was announced by the Ministry recently.

"In this, Rathinam College of Art and Science, Coimbatore and Rathinam Technical Campus, Coimbatore had secured Excellent ranking...and in the ranking Rathinam College of

Arts and Science, Coimbatore is the one and only arts and science college ranked as excellent," the press-release added.

Students, Faculty, HODs, Deans, Principal and other Stakeholders are celebrated the accomplishment by cutting cake at the premises.

### Axis launches 'Axis Nifty Next 50 Index Fund'

#### The Covai Mail

Axis Mutual Fund announced the launch of Axis Nifty Next 50 Index Fund, on Thursday. The NFO will be open for subscription till January 21, 2022.

The minimum application amount is INR 5,000 and investors can invest in multiples of INR 1, thereafter. The new fund will allow investors to participate in the growth story of companies that come after the top 50.

Chandresh Nigam, MD & CEO, Axis AMC said, "The Axis Nifty Next 50 Index Fund comes at a time when investors have understood the importance of passive strategies to leverage the growth of the next generation of leaders, while ensuring market benchmark returns. We are confident that this fund will be a notable add-on that will yield long term wealth creation opportunities for our investors."

### Re-entry of the fastest cat!

#### The Covai Mail

Not many of us are aware that Cheetahs went extinct in India in 1952. Yes we lost the fastest member of the big cat family at least 70 years ago.

According to the BBC there were 10,000 cheetahs during the period of Emperor Akbar, including 1,000 of them in his court. It is the only large mammal to become extinct since Independence in India.

If you are wondering what made these large mammal to go extinct in India, the reasons were hunting, diminishing habitat and non-availability of enough prey like black buck, gazelle and hare.

Also a large number of Cheetahs were eliminated during the British rule, as the big cats were entering villages

and killing livestock. Now, the Indian Government has taken initiative to reintroduce 50 Cheetahs in the next 5 years. The Centre launched an action plan regarding this on Wednesday.

As a first step, around 10-12 young cheetahs that are ideal for reintroduction would be brought from either Namibia or South Africa during the first year, according to the action plan.

"An existing coalition of wild males shall be selected while the selected females shall also be known to each other as far as possible. The animals' lineage and condition shall be checked in the host country to ensure that they are not from an excessively inbred stock and are in the ideal age group, so as to conform to the needs of a founding population," said the over 300-page action plan.

Ahead of Pongal, we will be bringing out the Jan.16 Sunday edition on Jan.14 (Friday)

- The Editor

### Taco Bell - Microsoft announce surprise!

#### The Covai Mail

Taco Bell, a leading Mexican-inspired restaurant brand, partners with Microsoft's Xbox to provide consumers with yet another novel experience.

This special initiative brings an exclusive chance for every consumer to win Age of Empire IV PC game copies with a lifetime validity on purchase of the Ultimate Cheese Taco. The giveaway started from 3rd January 2022 and the brand promises to give about 200+ copies every week till the end of January.

Customers who place an order at Taco Bell for 'The Ultimate Cheese Taco' or the meal for 2 at dine-In, take away are eligible to participate in the lucky draw.

### 7 UP celebrates Pongal

#### The Covai Mail

Marking the celebrations for the auspicious harvest festival of Pongal in Tamil Nadu, 7UP®, the refreshing clear drink unveiled its all-new limited-edition festive packs featuring the quirky, curly-haired mascot Fido Dido.

The limited-edition 7UPs are a tribute to the spirit of Pongal and take inspiration from the various elements that define the festival in its true essence. Right from the intricate art of Kolam to use of sugarcane and pot to cook delicacies - the packs are a multi-faceted representation of all things Pongal.

## Third wave of Covid-19 pandemic

## Expect a Sharp-Peak & Descend with higher no. of cases!

### David Karunakaran The Covai Mail

The 'Second National Wave of COVID-19' got over in September 2021. Many experts in the healthcare sector stated that a third-wave is inevitable.

Fast forward to January 2, 2022 Health Minister of Tamil Nadu Ma. Subramanian declared that the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has started in Tamil Nadu.

Regarding questions about Third Wave and Omicron, we approached Dr Murali, Covid-19 Nodal Officer, PSG Hospitals. He said, as per current data (till Jan.4), Omicron is causing only a mild impact on people. The lung-infection cases are low, and so is the ICU admission but at the same time its transmission rate is high, and it will lead to an increased number of cases.

**What is your view on this Third Wave?**

Third-wave is inevitable. There is a good chance to see it attain a peak, next month. It may peak during February and March and descend in April.

Data from Western countries and South Africa tell us that they have had a Sharp Peak and a Sharp Descend. We cannot predict anything but the third wave may peak during February and reduce by March.

**Will Omicron bring a disaster?**

The second wave we experienced was the deadliest. The Delta variant was terrific. Based on the current data in hand, we can say Omicron causes mild disease impact. It doesn't affect the lungs, doesn't make the condition serious

**Data from South Africa, USA tells us that only 1.6 to 2% patients require ICU admission due to Omicron. So its impact is minimal but definitely there will be higher number of cases - Dr.Murali.**

enough to need ICU support, oxygen support.

The data from South Africa, USA tells us that only 1.6 to 2% of patients require ICU admission due to Omicron. So its impact is minimal but definitely, there will be a higher number of cases due to this variant, yet the severity of the variant on the human body will be less.

**Can boosters help? What's the status of it in India & abroad?**

Boosters (third dose of Covid-19 vaccine) have been rolled out in the US, UK and many foreign countries. In Israel, they have approved for a fourth dose.

Generally speaking, boosters have the ability to give increased defence against all types of infectious diseases. Hence getting booster doses is good.

The rollout of boosters has been announced for health and frontline workers as well as for those above 60 with comorbidities in India. It is set to begin by the second week of Jan 2022.

**How can vaccinating teens be of help?**

Vaccination is definitely going to help the youngsters. The unvaccinated population, especially some of the younger population can be carriers, so by getting vaccinated, they are shielding themselves and the people around

them from Covid. Some kids may fear getting the vaccine shots but parents have to encourage their kids who are eligible for the jabs.

**What if Omicron spreads more in Covai in future?**

Omicron has a higher transmissibility rate but as I said, the severity of this variant is low. The treatment will be the same; like how doctors treated patients who suffered previous variants.

In foreign countries, especially in the West, they are seeing a lot of their Health care workers get infected with this variant, and this has made the unaffected members of the system take care of their current patients and also extend care to the sea of new patients, as well. This eventually made the health care system get stretched there.

In Tamil Nadu, we may see our healthcare force stretch if daily cases continuously shoot up and if a large number of our healthcare workers get affected. But there won't be serious conditions in patients, mostly.

**Will there be a cure?**

Though Vaccines are preventing people from getting infected, in a sort of way their validity is not as high as other vaccines like the ones we use for polio. Vaccine for polio has long term validity. You put it once and mostly you never have to worry about getting polio throughout your life. But our body is not developing such immunity against Covid with the vaccines we have now.

What we can do now is eat healthy foods to keep our immunity level up, definitely wear a mask, clean hands, follow social distancing, get fully vaccinated, if haven't so far, and follow the government's guidance.



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