



## Master of Business Administration

### Editorial Board

Editor in Chief 

Prof.(Dr.) C.P.Somasundaran

### Student Coordinators

Mr. Satyam Kumar- MBA (3<sup>rd</sup> Sem.)

Ms. Vedika Goyal- MBA (3<sup>rd</sup> Sem.)

Ms. Aditi Gulati – MBA (1<sup>st</sup> Sem.)

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### Vision Statements

**V1-To help build India as a world leader in Management Education.**

**V2-To establish and develop world class Institutions for overall growth in an era of globalization.**

**V3-To facilitate easy access to professional education to all sections of society.**

**V4-To develop and provide a professionally qualified management workforce for augmenting the nation's human resources.**

### Mission Statements

**M1-To impart academic excellence in Management Education.**

**M2-To inculcate high Moral, Ethical and Professional standards among our students and to improve their overall personality.**

**M3-To enable rational thinking in students for efficient decision making.**

**M4-To evolve the Institution to the status of a Deemed University.**

### 'Indian strain' of COVID-19 -: Double mutant' variant

The B.1.617 variant of SARS-CoV-2, classified as one of the 'Variants of Interest' (VOI) by WHO, is believed to be contributing significantly to the unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in India.

The World Health Organisation, revealed that the 'Indian strain,' known more commonly within the country as the 'double-mutant strain,' had been located in, at least 17 countries.

The B.1.617 variant of SARS-CoV-2, classified as one of the 'Variants of Interest' (VOI) by WHO, is believed to be contributing significantly to the unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in India, the UN health agency noted in its weekly epidemiological update.

“As of 27 April, over 1,200 sequences have been uploaded to GISAID and assigned to lineage B.1.617 (collectively) from at least 17 countries,” it read, adding that the majority of sequences were uploaded to the database from India, the UK, the US and Singapore.

### What is the B.1.617 variant?

Although the B.1.617 is often referred to as the double-mutant strain, this is slightly misleading. According to a report from Science Direct, the B.1.617 genome actually has, at least, 13 different mutations. Some studies have identified even more. However, scientists are particularly interested in two of these mutations – E484Q and L452R.

The mutation found at position 484, reportedly, increases the overall binding potential of the virus to the human ACE2 receptor while also amplifying its ability to evade a carrier's immune system response (compared to other variants). Simply put, this makes the variant more infectious.

Meanwhile, the mutation discovered at position 452 increases affinity of the spike protein for the human ACE2 receptor and decreases the capacity of the immune system to recognise the variant. In more recent weeks, a third mutation at position 681 has also been found which, according to some scientists, may also boost the variant's infectiousness.

These three mutations working together have raised concerns that the B.1.617 variant may be more transmissible than the original SARS-CoV-2 strain. Further studies also need to be conducted to identify whether this variant may be more virulent (causing greater rates of severe disease and hospitalisation) and or more immune-evasive (increasing the chance of reinfection, or rendering the current vaccines less effective).

### **Are India's vaccines effective against the variant?**

India currently has three approved vaccines – The Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN and Russia's Sputnik V. However, the Sputnik V vaccine is yet to become part of the nation's immunisation rollout.

A preprint of a study carried out by ICMR and Bharat Biotech researchers (posted in biorXiv) found that COVAXIN did offer protection against the double-mutant variant in what came as a rare ray of light.

The researchers, reportedly, collected sera from 28 people who participated in the COVAXIN phase-2 trial, as well as from 17 who were known to have been infected with older strains of SARS-CoV-2.

“The study found that the neutralising capacity against the double mutant variant was found to be good in both groups – people who have received the vaccine and those who recovered from COVID-19,” said Dr Samiran Panda, one of the co-authors of the yet-to-be-peer-reviewed paper and a senior ICMR scientist.

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) stated that early results of a study indicated that in-vitro neutralisation assay showed that both convalescent (prior infection) sera and Covishield-vaccinated sera also offered protection against the variant.

### **Deadly second wave of Covid-19 might not peak before June**

If trends in other countries are anything to go by, India's Covid-19 nightmare might continue for more than a month.

The second wave of coronavirus is likely to peak only in June, according to research by Hong Kong-based brokerage firm CLSA. The prediction is based on an analysis of 12 countries including the US, Brazil, and the UK which faced a strong resurgence of Covid-19. CLSA found that the second waves in these countries peaked

when incremental cases had hit the median of 2% of the population.



“India may take nearly two months to get to incremental infections equal to 2% of its population, from 0.5% currently, during the second wave. Maharashtra is currently at 1.8% and should get to this level in less than a week,” the brokerage estimates.

This is bad news for India as the situation in the country is very dire and will become worse if it continues like this until June.

The second wave of Covid-19 in India has been far more damaging than the first one. From 11,000 on Feb. 10, the daily new Covid-19 infections zoomed to more than 370,000 on April 30. Meanwhile, thousands of patients across states are struggling for hospital beds and oxygen.

## **COVID-19 advice for the public: Getting vaccinated**

The world is in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic. As WHO and partners work together on the response -- tracking the pandemic, advising on critical interventions, distributing vital medical supplies to those in need--- they are racing to develop and deploy safe and effective vaccines.

Vaccines save millions of lives each year. Vaccines work by training and preparing the body’s natural defenses – the immune system – to recognize and fight off the viruses and bacteria they target. After vaccination, if the body is later exposed to those disease-causing germs, the body is immediately ready to destroy them, preventing illness.

There are several safe and effective vaccines that prevent people from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. This is one part of managing COVID-19, in addition to the main preventive measures of staying at least 1 metre away from others, covering a cough or sneeze in your elbow, frequently cleaning your hands, wearing a mask and avoiding poorly ventilated rooms or opening a window.

As of 8 April 2021, WHO has evaluated that the following vaccines

against COVID-19 have met the necessary criteria for safety and efficacy:

- AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine
- Johnson and Johnson
- Moderna
- Pfizer/ BionTech

Take whatever vaccine is made available to you first, even if you have already had COVID-19. It is important to be vaccinated as soon as possible once it's your turn and not wait. Approved COVID-19 vaccines provide a high degree of protection against getting seriously ill and dying from the disease, although no vaccine is 100% protective.

#### **WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED**

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe for most people 18 years and older, including those with pre-existing conditions of any kind, including auto-immune disorders. These conditions include: hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver and kidney disease, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled.

If supplies are limited in your area, discuss your situation with your care provider if you:

- Have a compromised immune system

- Are pregnant (if you are already breastfeeding, you should continue after vaccination)
- Have a history of severe allergies, particularly to a vaccine (or any of the ingredients in the vaccine)
- Are severely frail

Children should not be vaccinated for the moment.

#### **Even after you're vaccinated, keep taking precautions**

While a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent serious illness and death, we still don't know the extent to which it keeps you from being infected and passing the virus on to others. The more we allow the virus to spread, the more opportunity the virus has to change. Continue to take actions to slow and eventually stop the spread of the virus:

- Keep at least 1 metre from others
- Wear a mask, especially in Crowded, closed and poorly ventilated settings.
- Clean your hands frequently
- Cover any cough or sneeze in your bent elbow

When indoors with others, ensure good ventilation, such as by opening a window

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## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

April 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2021, onwards MBA Department conducted all the classes into online mode, as per the instructions of AKTU, due to the second wave COVID-19 Pandemic situations.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**Date : 8 April, 2021**

**Time : 2.40 pm – 4.10 pm**

**Venue : Multi Purpose Hall, Shri Ram Murti Smarak College of Engineering and Technology, Bareilly.**

Sport is a universal language that brings people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs, race or economic status is. It is a competitive physical activity which provides a sense of

enjoyment. From this perspective, the Management Club of Shri Ram Murti Smarak College of Engineering and Technology, Faculty of Management Science, Bareilly has conducted “Badminton Tournament” in association with sports club for MBA batch of 2019 and 2020.



The club has already organized many badminton matches between the First Year and Second Year students. In all the matches, players were ready to exhibit their skills and passion and every player has maintained enthusiasm and energy levels while performing.

The Tournament has encouraged the cooperation between people and also helped them to develop the qualities of Team work, Confidence, Trust and Team Spirit among them. The performance displayed by the

students was praiseworthy which motivated them and others to participate in the upcoming tournaments.

The winners of the Tournament were:

Mr Aditya Gautam – MBA 2019

Ms. Neha Prajapati – MBA 2019

Mr Arun Kumar – MBA 2020

Ms. Pankhuri Saxena – MBA 2020



## Students Corner

### India's 21st Century Education Imperative

By Satyam Kumar (MBA2019)

Each year, over 20 million students enrol for a graduate degree in India. But as the quality of education in these institutions differs, the race to join the country's top academic institutions is intense. In fact, with an acceptance rate of only 0.7per cent, IIT JEE has earned the

reputation of being the toughest entrance exam in the world.

Concerns over the quality of education have not been helped by a rote learning model and poor school management, which are eroding student learning outcomes. In fact, the 2017 ASER report underlines that while enrolment in secondary education has doubled over the last decade, children still lack foundational skills. The report highlights that as many as 27per cent of school children in grade eight could not read at the level of a grade two student and 57per cent could not even solve elementary mathematical problems.

And while India's tertiary education sector remains among the largest in the world, only 1 out of 10 young people, overwhelmingly from affluent families, acquire a higher education. In these circumstances, as the world moves to a new skills economy driven by digitization, it becomes essential for India to reassess its twenty-first century education imperatives.

#### What Ails the Education Sector in India?

In the era of AI, where expertise in new technologies is rapidly outdated, the education sector must

constantly evolve new skill paths that enable nations to bring the benefits of technology to its citizens. As information brokers, fusion engineers, and robot mechanics become the most sought-after skills, the need of the hour is for courses that are relevant to the new digital world. Further, in a country where as many as 53per cent of graduates have been categorized as being unemployable, the focus must finally shift from churning out graduates to delivering employability.

The success of Germany's Vocational Education and Training System is a case in point. Its unique apprentice system, which provides for only 20per cent of theoretical learning, trains young people in almost 350 recognized occupations and guarantees them employment at the end of the course. The result—an unemployment rate of just 5.2per cent, which is half the statistic for Europe.

Yet, in India, only 5per cent of young people in the 14-18 year age group participate in vocational training. Subsequently, youth who have not been skilled for the new economy find their way into the unorganized sector that accounts for 95per cent of the employment generated within the country.

To achieve success in creating employment opportunities for the

young, as experienced in countries like Germany, India will not just need to reorient its educational system to focus on creating employable graduates but will also need to address its current deficit of quality teachers across all levels.

### **Taking India to the New Skills Economy**

If India is to successfully reorient its educational system to meet its twenty-first century education imperatives, several immediate reforms are the need of the hour. First, the branding and execution of vocational programs must be significantly altered, so that these are at par with the outstanding standards demonstrated by countries like Germany. Second, efforts to decentralize education must be given a fresh impetus. Third, evaluation parameters will have to move from measuring quantity to gauging quality.

Today, India faces a strange paradox. On one hand, with 50per cent of its population below the age of 25, its young population could be the fuel that drives India's economy. On the other hand, with the highest number of illiterate adults in the world, it is in no position to leverage this unique advantage. Clearly, while India could have the highest number of young people in the world, it's most important challenge will be to make these youth employable to fulfil its twenty-first century education and learning imperatives.



# Motley

