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Legendary Hindustani vocalist Pandit Jasraj passes away
page 14

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NEARBY



More Delhiites develop antibodies against virus

NEW DELHI

About 29% of 15,350 people whose blood samples were randomly collected from across the national capital for the second serological survey, held earlier this month, have developed antibodies against COVID-19.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Defections begin in poll-bound Bihar

PATNA In poll-bound Bihar, expelled Janata Dal (United) leader and former Industries Minister Shyam Rajak on Monday joined the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal while three RJD MLAs hopped over to the ruling JD(U). The Assembly elections are due in the State in October-November.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

We were not invited to I-Day events: J&K parties

Srinagar J&K's regional parties, including the NC and the PDP, have claimed that none of their top leaders was invited to the Independence Day functions in Srinagar, presided over by newly appointed Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha. None of their leaders attended the L-G's 'At-Home' function either.

NORTH & WEST ▶ PAGE 5

SC to study context of charges against judges

It will hear arguments on process to make allegations public

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to launch a detailed examination into the circumstances under which a person can make public allegations of corruption against the judiciary.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra also decided to hear arguments on laying down procedure to be adopted if such statements of corruption are made in public against sitting as well as retired judges.

Prashant Bhushan case
The Bench framed the two questions while hearing a contempt case initiated against advocate Prashant Bhushan for his remarks on corruption in judiciary in an interview to *Tehelka* magazine published in 2009.

"In what circumstances can such statements [on judicial corruption] be made? Under what circumstances can these allegations need to be made public... We need to hear arguments on these issues," Justice Mishra observed, listing the case for hearing on Monday.

1992 judgment
The Bench referred to the majority judgment delivered by Justice (as he was then) J.S. Verma for a Constitution

Under review | The Supreme Court on Monday decided to take a detailed look into these issues:

- If statements on 'judicial corruption' are made in public, under what circumstances can they be made
- The procedure to be adopted if such statements of corruption are made in public against sitting as well as retired judges
- When some matter is sub judice, to what extent... can the matter be argued through the media or another mode



Bench in 1992 concerning the removal of Justice V. Ramaswami, a Supreme Court judge.

The judgment had laid down the procedure to deal with allegations against a sitting judge. The judge had to be given a fair opportunity to be heard before an inquiry committee formed under the Judges Inquiry Act of 1968.

The judgment had limited the inquiry process against a judge to be done within a tight and limited circle of high judicial functionaries and parliamentarians. It did not want "busybodies to meddle".

The dominating spirit of

the 1992 judgment was to "preserve the right, interest and dignity of the judge, which is commensurate with the dignity of all the institutions and functionaries involved in the process".

The Bench said the judgment was against publicly making allegations against judges. But senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for Mr. Bhushan, said the "idea that you [a critic] cannot go to the Press is a bad decision".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

WHAT IS CRITICISM AND WHAT IS CONTEMPT? ▶ PAGE 7

EMINENT CITIZENS BACK PRASHANT BHUSHAN ▶ PAGE 9

Rain-washed Rajpath



Hazy Capital: Vehicles moving past Rajpath in New Delhi during showers on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

HC directs DU to conduct physical exams from Sept. 14

Students who haven't opted for online OBE can sit for test

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Monday directed Delhi University to commence the physical examination for those final-year students who have not opted for the online mode of Open Book Examination (OBE) from September 14.

"We are of the opinion that the university should expedite conducting physical examinations so that the entire process can be over at the earliest," a Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramoni Prasad said.

The High Court gave the direction after DU stated that it will commence the physi-

cal examinations only after September 20.

'Unreasonable timeline'

"The aforesaid timeline is quite unreasonable, particularly since earlier hereto, the university had stated that only when they see as to how many students actually participate in the online mode of examination, would they have an idea as to the number of leftover students," the court noted. "By now there should have been enough data for the university to analyse the number of students who intend to sit for the examination physically," the Bench remarked.

Some of the counsels appearing for the students contended that the University Grants Commission has not issued any advisory to Central Universities for accommodating final-year students. Taking note of the submission, the High Court said, "The UGC shall take steps at the earliest to issue a fresh advisory in this regard to all Central universities."

The High Court also directed DU to verify the number of Persons with Disabilities category students who would wish to sit for the physical exams again though they may have taken the OBE mode of examination.

At a time when people are increasingly shying away from 'non-lucrative' agriculture, a three-time lawmaker from Odisha's Nabarangpur district makes it a point to toil in his fields at least two months a year.

Amid heavy rain creating a favourable condition for paddy crop, Biju Janata Dal MLA Manohar Randhari, representing the Dabugam constituency, is engaged in transplanting paddy saplings in his land at Pujaripada village. He, along with a set of labourers, intends to complete the transplantation before Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro takes the call

Three-time legislator works two months in his paddy field

Farming is my profession while becoming an MLA is a way of serving people, says Manohar Randhari

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR



on convening the monsoon session of the Assembly.

'Not for photo-ops'
"I don't do farming for photo-ops. Agriculture is my profession while my position as an MLA is a way of serving people. Being the only son, I

had been assisting my father in farming from a young age. He passed away last year and all responsibility of farming fell on my shoulders," says the 45-year-old MLA.

Mr. Randhari has 25 acres

of land located in Pujaripada, Kesriguda and

Bhatigam villages – a rain-fed region. His sister, Padmini Dian, who represents the Kotpad Assembly segment in Koraput district, is the Minister of Textile, Handlooms and Handicrafts in the Naveen Patnaik government.

"I usually use a tractor for

tilling. But I plough land with bullocks where tractor cannot enter," he says.

The MLA, who represented the Nabarangpur constituency in 2009 and 2014 before shifting to Dabugam in 2019, ensures that he remains present in the field for a month around August and another month in winter when the paddy is harvested.

"My involvement in the

field does not affect my job as an MLA. I usually engage in hours of interaction with people of my constituency in the evenings," he says.

Mr. Randhari earns around ₹7 lakh to ₹8 lakh per year from paddy cultivation, keeping aside about 10 quintals of milled rice for providing cooked food to people visiting him.

"Everyone should participate in agriculture, which is facing a grave crisis. The production should be enough to meet one's requirement while the rest should be sold for others' consumption. I sincerely hope that my involvement in agriculture encourages others," says the MLA.

AN-ND-NDE

Fire breaks out in Parliament annexe

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Seven fire tenders were rushed to Parliament annexe building in central Delhi after a fire incident was reported on Monday morning, an official said.

A Delhi Fire Services official said the blaze broke out in a room on the sixth floor. No one was injured and the damage was confined to the room. A call regarding the incident was received at 7.30 a.m.

It is suspected that the fire started from a short circuit. The fire has been brought under control, said DFS chief Atul Garg.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	115	Gurugram	142
Ghaziabad	147	Faridabad	158
Noida	149	Greater Noida	129
Good	51-100	Satisfactory	Moderate
Poor	201-300	Very Poor	101-200
Severe	301-400		>400
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m., yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB			

Govt. panel set to summon Facebook officials

Committee receives complaints of 'intentional inaction' against hateful content

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee on Monday said it has received multiple complaints against Facebook officials for "deliberate and intentional inaction" to contain hateful content in India for vested reasons.



Raghav Chadha. ■ FILE PHOTO

The panel, chaired by AAP MLA Raghav Chadha, has decided to take "immediate cognisance" of the issue. The panel said it has set its mechanism in motion.

Summons to be sent

Summons are set to be sent for the appearance of Facebook officials, including Anki Das, who has filed a police complaint alleging that she received threats in connection with the matter.

The panel is scheduled to hold its first meeting related to the matter this week.

The committee is meant

policies against inflammatory and hateful contents and alleged larger conspiracy involving said social media platform, with respect to the scathing revelations made by the news report published by *The Wall Street Journal* on 14.08.2020, an online news platform based in the United States of America," the committee stated.

It also stated that a leader of the BJP had been mentioned in the article as "another hatemonger spared" by Facebook.

'Officials turn blind eye'

"The officials of Facebook have been alleged to turn a blind eye to hate speech and communal hatred mongers. In view thereof it compels the committee to take immediate notice and get to the root of this issue with a view to painstakingly discern if there is any role or complicity of Facebook official in the orchestration of Delhi riots," it stated.

stated.

According to the committee, the complaints had alleged that Facebook, despite its comprehensive policies and regulations on curbing unabated dissemination of hateful and offensive content in place, had been turning a blind eye to "mass manufacturing and propagation of vile, hateful communal content" not only in bad taste but with potential to "erupt violence and riot-like situation".

The committee, after vetting the complaints, it stated, was of the prima facie view that the allegations against the Facebook officials concerned were "extremely serious in nature" which if unchecked and un inhibited "may lead to serious adverse fallouts".

"The committee aims at redressing the issue at the earliest, therefore, the proceedings shall be expedited in order to put this issue to its logical conclusion," it stated.

Residents of girls hostel oppose notice to vacate

DU's notice asks them to 'discuss' amount for deduction

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Students of Delhi University's Undergraduate Hostel for Girls (UGHG) on Monday slammed the hostel's notice, which has asked them to submit fees for the lockdown months and vacate the premises.



The DU students called the move "unfair". ■ FILE PHOTO

room. She said it was wrong on the part of the hostel authorities to demand the same on the pretext of "whitewashing hostel".

Started petition

The students have started a petition, which has gathered nearly 800 signatures in a day.

The hostel authorities issued a clarification on Monday, withdrawing the previous notice. In a new post on their website, they asked students to "discuss among themselves" to determine an amount that ought to be deducted from their security deposit that may be used to pay various expenses of running the institution during the lockdown. They also clarified that it was necessary to vacate the hostel rooms, especially for students not living in the city.

The students said they would not be able to come to the hostel from their hometown at this time and called the move "unfair". Ritika Ranjan, a resident of the hostel, said she had left for home in Himachal Pradesh during

the mid-semester break in March. She said it would not be possible for her to return to hostel to vacate her room as the travel would be "expensive". She said the university should refund the money instead of asking for additional fees.

Another student, Sneha (name changed), a BA political science student at DU, who belongs to Maharashtra, said it would be impossible for her to vacate her

Four arrested for killing man in Sonia Vihar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Four men have been arrested for allegedly murdering a 30-year-old man in Sonia Vihar, the police said on Monday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Aakash, Ajay, Arush and Viresh. On August 15 at 10.34 p.m., the police received a PCR call stating that a man has been shot in Sonia Vihar. The victim – Dinesh – was shifted to JPC Hospital where he was declared dead, an officer said. The deceased's brother, Vicky, an eyewitness to the incident, said he was eating at a fast-food centre when he saw Dinesh being beaten by the accused.

V. Ramgopal Rao, director, IIT-Delhi said, "With the vision for 2030 in place, IIT-Delhi is on the road to its next phase of growth. The successful achievement of its vision will positively impact the lives of students, alumni, faculty and staff, while shaping the progress of our nation for decades to come."

IIT-Delhi said that it has set five aspirations for 2030 which include: drive research excellence, enhance educational experience and employability, attain global competitiveness in select technology areas, sustain global leadership in entrepreneurship and contribute to society and the country.

IIT-Delhi sets goals for 2030, releases vision document

Premier institute kick-starts diamond jubilee celebrations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kick-starting its diamond jubilee celebrations, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on Monday released a strategy document setting the vision and direction for 2030.



Vice-President M. Venkiah Naidu launches the year-long celebrations at IIT-D via videoconference. ■ PTI

Vice-President M. Venkiah Naidu inaugurated the year-long celebrations of IIT-Delhi, via videoconferencing and released the diamond jubilee logo of the institute.

Mr. Naidu said the institute, in its 60 years, had made numerous contributions for the national development. "It is heartening to note that over half of India's 'unicorns' have come out of this single institute and that IIT-Delhi is laying great emphasis on internationalisation, interdisciplinary research and industry connect," Mr. Naidu said.

He added that he was happy to know that the institute is planning to file over 200

patents this year as against 153 patents filed in 2019 and has emerged as a leader in the entrepreneurship space in the country.

COVID-19 challenge

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' who was also present at the function praised the contributions of IIT-Delhi in meeting the national challenge of fighting COVID-19 through techno-

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What is criticism and what is contempt?

Whether a comment constitutes criminal contempt would necessarily be decided on the facts of each case



GAUTAM S. RAMAN

A recent order of the Supreme Court found advocate Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt for two tweets – one relating to the Chief Justice of India astride an expensive motorcycle and the other a comment that the Supreme Court, in his opinion, played a role in the destruction of democracy in India over the last six years.

Criminal contempt

For the purpose of the topic at hand we are concerned only with criminal contempt and not those wilfully disobedient litigants who ignore the orders of the courts. Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 defines criminal contempt as the publication of any matter or the doing of any other act which scandalises or lowers the authority of any court; or prejudices or interferes with the due course of any judicial proceeding; or obstructs the administration of justice.

Does this mean that one can never voice any criticism of the judiciary? No. What the law permits you to say regarding the functioning of Indian courts forms the basis of this particular article, i.e., there is a thin line separating criticism and contempt.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right guaranteed to every Indian citizen under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, albeit subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2). In *C.K. Daphtry v. O.P. Gupta* (1971), the Supreme Court held that the existing law of criminal contempt is one such reasonable restriction. That does not mean that one cannot express one's ire against the judiciary for fear of contempt.

As long back as in 1968, Lord Denning M.R. set out guidelines in matters of contempt of court. He stated that contempt is not the means to uphold the court's dignity. He said its jurisdiction is to be exercised sparingly and that protection of freedom of speech is paramount. While welcoming criticism, Lord Denning only requested that it be fair since judges, owing to their status, are not in a position to refute the comments so le-



Prashant Bhushan. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

velled against them.

What does the Indian judiciary deem permissible and impermissible?

The Supreme Court has held that if a comment is made against the functioning of a judge, it would have to be seen whether the comment is fair or malicious.

If the comment is made against the judge as an individual, the Court would consider whether the comment seeks to interfere with the judge's administration or is simply in the nature of libel or defamation. The Court would have to determine whether the statement is fair, *bona fide*, defamatory or contemptuous.

A statement would not constitute criminal contempt if it is only against the judge in his or her individual capacity and not in discharge of his or her judicial function. Criminal contempt does not seek to afford protection to judges from statements which they may be exposed to as individuals.

Such statements would only leave the individual liable for defamation. Statements which affect the administration of justice or functioning of courts amount to criminal contempt since public perception of the judiciary plays a vital role in the rule of law.

An attack on a judge in his or her official capacity denigrates the judiciary as a whole and the law of criminal contempt would come down upon such a person unless it is

a fair critique of a judgment.

Various examples

Sections 4 and 5 of the Contempt of Courts Act are akin to a defense a person may take in a case of defamation i.e., fair comment. In *Re: S. Mugalokar v. Unknown* (1978), the Supreme Court held that the judiciary cannot be immune from fair criticism, and contempt action is to be used only when an obvious misstatement with malicious intent seeks to bring down public confidence in the courts or seeks to influence the courts. In this judgment, Chief Justice M.H. Beg opined that at times the judiciary adopts a "magnanimously charitable attitude even when utterly uncharitable and unfair criticism of its operations is made out of bona fide concern for improvement."

The same Justice Beg remarked post-retirement that Justice H.R. Khanna's famous dissent in the *ADM Jabalpur* case (1976) made no contribution to law but only to his popularity. The Allahabad High Court citing *Brahma Prakash Sharma* (1953) did not find Justice Beg guilty of contempt.

Former Law Minister of India, P. Shiv Shankar, referring to landmark judgments of the Supreme Court, said once: "Mahadhipatis like Kesavandana and Zamindars like Golaknath evoked a sympathetic chord

nowhere in the whole country except the Supreme Court of India. And the bank magnates... got higher compensation by the intervention of the Supreme Court in Cooper's case." He also said: "Antisocial elements i.e. FERA violators, bride burners and a whole horde of reactionaries have found their heaven in the Supreme Court."

Speaking for the Supreme Court in 1988, Justice Sabysachi Mukherjee found that these statements did not impair the administration of justice. He only opined that the language could have been milder given the Minister's own legal background. He also said: "If antisocial elements and criminals have benefited by decisions of the Supreme Court, the fault rests with the laws and the loopholes in the legislation. The Courts are not deterred by such criticisms."

Truth is also a defence in matters of criminal contempt if it is *bona fide* and made in public interest, as held by the Supreme Court in *Indirect Tax Practitioners' Association v. R.K. Jain* (2010).

However, all these precedents did not come to the aid of activist Arundhati Roy when the Supreme Court found her guilty of contempt. A petition was filed against Ms. Roy, which was dismissed by the apex court. However, it was Ms. Roy's reply to the petition which was held to be in contempt. In that, Ms. Roy had admonished the Supreme Court for acting with undue haste in a frivolous petition and attributed it to her strong critique of the apex court's decision in the Sardar Sarovar Dam case. The Supreme Court held that a statement that the Court willingly issued notice on an unsubstantiated petition affected the reputation and credibility of the Court before the public and therefore found Ms. Roy guilty of contempt.

The above cases would show that whether a comment would constitute criminal contempt or not depends entirely on the facts and circumstances of each case. In conclusion, tweets or remarks by conscientious citizens certainly do not affect the dignity of the Indian judiciary, to quote Lord Denning "that must rest on surer foundations".

Gautam S. Raman is an advocate practicing at the Madras High Court

Failing to rise up to challenges

Kerala faces the risk of losing its gains in human development and life standards



RAMESH CHENNITHALA

From the Ockhi cyclone in 2017 to catastrophic floods in 2018 and 2019, Kerala has been facing the brunt of natural calamities that are killing many and destroying property worth thousands of crores of rupees. The catastrophe continues this year too. About 10 days ago, landslides occurred in Pettimudi near Munnar. The death toll has increased to more than 50. It is unfortunate that the Re-build Kerala Initiative, set up to address these issues, is a non-starter.

With the State seeing high rainfall in the last few years, the situation has aggravated further. That may have destabilised various areas that were not vulnerable previously. What Kerala requires now is an immediate blueprint on environmental land management and a landslide susceptibility map.

We may not control natural calamities but we can always control human greed and man-made disasters. This government has given licences to hundreds of illegal quarries in environmentally vulnerable areas. These need to be reviewed immediately.

Identifying the risk-prone areas of the State, ensuring that there is constant monitoring during the monsoon season, giving proper advisories to those living in risk-prone areas and ensuring their eviction during the initial signs of the calamity are also immediately required.

Not a model of governance

Kerala was the first State to report a COVID-19 case in India. Sadly, it was also the first State to have officially announced community transmission of COVID-19 cases. As early as March, we had cautioned the LDF government not to treat the pandemic like the Nipah virus outbreak and come up with a mix of containment and mitigation strategies. However, the government went ahead with extreme containment measures alone. Though this contained the virus for a small period of time, it wreaked havoc on the State's economy. The treatment of a public health hazard as a public relations exercise also created a false sense of security amongst the people. The poor emphasis on mitigation measures led to non-discovery of hidden cases and led to a second surge of cases in June. Now, Kerala is witnessing over 1,000 cases per day and some coastal villages are seeing community transmission.

To tackle the situation, Kerala needs to ramp up its daily testing capacity to 75,000 tests a day. Mass testing in public places like markets and retail shops needs to be initiated and proper surveillance strategies are required to identify the super spreaders early. Further, mild and asymptomatic patients need to be identified and private hospitals need to be roped in as quickly as possible.

It is ironic that this government is approaching a healthcare crisis as a law and order problem. The government needs to withdraw its order of roping in the police for COVID-19 containment immediately and instead use professional healthcare workers for the same. COVID-19 cases need to be dealt with in a humane manner and not with an iron fist.

This government has also failed in bringing any big-ticket investments or projects to the State.

To summarise, a government which was touted as a model for alternative governance has left the citizens of the State in search of better alternatives.

Ramesh Chennithala is Leader of Opposition, Kerala Legislative Assembly

In Bihar, a balancing act

The LJP needs to know when to stop with its demands and when to make some concessions

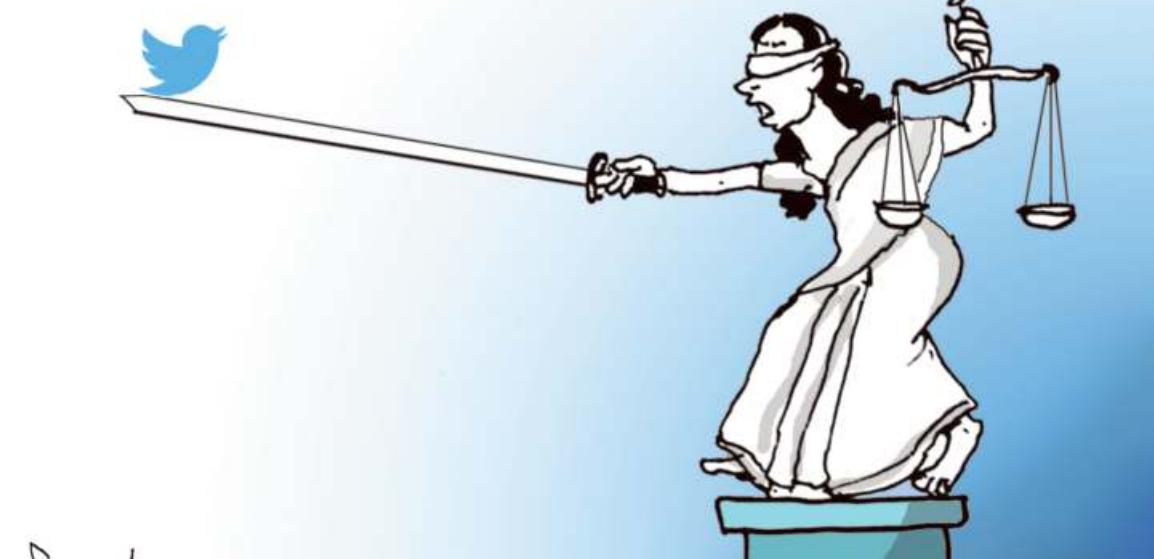
SANJAY KUMAR & NEEL MADHAV

With the Bihar Assembly election scheduled for October, political parties are busy staking claim for a greater share of seats within their own alliances. While the Congress has made it clear that it will enter into an alliance only if offered an "honourable" number of seats, the Janata Dal (United), reacting to attacks by Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) President Chirag Paswan on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has said its alliance is with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

A greater share of seats
Do Mr. Paswan's repeated attacks on Mr. Kumar signal a possible change in alliance in Bihar? Given the fact that the LJP's unease with Mr. Kumar is not on any ideological or policy issue, the strategy seems to be to demand a larger share of seats. The LJP has six members in the Lok Sabha and its leader, Ram Vilas Paswan, holds a ministerial post, but in the State Assembly, the party has only two MLAs, so it is in a very poor bargaining position for seats. While it is fine for parties to devise bargaining strategies, like the LJP is doing, they also need to be mindful of how far they can stretch their demands. In the past, whenever the LJP went overboard in its demands, it suffered.

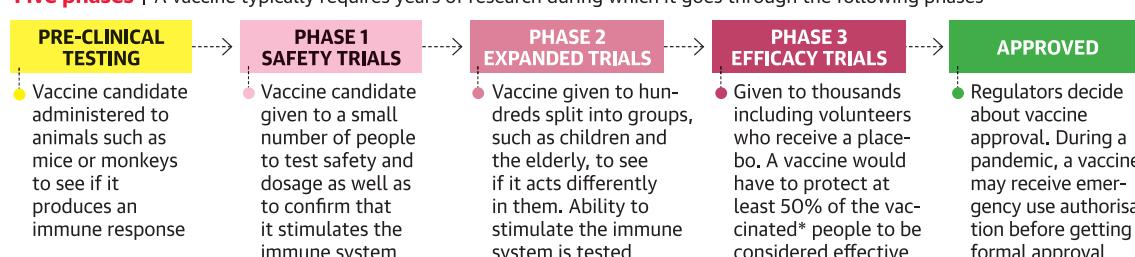
Chirag Paswan has been very critical of Mr. Kumar over the last few months. He created ripples when he said that the BJP would decide who the face of the coalition will be. The JD(U) reacted sharply to this saying that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s top leadership had already decided that the Assembly election would be fought under Mr. Kumar's leadership. Chirag Paswan also went to the extent of saying that the LJP is prepared to contest all 243 Assembly seats alone. While one cannot rule out the fact that he has his personal ambitions, Mr. Paswan's aggressive posturing shows an attempt to have multiple gains. Knowing well that being inexperienced, he may not be chosen to replace Ram Vilas Paswan in the Union Cabinet once the latter retires, Mr. Paswan wants to stake claim to a greater share in State politics. Demanding a substantial number of seats is the first step towards that.

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, and Neel Madhav, a student of journalism at the University of Delhi, is associated with Lokniti, a research programme of CSDS. Views are personal

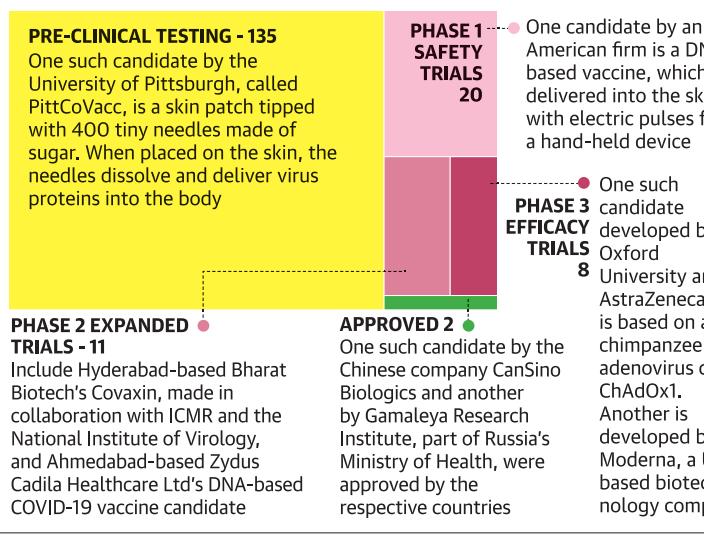
**DATA POINT**

Racing against the clock

Five phases | A vaccine typically requires years of research during which it goes through the following phases



At various stages | The graph shows the split of vaccine candidates in various phases of trials. For instance, 135 candidates are in the pre-clinical testing phase



A long game | There are twice as many COVID-19 vaccine candidates as there are active vaccine candidates to treat malaria. Typically, vaccines take years to get approved. For instance, the study of the earliest active vaccine candidate in the case of Ebola started in 2003

Disease	Total active vaccine candidates	Study start date
COVID-19	165	2020
Malaria	73	2007
HIV	68	2008
TB	62	2007
Dengue	35	2010
Ebola	65	2003
Pneumococcal Infection	15	1995
Zika	16	2016

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES, WHO, *FDA

The Hindu**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 18, 1970

Rounding up the naxalites

The Calcutta police seems to be slowly getting the measure of the naxalites and has arrested quite a few leaders of the movement in the city. Equally important has been the fact that the naxalite student terrorists are often meeting with strong opposition in the schools and colleges which they try to raid. There have been a number of clashes with rival organisations and some of the more serious ones have been with members of the Communist Party (Marxist). This is not surprising since the naxalites are a breakaway group from the C.P. (M) and disagree with the main organisation on the question of doctrine and tactics. It was in 1967 when the C.P. (M)-led United Front was in office in West Bengal, that the party was faced with a revolt in the Naxalbari area of the Siliguri subdivision of Darjeeling district. The local C.P. (M) branch, led by Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal and Jangal Santal, began to attack jotedars and forcibly occupy the lands. The C.P. (M) expelled Mazumdar from the party and the Government ordered the police to go into action. The movement was quickly put down since Naxalbari is a flat area without jungle cover. But this was the period of the Cultural Revolution in China and Peking Radio came out for Mazumdar and condemned the C.P. (M) as reactionary.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 18, 1920

Memorial by Anglo-Indians (From an editorial)

A memorial signed by about 30 Anglo-Indians, ladies and gentlemen, has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for India and H.E. the Viceroy emphatically protesting against the "serious and retrograde" steps being taken in certain European and Eurasian schools within and outside the city of Madras to abolish the vernacular in the curriculum of studies. The memorialists are of opinion that the proposed change in the curriculum took no account of the practical aspect of education as moulded by local conditions and the utility and importance of a working knowledge of the local vernacular in the case of a domiciled community. Apart from the utility of the knowledge of the vernaculars, their importance and value in service is a matter of common recognition. That Government should insist on the passing of vernacular test examinations in the case of I.C.S. men and other officers is a clear indication of their views in the matter.

Front camera:
32MP Selfie Camera; f/2.4 aperture, 5P lens, AI beautification, intelligent fill light mode, support night mode algorithms

REVIEW

The Oppo Reno4 Pro is a fine mid-range smartphone that comes with notable upgrades from its predecessor

Faster formula

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Right on the heels of the Find X2, the Reno4 Pro made an entrance in the lockdown smartphone market and was met with both scepticism and eager buyers. Oppo made a permanent home in India over the past year, setting up showrooms across metros equipped with dedicated service centres for the long-term brand loyalists. The lockdown did little to tamper with the release of new smartphones from the Chinese brand despite the ongoing dissent.

With most smartphones opting for the glass back for either wireless charging or aesthetics, I was pleasantly surprised with the grip-friendly feel of the Reno4 Pro. Perhaps its position as a mid-range device has pushed for the polycarbonate body but do not discredit this material just yet. The matte finish of the Silky White review unit offers tactile comfort for those with the most buttery of fingers. The couple of times I fum-

bled with it, I did not find myself panicking as much as I did with other devices. Getting this dirty is no small feat. It is not just the feel, it is the weight too. When I lifted the device out of the box, Reno4 Pro, at 161 grams, has little resistance in mass, proving itself to be a nimble gadget in the surest of hands. And the Corning Gorilla Glass 5 is sturdy too, but I am personally looking forward to a smartphone integrated with the latest Victus variant so I can bravely put the durability to test.

The Reno4 Pro is whip-quick thanks to the Qualcomm Snapdra-

This is a good shot for a first phone buy or a sturdy device with decent horsepower for the children while you continue working from home.

gon SDM720G of 8 cores. Switching between a heavy gaming session to YouTube to texting and back to gaming was pretty seamless, and backed up by impressive battery power.

Seamless switching
I would have loved to see 120Hz refresh rate on the 1100 nits display but one has to compromise when formulating a high-functioning mid-range smartphone. I also would have enjoyed an HDR10+ experience but the display still does a good job of keeping everything pretty: gaming, streaming, social media, and even just plain old texting. The thin bezels that wrap around the equally thin

Dimensions & weight:
160.2 x 73.2 x 7.7 mm ;
weight: about 161g



Chipset:
Qualcomm Snapdragon SDM720G (8 cores); **CPU Speed:** 8 cores, **max CPU clock rate:** 2.3GHz (2 big cores + 6 small cores); **CPU Cores:** 8 cores; **GPU:** Adreno 618@750MHz

The long run The Oppo Reno4 Pro has a sturdy yet light build ■ DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

frame help with the illusion of infinite edges.

Personally, I have never been a fan of Oppo's cameras. Be it the 'beautifying' effects of selves (which some people actually feel are a plus for the brand), or the overall composition of light versus shadow. I prefer the empowering results of an iPhone, a Pixel or a OnePlus. However, the quad camera system does a lot: up to 5x zoom, a nifty Pro mode, an effective Night mode and crystal clear video recording. Photography, especially during golden hour, is a wonder in natural light for the Reno4 Pro. Indoor lighting may see some compromise though – unfortunate in these home-bound times.

The typical 4000mAh battery is a champ. Much like with the Find X2, the Reno4 Pro features 65W SuperVOOC 2.0 flash (not just fast) charge. For someone who is constantly struggling to find a charger and maintain some battery life, I could put the Reno4 Pro at 1% on charge and in 15 minutes, I would see an almost full charge. I was sceptical (and still am) about the long-term effects of this on a phone battery and processor but Oppo claims their Gallium nitride (GaN), or third-generation semiconductor material, helps alleviate any future stress the flash charging may put on the device. I would like to see more smartphone brands take this on or even develop their own such feature, especially given the increasing reliance on mobiles during a post-COVID-19 world.

The Reno4 Pro is a great mid-range device with plenty of bells and whistles to keep with the lineage of the Reno series, which is known for its affordability and reasonable rates. Invest in this knowing you are not opting for something as rich as the Find X2 or, if referring to rival brand equivalents, an iPhone SE or a OnePlus Nord. This is, however, a good shot for a first phone buy or a sturdy device with decent horsepower for the children while you continue working from home.

The Oppo Reno4 Pro retails for ₹34,990 across major online and offline retailers.

Hello from the other side

An AI-powered hologram-making machine will let you interact with life-sized holograms of historical figures or deceased relatives

ABHISHEK CHATTERJEE



To the future The PORTL Hologram device ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INTERESTING USE-CASES

MUSEUMS: Hologram animals, historical interactive holograms, presidential library installations

SPORTS/MUSIC VENUES: HOLO-Fame interactive fan experiences with favourite athletes or celebrities

DIGITAL RESURRECTION TOURS: Deceased icons brought back via hologram to posthumously tour the world

UNIVERSITIES/EDUCATION: Professors from around the world beam into many locations at once

EXPERIENTIAL/ADVERTISING AGENCIES: Great for audience interaction and generate massive foot traffic

LIVE TELEPRESENCE CONCERTS: Beam living performers, singers, comedians into multiple locations around the world

MOVIE PREMIERES: Red carpets, publicity events, promotions, celebrity meet and greets

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS: Safest way to campaign. No flights, no security, no wear and tear. Be in multiple places

tablet which has all the content. The user has to just press the button and the content shows right up on the device.

The machine is priced at \$60,000. For an additional \$25,000, users can equip it with AI technology for hologram recording.

REVIEW

Lend me a hand

Noise ColorFit NAV smartwatch is an inexpensive buy for tracking your fitness but does it do much else?

SWETA AKUNDI

How do I know Noise ColorFit NAV's heart rate monitor works accurately?

My resting heart rate went up from 66 beats per minute to a constant 85 throughout the duration of Indian Matchmaking's first episode, as I side-eyed my parents expecting a 'You know, Sima is right' remark from them at any moment.

Made-in-India name Noise calls the ColorFit NAV its best offering so far and its fitness tracking matches the claim. It comes with 10 workout modes and monitors the time for which you have remained active, the distance you have covered, the steps you have taken, and the calories you have burnt.

Connect to the NoiseFit X app via your phone's bluetooth and it will store this data, giving you a useful graph of your daily, weekly and monthly activity levels. The watch has built in GPS, so if you keep it connected to your phone and go for a run outside, you can see a map of your run. I did get caught in the rain once while wearing this, but the IP68 water resistance did its job well.



Wrist-power The Noise ColorFit NAV ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**SPECIFICATIONS**

DIMENSION & WEIGHT: 38.5 x 42.5 x 11.0 mm ; 40 g

WATCH CASE MATERIAL: Polycarbonate

SYSTEM REQUIREMENT: iOS 9 and higher, or Android 5 and higher

BLUETOOTH: v4.2

DISPLAY: 1.4-inch thin-film-transistor liquid-crystal display (TFT LCD) ; 320 x 320 pixels

SENSORS: Accelerometer Sensor, Gyroscope Sensor, Optical Heart Rate Sensor, Capacitive Sensor, in-built GPS

HEALTH MONITORING FEATURES: Heart Rate Monitor, Step Tracker, Calories Burned, Distance Travelled, Activity History, Sleep Monitor, Breathe, Sports Mode

imum. The battery drains in just four days of extensive use, but with light use it stays for a week easily.

In a connected world

Noise encourages you to keep your phones away, through its smartwatches. How feasible is it while you are Working From Home all the time? Let us see.

You can control music on your phone so you don't need to reach out to change your workout songs. You can reject calls, but without a text message. It notifies you every time you get an SMS or a WhatsApp or any social media notification.

There is an option to use quick replies but only via SMS, not WhatsApp. (Who even uses SMS to converse anymore?) And if you have multiple WhatsApp messages from one person or on a group, you can only see the last text, so that is not much use, is it?

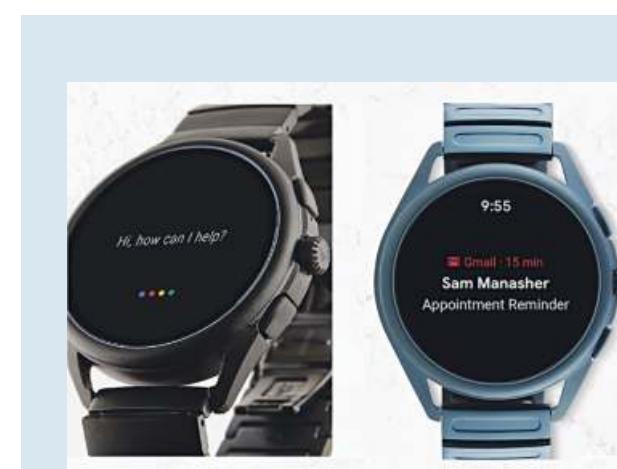
Even if that were fixed, the constant notifications on your phone leave your wrist vibrating. If I wanted to keep my phone away, I would do so without the notifications alerts. It is not like I can do anything about these notifications other than reaching out for my phone again.

While on the one hand it increases my stress level with this, on the other – well actually, on the same – hand, it wants to help me 'breathe better' by gently guiding me to inhale and exhale. Personally, I have no inclination to be that Pavlovian.

The Noise ColorFit NAV smartwatch retails for ₹4,499 at gonoise.com and at Amazon India.

A clean update for Google

Google announced Wear OS update with new features for improved performance. The features will be released later this year through an over-the-air update. "Wearables are designed to instantly connect people with what's important throughout the day. That's why we're focussed on fundamentals like performance and power," co-write Google's Karen Ng, Director of Product, and Robert Simpson, Product Manager in a blog post. The new update promises faster performance, up to 20% improvement in app startup time due to CPU core enhancements. Also, Wear OS will include a new pairing process, with improvements in the system's user interface to manage different watch modes and workouts. Google says, it will introduce a "handwashing timer" to Wear OS, in response to COVID-19. The user will also receive weather information with hourly breakdown, and location specific alerts via the new weather experience for Wear OS. With inputs from Ishan Patra



Shiitake in disguise

Unlike plant-based protein foods of the past, which were aimed at vegetarians, the new mock meats are meant to taste like the real thing and be marketed to meat-eating customers

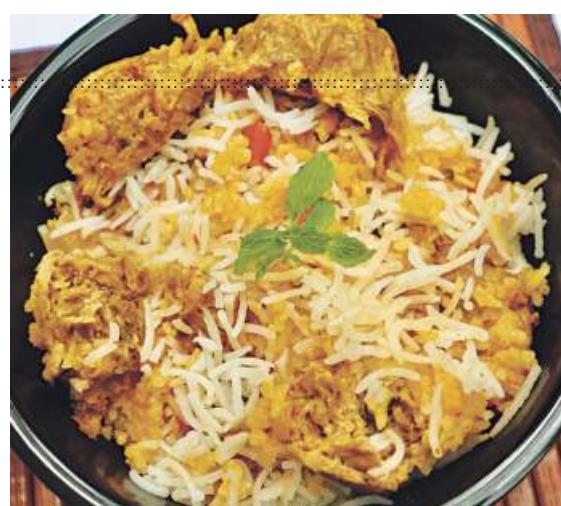
REJI VERGHESE

"Are you sure this is vegetarian?" Asha Seshasayee asked the waiter, biting into a piece of crispy fried prawn. The waiter nodded as he piled plates of sea food on the table – crab cake, soy fish, black pomfret fillet etc.

Asha and her husband Vikram Seshasayee were at the Cameleon Restaurant in Kuala Lumpur where all items on the menu had the names of popular non-vegetarian dishes but were made entirely from plant based sources. The couple turned vegetarian in 2010. Though they never went back to eating meat, they still missed its taste.

After returning from Malaysia, Asha says she talked to a friend, Inba Kishore, who runs a shipping company specialising in the cold chain industry.

"We decided to form a company to start importing meat analogues into India," she says. Meat analogues resemble meat in texture but are created from vegetables by processing extracted plant protein



Real deal Mock meat has been gaining popularity in India, with jackfruit as a healthy alternative
■ GETTY IMAGES/
ISTOCK AND SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT



Director's cut

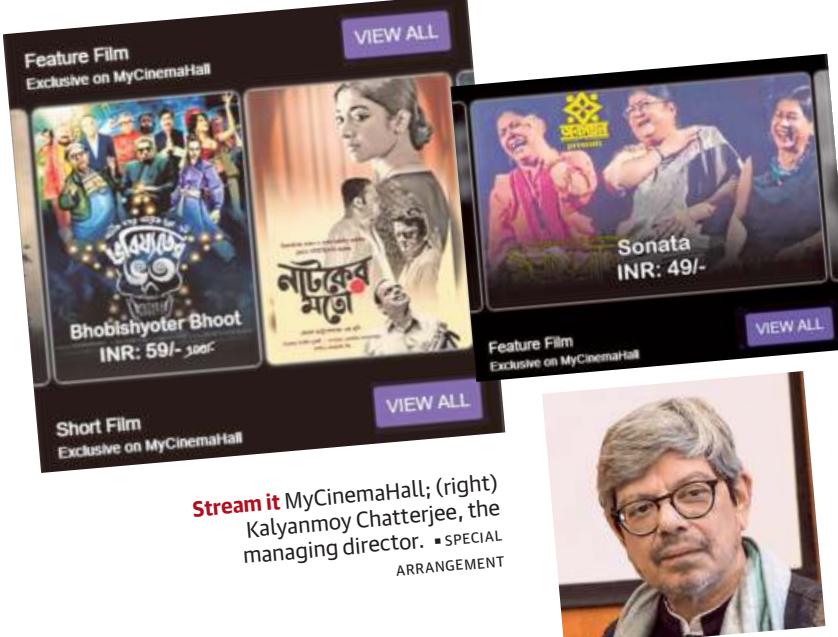
MyCinemaHall, a pay-per-view OTT platform launched during lockdown, offers an alternative marketing route for filmmakers sans a middleman

SUNALINI MATHEW

Filmmaker Yaatic Chakraborty still harbours hurtful memories of rejections from 'brokers'. "They won't see your film. They just want to know who the hero and heroine are. If you have political connections or muscle power, even if it's a terrible film, it will play," says the Kolkata-based Chakraborty, a graduate of National Institute of Film & Fine Arts. "When I decided to make a feature film, it was as if I had committed a crime," he adds.

His experience made him create MyCinemaHall – a 'web theatre' where each mobile phone turns into a micro screen and which operates on a pay-per-view model that makes middlemen – theatre owners, in his case – redundant.

"There are around 8,000 live cine-



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



The no-sugar beverage

This company is trying to introduce people to Ayurveda, through a substitute for tea and coffee

SUNALINI MATHEW

Early this year, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Chiranjeev Shrivastava and his team at A&Y (Ayurveda and Yoga) had decided to launch a health drink, Brahmaveda, before immunity and other health terminologies were bandied about.

The idea revolved around developing a vending machine that would dispense plant-based drinks. These would be derived from the roots, leaves, or stems of *giloy*, *triphalas*, *ashwagandha*, and other beneficial herbs, as talked about in ayurveda.

In January, after about nine months of R&D, the machine (patent pending) was ready, where a company could opt for a minimum of six herbs. Shrivastava was hoping to market it in spaces where coffee and tea were traditionally served (offices, salons, restaurants). His worry was that people would not buy into the taste. "That has changed after the lockdown, and people are now more accepting," he says, adding that he currently has an order from Glam Studio branches.

Each drink costs the subscriber (an office, for instance), ₹5 to ₹10, which is at par with coffee and tea. A company may choose to give it as an employee benefit or charge cost price for it. On the other hand, a restaurant may price it up.

The machine has a minimum of six canisters, with one for water and the other five for the herbs. A glass makes up 10 ml of the extract and 90 ml of water. However, the machine can be customised to fit as few as two or as many as 60 herbs – they currently come as a liquid decoction or powder. The size has a radius of 1 foot and a height of 2.5 feet, constructed out of steel, with a copper coating.

"Further customisation is possible – a company may want a particular shape for its brand identity, and we work on that too," says Shrivastava, who sources herbs from Herbal Hills that produces in India and is USDA Organic-certified.

In an office, a user can access which herb they would like from an app that gives the benefits of each, making the machine touch-free. In a setting that sees visitors who may not want to download an app, a user can simply select from a list that details the uses of the herb.

"An ayurvedic doctor can also visit a company and do a check-up of all its employees. Once a health profile of the office has



Going natural Brahmaveda, the Ayurveda drink from a dispensing machine
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

been made – say many people have diabetes or are smokers, a mix of herbs can also be suggested," says Shrivastava. So a particular canister may have a mix of two or more herbs.

Shrivastava, who has been operating in the space of preventive healthcare for eight years, with previous jobs and with his own company A&N that has ayurveda retreats, says he sees the drink as a funnel to bring people into the ayurveda fold. While the retreats, in Rishikesh and Bangkok, are the service, this is the product part of the business that he founded a year-and-a-half ago.

Recently, the company tied up with Brabo Robotics for manufacturing the machine. In the future, Shrivastava hopes to be able to integrate AI features into the dispensing machine. "I want to develop a face recognition functionality to help detect a person's *prakriti* (a person's make-up) and *ama* (toxins) – this is spelt out in the *Charak Samhita*, the ayurveda text on herbs." This analysis will then prompt the system to recommend a herbal drink.

In another progression, he hopes to feed information from the text, as well as ayurvedic doctor prescriptions for particular conditions. The dispensing machine, with the aid of an app, would then be able to suggest drinks for the user, based on inputs by them.

Some day, he also hopes to develop a wearable that will keep a track of the *doshas* and toxins within the body, so that people can adjust their daily routine and lifestyle accordingly.



ma halls in India, of which about 800 are multiplexes. Each has four to eight screens with six to 10 shows a day. But getting a screen is next to impossible. It is controlled tightly by a group of people, mostly from Mumbai. They will run a hall empty, but they will not give you a show. You need muscle power. It's something everyone acknowledges, but no one talks about," says Kalyanmoy Chatterjee, the managing director.

The platform allows any regional filmmaker in India to upload films that are okayed by its panel of advisors. Each producer gets uploading rights and a dashboard to track how the film is doing. The optimal price is ₹100 for a feature and ₹20-30 for a short film, although the producer has the final say; the producer also takes 70% of the revenue. "We don't accept adult content, and would rather stay

away from religious content. Otherwise, in terms of quality, we leave it to the viewers to decide," says Chatterjee, who joined the company after 31 years in market research.

The app is available to download on Play Store and has approximately 11,000 downloads. A few popular movies available on it are *Bhobishyoter Bhoot*, *Nartak*, *Battery*, *A Better Life*. While the content is currently predominantly in Bengali, with some English, Assamese, Oriya, and Marathi films, Chatterjee says it is just a matter of time for the platform to be populated with content from across regions.

The company has now launched a Bengali film festival, My Shorts – a competition for short films on the platform. They also have their marketing calendar in place and hope to reach out to film schools as well.

