

'Pandemic changes nothing on its head; will have no enduring impact'

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# UTTAR PRADESH the Land of OPPORTUNITIES

**With longest road, rail, air and river network in India, UP opens new avenues for Industries and Tourism.**



Map Not to Scale



There are immense employment opportunities in the Industry, MSME, Rural Development, Tourism, Agriculture and Irrigation sectors. The Investor summit brought global investment and infrastructure development to the state of UP. Projects such as the Purvanchal Expressway (340.8 Km), Bundelkhand Expressway (296 km) and Ganga Expressway (594 km) were initiated for the development of the region. UP Government has added cities to the air grid in last three years and is developing new airports. The upcoming Jewar international airport, Kusinagar airport and Ayodhya airport will not only strengthen connectivity and provide immense boost to employment opportunities in these region but will also bring global recognition to the state of Uttar Pradesh.

**YOGI ADITYANATH**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



## EXPRESSWAYS

### ● PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY

Six-Lanes  
Start Chand Sarai, Lucknow  
End point Haidaria, Ghazipur  
**Districts benefited from the project:**  
Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.

### ● BUNDELKHAND EXPRESSWAY

Four-Lanes, Expandable up to Six-Lanes  
Start Bharatkoop, End point Etawah  
**Districts benefited from the project:** - Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah

### ● GORAKHPUR LINK EXPRESSWAY

Four-Lanes  
Start Jaitpur (Gorakhpur)  
End point Salarpur (Azamgarh)  
**Districts benefited from the project:** Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Ambedkar Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar

### ● GANGA EXPRESSWAY

Phase-I (Meerut to Prayagraj)  
Six-Lanes, Expandable up to Eight Lanes  
Phase-II => Prayagraj to Ballia Section  
**Districts benefited from the project:** Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshaher, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rai Bareli, Pratapgarh, Prayagraj

## AIRPORTS

### ● OPERATIONAL AIRPORTS

#### International Airports (2)

Lucknow & Varanasi

#### Domestic Airports (5)

- Agra • Prayagraj • Ghaziabad
- Gorakhpur • Kanpur

### ● AIRPORTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

#### International Airports (2)

- Greater Noida (Jewar) • Ayodhya

#### Domestic Airports (5)

- Chitrakoot • Jhansi • Meerut
- Muirpur (Sonbhadra) • Saharanpur

### ● UPCOMING AIRPORTS

#### International Airports (1)

- Kushinagar

#### Domestic Airports (6)

- Aligarh • Azamgarh • Moradabad
- Shravasti • Ghazipur • Bareilly



# Connecting Uttar Pradesh

Believing in the power of infrastructural development as the road to economic prosperity, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has vowed to bring total transformation in the state by developing four crucial expressways to cater to the commuting needs of people and also bring economic corridors in and around the expressways. Once completed, these expressways will act as growth centres and will help in generating job opportunities in a range of sectors.

## Purvanchal Expressway

### will Boost Economic Activities in Eastern UP

Relying on the mantra of development as the way forward to economic prosperity, Purvanchal Expressway will be like a milestone achievement for the Government of UP once it is ready, offering a multitude of growth opportunities

SETTING YET another example of people-centric development, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, under the disciplined leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is just few months away from opening the much-anticipated Purvanchal Expressway. As per various reports, hectic and continued efforts are underway to ensure the completion of the project by this year end. Due to the COVID-19-induced nationwide lockdown, the project got delayed by 2 months. However, the UP administration is making sustained efforts to complete it much before the official deadline of March 2021.

In July 2018, the foundation stone of this ambitious expressway project was laid by PM Modi in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh. Currently, the development on the 340.824-km-long Purvanchal Expressway is under progress. The Purvanchal Expressway, a Rs 22,500 crore project, is being executed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), with an aim to give an infrastructural boost to the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh. Originating from Village Chand Sarai, located at Lucknow Sultanpur Road (NH-56), in district Lucknow, the mega expressway will end near village Haidarpur on NH-19, 18 km before the UP-Bihar border, in district Ghazipur. The expressway will connect Lucknow, Azamgarh, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Amethi, Ambedkar Nagar, Mau and Ghazipur. The Purvanchal Expressway is to be linked with Varanasi-Gorakhpur highway through a separate link road. It will comprise an emergency airstrip for Indian Air Force (IAF) jets at Kurebhar (Sultanpur).

The much-touted Purvanchal Expressway will be fully access-controlled six-lane expressway, expandable to 8 lanes. According to UPEIDA, the construction works that are currently underway include pile load test, pile cap, WMM, DBM, rolling for GSB, development of

median drain LTC. It is reported that "87 per cent of the earthwork and 60 per cent of the physical work have been done. Around 8,000 people are working at full pace to complete the work." Earlier, 10,000 workers were working on the project, however, due to COVID-19, the workforce got reduced. The state government is currently trying to increase its workforce.

The expressway is being constructed on an EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) basis. The best thing about this project is that it will provide seamless connectivity to 9 districts of Uttar Pradesh, which are predominantly agricultural districts of the state. Once completed, the under-construction Purvanchal Expressway

project will be the longest expressway in the country. According to state nodal agency UPEIDA, of total loans worth Rs 1,500 crore, Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 500 crore will be sourced from Bank of India and Central Bank of India, respectively, to expedite the work on its flagship 340-km Purvanchal Expressway project.

Due to the pan-India COVID-19 lockdown, the work on the expressway had come to a standstill in March. "However, the civil works on this mega infra project, totalling about Rs 22,500 crore, were gradually restarted from the month of April in the non-hotspot stretches. The government is proactively providing jobs to the migrant workers in these big projects." The project is being executed by

Gayatri Projects, Apco Infratech, G R Infraprojects, PNC Infratech and Oriental Structural Engineers. Earlier, the Purvanchal Expressway project was divided in 8 packages, with Gayatri Projects, G R Infraprojects and PNC Infratech allotted 2 packages each and Apco Infratech and Oriental Structural Engineers being awarded one package each for ensuring time-bound completion. The easy bidding process has also resulted in 10% cost reduction for the project.

Building expressways is a sure-shot way of bringing development in a said region. They are often considered a harbinger of economic growth. The Purvanchal Expressway just aims to do that. It is expected that the expressway will spur tourism activities in the 9

districts that it will connect. Interestingly, it will pass through Ayodhya as well which is already a renowned tourist destination and is soon expected to receive huge footfalls once the construction of Ram Temple is completed and thrown open to public. The expressway will surely give wings to tourism activities in other districts as well like Varanasi. Known for its ancient culture and unique heritage, Varanasi attracts hordes of tourists throughout the year and the Purvanchal Expressway is only going to make things better in the Holy City. The tourists will now find it more convenient to take road trips from Lucknow to Varanasi and this will bring in a lot of development and infrastructural boost on both sides of

the expressway.

Since the project is connecting the agriculture districts of UP, it is also expected to give a boost to agriculture, industrial and commercial activities in the region. The expressway is likely to attract investment in the food processing, warehousing, handloom, dairy sectors, thereby, giving a boost to the region and the state's economic prosperity. Additionally, the expressway will offer several other benefits such as time saving, fuel saving, pollution level control, reduction in road accidents, etc.

"UPEIDA has launched a mobile application which will redirect and help the authority monitor all the up-to-date construction and review any sort of changes required. The mobile app also enables the common people know about all the construction and the accessibility of the expressway that will be passing through all the nine districts of the state."



Ongoing projects photograph

**"However, the civil works on this mega infra project, totalling about Rs 22,500 crore, were gradually restarted from the month of April in the non-hotspot stretches"**

## Bringing Development to Bundelkhand!

The upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway will not just ensure a fast, better and smooth connectivity to the national capital, but will also provide a huge economic stimulus to the region, often beset with numerous problems and challenges

BUILDING ROADS, highways and expressways not just ensures better connectivity and development in the surrounding areas, but also ensures great people-to-people connect, industrialisation, and employment opportunities in the region. Taking this thought process forward, the Uttar Pradesh government, under the able guidance and disciplined leadership of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, "first unveiled its plan to build the project in April 2017 to boost economic development in the interior regions through improved connectivity." Thereafter on August 21, 2019, the Uttar Pradesh government gave its approval for the Bundelkhand Expressway project.

Taking the thoughtful initiative a step ahead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the much awaited, 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway project in February 2020, with an aim to connect some of the most interior regions of the state. Bundelkhand is considered as one of the most backward regions in state,

often beset with consecutive droughts, hailstorms and unseasonal rains leading to severe agrarian crisis. In a bid to provide relief to the stressed region, the State Government envisioned this project to strengthen connectivity, bring employment, infrastructural development and industrialisation in the area. The four-lane access-controlled expressway (likely to be expanded to six lanes in future) will start from Bundelkhand's Chitrakoot Dham (Karwi) - Banda - Mahoba - Hamirpur - Jalaun - Orai to Etawah where it will join Agra Lucknow Expressway. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 14,850 crore (including land cost) and is proposed to be developed by Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).

The new project is also being hailed as a next-generation infrastructure boost for the state of Uttar Pradesh. "Once the development work on this project is completed, the Bundelkhand Expressway in UP will provide seamless passage to the national capital." A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) stated that the proposed expressway project will be supplementing the nodes of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor announced in the month of February 2018 by the government.

While laying the foundation stone in February, the Prime Minister had said, "This project will take Bundelkhand on the path of development, it will prove to be the development expressway of the region and definitely change people's lives in this entire region." On creating job



Ongoing projects photograph

If the companies awarded the contract for Bundelkhand Expressway are able to complete the work in 30 months from the date of signing the MoUs, they will get an incentive of 5%.

2,000 crore for the ambitious Expressway project. The state government had approved the project cost of about Rs 14,850 crore out of which Rs 7,000 crore will be raised by UPEIDA as consortium loan from banks and the balance investment amount shall be made available to UPEIDA by the state government.

UPEIDA is currently implementing the project and it is expected to complete it in 30 months in six phases. According to the CEO, UPEIDA, Mr Awanish Kumar Awasthi, "The construction for the first and the second package will be handled by M/s APCO Infratech, Ashoka Buildcon will handle the third package, Gawar Construction the fourth and fifth package, and Dilip Buildcon the sixth package. If the companies awarded the contract for Bundelkhand Expressway are able to complete the work in 30 months from the date of signing the MoUs, they will get an incentive of 5%. The deadline for the completion of

the expressway work is 36 months, and if that is missed the companies will be fined."

Once the upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway project is completed, it is expected to help 50,000 people get direct as well as indirect jobs. The upcoming project will link Bundelkhand area to national capital through fast and smooth traffic corridor. This project will also spur the development of Defence Corridor – another equally important project with respect to country's defence requirements. The project will help in strengthening Omni-directional development of Bundelkhand area. Important savings in consumption of fuel and control over pollution will also be possible as the expressway is access controlled.

The areas covered under the project will experience better economic prospects in the agriculture, commerce, tourism and industrial sectors. An industrial corridor will also be available for establishment of Industrial Training Institutes, Teaching and Training Institutes and Medical Institutes etc. near the expressway. Expressway will also act as a catalyst for establishment of Handloom industry, food processing units, storages, market and Milk-based industries. With the implementation of this project, the state tourism will also get a fillip and also, it will bring in the holistic development of the state, especially in the Bundelkhand region.

# Ganga Expressway

## will Provide Immense Economic Boost in Western and Eastern UP

Cutting across 12 crucial districts of eastern and western UP, the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway will be like a milestone achievement for the Government of UP once it is ready, offering a multitude of growth opportunities

COMMITTED TO improve the state's infrastructural development, Ganga Expressway project happens to be the dream project of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who declared it during Kumbh in 2019. The Yogi government reworked the alignment and decided to build the expressway 10 km away from the riverbank. The UP government has also set 2025 as the new completion date for the mega project that will seamlessly connect the western to the eastern fringes of the state. Cutting across 12 districts, the much-anticipated expressway will provide connectivity to the industrial cities of the state, including Meerut, Bulandshaher, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Amethi, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj. The expressway would start at Meerut (west end) and terminate at Prayagraj (east end). The Ganga Expressway project has got a new lease of life and is being billed as the second largest expressway in the country.

Had it not been for the proactiveness of the Yogi government, the project would have remained in abeyance for an eternity, given the environmental hurdles. The proposal is also underway to connect the Ganga Expressway to Varanasi and finally extend it to Ballia, near the Bihar border. For this, a second phase of the project has been mooted. "In case the roughly 300-km extension plan materialises, the Ganga Expressway would become the e-way connecting eastern Uttar Pradesh to the National Capital through a string of expressways. It will link other expressways like Lucknow-Agra Expressway, Purvanchal Expressway."

The development on the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway is to be completed in two phases. The Ganga Expressway, a Rs 38,300 crore project (including Rs. 9,500 crore as the land acquisition cost), is being executed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), with an aim to give an infrastructural boost in the industrial and agricultural belt of Uttar Pradesh.

The Ganga Expressway will be a 6-



lane greenfield expressway, expandable to 8 lanes. According to sources, "The first phase of the six-lane expressway (expandable to eight lanes) would cover approximately 547 villages of central and western Uttar Pradesh, which is a hub of agricultural and industrial activity." According to a report, "The Ganga Expressway project would reduce travel time between Delhi and Prayagraj from the present 10-11 hours to 6-7 hours. The Ganga Expressway would ensure fast-paced economic development, which the state has long desired. The moment the financials are worked out, work on the expressway will start in earnest." According to UPEIDA, plans are afoot to get the foundation stone for

### The development on the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway is to be completed in two phases.

the project laid around Diwali. It is hopeful to start construction work by the end of this year.

The mammoth project would have 368 underpasses, 7 RoBs, 28 flyovers, 17 interchanges and 142 bridges. To complete this significant project, UPEIDA has decided to divide it into 12 packages for simultaneous

development by concessionaires, who would be selected through a competitive bidding process.

According to UPEIDA, "The detailed project report is ready and will be placed before the state Cabinet for approval. The land acquisition process, too, shall start soon." Building expressways is a sure-shot way of

bringing development in a said region. They are often considered a harbinger of economic growth.

The Ganga Expressway just aims to do that, it is expected that the expressway will spur travel and tourism activities in the 12 districts that it will connect.

It aims to connect all significant pilgrimages and tourist places and provide fast movement of traffic to these spots.

To ensure a safe movement of traffic on the expressways, UPEIDA has already got a safety audit done by the Central Road Research Institute in order to form a highway patrol force with separate wing of security personnel created from the Uttar Pradesh Police Force. The state police

**The Ganga Expressway will surely give wings to economic activities in the 12 districts of eastern and western UP by bringing national and international markets closer.**

have been working for preparing an advanced traffic management system to make expressways safe passage for the commuters. Authority ensures for a well planned access control on both sides of the expressway in order to check the movement of cattle, animals or locals. To check the speed, rumbler will be put in place and ambulances will be deployed on expressway to save the golden hours.

The authority will install cameras on the expressway and anyone who crosses the road in less than a fixed time period will automatically face the challan.

The expressway will surely give wings to economic activities in these districts by bringing national and international markets closer. Once completed, this mega project will provide faster transit to agri and commercial goods from the region and boost exports.

Additionally, the expressway will offer several other benefits such as time saving, fuel saving, pollution control and, reduction in road accidents, etc.

## Connecting Varanasi and Gorakhpur Like Never Before!

Believing in the philosophy of great connectivity to spur economic growth in the state, the UP government has launched the Gorakhpur Link Expressway to offer seamless travelling experience to commuters while improving economic activities in the region

IN A bid to strengthen connectivity in the far-flung areas of the state, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the state's complete roadways development. "Gorakhpur is the most important centre of health education, trade and employment. Better connectivity is needed to bring prosperity to the lives of such a large population." In this regard, the Yogi Adityanath government is currently developing Gorakhpur Link Expressway to provide faster connectivity and better commuter experience as well as help in getting the population of affected areas closer. The upcoming Gorakhpur Link Expressway is planned as a, 91.352 kilometre-long expressway in state of Uttar Pradesh connecting Gorakhpur and Purvanchal Expressway. The 4-lane fully access-controlled expressway is being built on 1,073 hectares (2,650 acres) of land and will cost Rs. 5876.67 crore (including the land cost). The districts covered include Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh. The project is being implemented on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode. Currently, the construction of the road is ongoing and 90 % of required land has been acquired.

The project is to be completed in 36 months. UP Govt. is developing industrial corridor on both sides of Gorakhpur Link Expressway. "The Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) has taken steps in land acquisition and other related processes. AIIMS will be opened in Gorakhpur next year and the fertilizer factory, which was shut 30 years ago will also be started."

In a serious commitment to enhance infrastructure initiatives in Uttar Pradesh post COVID-19 lockdown,

## Improving Air Connectivity to Spur Travel and Tourism in UP

UTTAR PRADESH has entered a new phase of air connectivity as development work is being carried out on 3 international airports in the state. Furthermore, the Central government has approved 18 new air routes in the state facilitating more services between existing airports and paving way for construction and development of new airports in the state. Kushinagar international airport is expected to go operational in the near future, while work on Jewar international airport is in progress.

Conceived in 2001, the Jewar Airport was mooted by the BJP government when it was in power in Uttar Pradesh with Rajnath Singh as the Chief Minister. However, the plan couldn't turn into a reality before the BJP government coming to power at the Centre in 2014. Development of international airport in Jewar became one of the top priorities of the union government. The project was put on the fast track in 2017 after the BJP rose to power in UP.

Aimed at reducing burden on Indira Gandhi International airport in New Delhi, the Jewar Airport will be a monumental achievement once it is complete. As per reports, "Traffic at Jewar Airport is estimated at 12 million passengers per annum in the first phase of the project, and expected to go up to 70 million PPA once all phases are completed. The IGI Airport is set to reach its peak capacity of 110 million in the next six or seven years."

Located at 72 km from IGI Airport and 28 km from Greater Noida, the Jewar International Airport will prove to be a boon for travellers coming from not only Delhi NCR, but also from UP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

It is being developed on PPP model and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has been appointed as the implementing agency on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government. According to the Noida International Airport Limited, "the airport will be developed in four phases. The first phase of the airport is expected to be completed by 2023-24. The development work of the first phase would cost Rs 4,086.54 crore. The cost includes Rs 2,848.35



**Kushinagar and Jewar are two international airports under construction in Uttar Pradesh. Kushinagar airport will be operational in two months while Jewar is likely to be operational in three years from now.**

crore for compensation over the acquisition of private land.

Zurich International Airport AG, or Flughafen Zürich AG, which is currently managing eight airports abroad, is building and will manage Jewar Airport under a 40-year concession. "Expected to be spread

over 5,000 hectares, the plan is to build a two-runway airport by 2023-24."

The other international airport is ready in Kushinagar in the eastern UP. It is likely to go operational in next two months connecting this most important point of Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh. Being one of the most important pilgrimages for Buddhists, tourists and pilgrims from Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Japan, Singapore and other parts of the world would be able to visit Kushinagar round the year. Keeping in view the religious and tourist importance of the place, the Yogi government had in March 2019 signed an MoU with AAI, for taking up the development and operationalisation of the existing airport at Kushinagar. Recently the Union Minister of State for Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had a meeting regarding early completion of works at Kushinagar airport. There it was announced that the airport will be operational in two months. Puri also informed to have permitted air services

on 18 new air routes in Uttar Pradesh. Kushinagar is a famed tourist destination and a must-visit spot on the travel itineraries of domestic and international tourists, especially Buddhists. Being a Buddhist cultural site of huge significance, Kushinagar is the gateway to many other Buddhist cultural sites of immense importance, such as Lumbini (195 km), Kapilavastu (190 km), Shravasti (238 km), etc.

**With 18 new air routes being approved in Uttar Pradesh, air transportation in the state is likely to get a boost as new services will start between existing airports. It shall also allow development of new airports.**

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**HCL TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held from Thursday, October 15, 2020 to Friday, October 16, 2020 to inter-alia consider and take on record the unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half-year ending September 30, 2020.

This notice is also available on the website of the Stock Exchanges ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and on the website of the Company at [www.hcltech.com](http://www.hcltech.com).

For HCL Technologies Limited

Manish Anand  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: September 26, 2020

**HCL**

**VIVO BIO TECH LIMITED**

Regd office: 8-2-672/5&6, 3rd Floor, Ilyas Mohammed Khan Estate, Road #1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034, Telangana Tel: 040-2331-3288 Email: [investors@vivobio.com](mailto:investors@vivobio.com) Web: [www.vivobio.com](http://www.vivobio.com)

CIN: L65993TG1987PLC007163

**Corrigendum to Notice of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Corrigendum to Notice of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Vivo Bio Tech Limited ("the Company") had issued Notice dated 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 (AGM Notice) for convening the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the shareholders, scheduled to be held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, at 3:30 PM (IST) through video conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM). The AGM Notice has already been circulated to all the Shareholders of the Company in due compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and read with the Rules made thereunder. Subsequent to the circulation of the AGM Notice vide email dated, Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, 2 (two) changes have been identified and replaced in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting Notice and explanatory statement as follows:

1. The "Relevant date" mentioned in the Resolution No. 4 and in the explanatory statement for Resolution No. 4, should be read as 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 instead of 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

2. In Item No. 4 of Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Act on page No 32 of the said notice

None of the Directors or Key Managerial Personnel of the Company and/or their relative(s) is in any way concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in the proposed resolution in Item No. 4.

Replaced as:

Except Mr. M. Kalyan Ram and his relatives none of the Directors or Key Managerial Personnel of the Company and/or their relative(s) is in any way concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in the proposed resolution in Item No. 4.

This corrigendum to the AGM Notice shall form integral part of Notice dated 28th August, 2020 circulated to the shareholders of the Company. Accordingly, all the concerned Shareholders, Stock Exchanges, Depositories, Registrar and Share Transfer Agents, Agencies appointed for E-Voting, other Authorities, Regulators and all other concerned persons are requested to take note of the above corrections. This corrigendum will be available on the Website of the Company, [www.vivobio.com](http://www.vivobio.com) besides being communicated to BSE where the shares of the Company are listed.

By order of the Board of Directors  
For Vivo Bio Tech Ltd  
Sd/- A. Karthik  
Date: 26.09.2020  
Place: Hyderabad  
M.No.A44462

**POWER MECH PROJECTS LIMITED**

CIN: L74140TG1999PLC032156  
Registered Office: Plot No: 77, Jubilee Enclave, Opp: Hitex, Madhapur, Hyderabad-500081, Telangana, Phone: 040-30444444  
Website: [www.powermechprojects.com](http://www.powermechprojects.com) Email: [cs@powermech.net](mailto:cs@powermech.net)

**NOTICE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION**

Notice is hereby given that the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of the Company will be held on Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 11:30 A.m through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in accordance with General Circular No 20/2020 dated 05/ May, 2020 that allow companies to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the manner detailed in General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08.04.2020 and General Circular No 17/2020 dated 13.04.2020 read with SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue, to transact the Ordinary and Special Business as set out in the Notice convening the Meeting.

The Notice of the 21<sup>st</sup> AGM and Annual Report 2019-20 of the Company has been sent only by electronic mode by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to those members whose email IDs are registered with the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) or the Depository Participants (DP).

The copy of the Annual Report 2019-20 is also available on the Company's website [www.powermechprojects.com](http://www.powermechprojects.com) and the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is providing its members facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed in the AGM of the Company using an electronic voting system from a place other than the venue of the Meeting (remote e-voting) along with option of voting at the AGM bye-voting. The Company has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide e-voting facility.

The Company has appointed Mr.D.S.Rao, Practicing Company Secretary from M/s. PS Rao & Associates Company Secretaries as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting process in fair and transparent manner. The Company completed dispatch of Notice and Annual Report through email on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to all members, whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

The remote e-voting shall commence on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. (IST) and end on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (IST). The remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time. A person, whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date of 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as e-voting at the Meeting. The members who cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting through VC/OAVM facility but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again through the e-voting system during the Meeting.

Any person, who becomes member of the Company after dispatch of Notice of AGM and holding shares as on the cut-off date of 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, may obtain the user id and password by sending a request at [evoting.nsdl.com](http://evoting.nsdl.com). If a person is already registered with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) for e-voting the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote. In case of any queries/grievances, you may contact NSDL on [evoting.nsdl.co.in](http://evoting.nsdl.co.in) 1800-222-990 or contact Mr.Amit Vishal, Senior Manager- NSDL at [amity@nsdl.co.in](mailto:amity@nsdl.co.in) 040-44341781/+91-9642000974.

For Power Mech Projects Limited  
Sd/- Mohith Kumar Khandelwal  
Date : 26-09-2020  
Mohith Kumar Khandelwal  
Company Secretary

**STERLING & WILSON**

**STERLING AND WILSON SOLAR LIMITED**  
An Associate of Shapoorji Pallonji Group  
Registered Office: Universal Majestic, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, P. L. Lokhande Marg, Chembur (W), Mumbai - 400 043 | Phone: (91-22) 25485300 | Fax: (91-22) 25485331  
CIN: U74999MH2017PLC292281 | Email: [info@sterlingandwilson.com](mailto:info@sterlingandwilson.com)  
Website: [www.sterlingandwilsonsolar.com](http://www.sterlingandwilsonsolar.com)

**CORRIGENDUM TO THE NOTICE OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited ("Company") had issued a notice dated June 23, 2020 ("AGM Notice") for convening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday September 30, 2020 at 11:30 a.m., through Video Conferencing /Other Audio-Visual means. The Notice of the AGM has been dispatched to the shareholders of the Company in due compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules made thereunder.

We refer to the explanatory statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013 to Item No. 6 of the AGM Notice which pertains to seeking approval of the shareholders for Material Related Party Transactions entered into or to be into with Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Pvt. Ltd. and its group companies.

After the last sentence in the first paragraph under the explanatory statement to Item no. 6, the following sentences shall be inserted: "Further, hybrid projects are a growth area for the SPCPL group and there are numerous growth opportunities wherein the Company would be strongly poised to offer its services at a competitive margin. SPCPL group has also invested a huge amount in creating a very strong energy storage team. With a number of global projects coming with energy storage requirements, we are likely to benefit from having this expertise within the group. Hence, the proposed limit in the shareholders resolution has been set out in order to enable the Company to capitalise on all such possible growth opportunities and to avoid the possibility of not being able to participate in a bid on account of the value of such transaction crossing the limit prescribed under law."

Further, there has been a typographical error in the explanatory statement to Item no. 6 annexed to the AGM Notice. Please note that the first sentence in the fifth paragraph under the explanatory statement to Item no. 6 shall stand replaced with "Further, the aggregate value of RPTs during the financial year ended March 31, 2020, pursuant to the said omnibus approval is INR 250.74 Crore which does not cross the materiality threshold to be considered as material RPTs."

This Corrigendum shall form an integral part of the AGM Notice which has already been circulated to the shareholders of the Company and on and from the date hereof, the AGM Notice shall always be read in conjunction with this Corrigendum.

This Corrigendum is also being published in the Financial Express (in English) and Navshakti (in Marathi) and will also be available on the website of BSE Ltd. ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)), the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. ([www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and on the website of the Company ([www.sterlingandwilsonsolar.com](http://www.sterlingandwilsonsolar.com)). All other contents of the AGM Notice, save and except as modified or supplemented by this Corrigendum, shall remain unchanged.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Sd/- Jagannadha Rao Ch. V.

Company Secretary

M. No - FCS 2808

Place: Mumbai  
Date : September 26, 2020

Alen Ferns  
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer  
Membership No.: 30633

Mumbai, 26 September 2020

New Delhi

financialexpress.epaper.in

**INDIA STEEL WORKS LIMITED**

REGD OFFICE: INDIA STEEL WORKS COMPLEX, ZENITH COMPOUND, KHOPOLI, RAIGAD-410 203

CIN: L29100MH1987PLC043186

**Extract of Un-Audited Financial results ( Standalone & consolidated) for the Quarter 30th June, 2020 (Rs. in Lakhs)**

Particulars	Standalone - Quarter ended		Year Ended		Consolidated - Quarter ended		Year Ended	
	30.06.2020 (Un-audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	30.06.2019 (Un-audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	30.06.2020 (Un-audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	30.06.2019 (Un-audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)
Total Income from operations	260.65	290.11	7147.28	17664.04	260.65	290.11	7147.28	17664.04
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(729.97)	(780.69)	(576.43)	(1967.55)	(730.36)	(781.34)	(576.73)	(1969.10)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(807.39)	(780.69)	(576.43)	(1967.55)	(807.78)	(781.34)	(576.73)	(1969.10)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(807.39)	(780.83)	(576.43)	(1967.70)	(807.78)	(781.48)	(576.73)	(1969.25)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(807.39)	(770.71)	(576.43)	(1957.58)	(807.78)	(771.36)	(576.73)	(1959.13)
Equity Share Capital	3980.81	3980.81	3980.81	3980.81	3980.81	3980.81	3980.81	3980.81
Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 1/- each)	0.18	0.20	0.14	0.49	0.18	0.20	0.14	0.49
1. Basic:								
2. Diluted:								

Note:

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website at [www.indiastock.in](http://www.indiastock.in).

b) The above results are reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on 25th September, 2020.

Figures for the previous accounting period have been regrouped wherever necessary.

For India Steel Works Ltd

Sd/-

Sudhir Gupta

Managing Director

DIN: 00010853

Date : 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

## OPINION, P6

Fooling all the people  
all the time

ACROSS THE AISLE, P CHIDAMBARAM



## SPOTLIGHT

## NO KIDS ATTACHED

Many people today are opting out of parenthood. Financial concerns, burden of responsibility, late marriages are among the major reasons why they want to stay childfree. We look at the rise of the anti-natalist movement **Page 11**

## LEISURE

## Based on a true story

The Gunjan Saxena controversy has rekindled the debate of creative liberty while making biopics **Pg 10**



VOL .XVIII NO. 100

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# FE SUNDAY

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ON SUNDAY

READ TO LEAD



## WORDS WORTH

**RUCHIR SHARMA**

'Pandemic changes nothing on its head; will have no enduring impact'

Page 9

PUBLISHED FROM AHMEDABAD, BENGALURU, CHANDIGARH, CHENNAI, HYDERABAD, KOCHI, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, PUNE

## In the news

## 'Does India have ₹80k cr for vaccine?'

THE GOVERNMENT of India would need ₹80,000 crore for vaccinating the entire population against the Covid-19 virus. This cost was put out by Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of Pune-based Serum Institute of India, the largest vaccine-maker in the world. Poonawalla put out a tweet on Saturday, saying this is the amount the Indian government would need to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in the country. **PAGE 18**

Price cap on medical oxygen, cylinders  
TO ENSURE availability of medical oxygen in the country at a reasonable price amidst the pandemic, the national drug pricing regulator NPPA has capped the price of medical oxygen cylinders and liquid medical oxygen for six months, the government said on Saturday. **PAGE 18**

## Trai: No probe in Voda Idea's RedX

THE TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) will not proceed with further inquiry into Vodafone Idea's RedX plan, as the company has already stopped offering "priority 4G network with faster data speeds", to premium customers, which was the subject matter of investigation. The regulator has also informed Vodafone Idea that there will be no further inquiry into the matter.

## ODD &amp; EVEN

ROHNIT PHORE



## PM SPEECH AT UN

## 'Our vaccine making capacity to help all'

● Questions how long will India be kept out of the decision-making process at the UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
United Nations, September 26

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Saturday raised questions on the response of the United Nations in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, and assured the global community that India will use its production and delivery capacity to help all humanity in fighting the deadly disease.

"Over the last eight to nine months, the whole world has been battling the pandemic of the coronavirus. Where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response?"

Modi said, as he asserted that reform in the responses, in the processes, and in the very character of the United Nations is the need of the hour.

In his pre-recorded video statement to the landmark



PM Narendra Modi addresses the UN General Assembly via video conferencing on Saturday. ANI PHOTO

## PMSPEAK

- Reform in responses, processes, character of UN need of the hour
- India following mantra of Reform-Perform-Transform
- Self-reliant India will be force multiplier for global economy

general debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Modi said even during these very difficult times of the raging pandemic, India's pharmaceutical industry has sent essential medicines to over 150 countries.

"As the largest vaccine producing country of the

world, I want to give one more assurance to the global community today. India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis," Modi said in a strong assurance to the international community.

Continued on Page 7

## CLEARING THE AIR

## No diversion of GST cess funds, says MoF

● CAG had taken exception to 'short-crediting'

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 26

THE FINANCE MINISTRY on Saturday asserted there was no 'diversion' from the GST compensation cess fund during FY18-FY19 as reported by sections of the media, adding, "even the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said so".

According to a ministry source, there was only temporary retention of the excess cess in the Consolidated Fund of India under Article 266 of the Constitution, pending reconciliation, which usually happens by the end of June in the subsequent financial year.

The source pointed out

- **Short-crediting** of cess collections totalling ₹47,272 crore to the GST compensation fund during FY18-FY19
- **The amount** by which the cess was short-credited was also retained in the Consolidated Fund of India
- **Short crediting** of cess led to overstatement of revenue receipts and understatement of fiscal deficit

Continued on Page 7

'She always had new ideas, looked at issues in new way'



ISHER AHLUWALIA  
1945-2020

## KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW

ISHER AHLUWALIA WAS an amazing woman, and you would know that if you read the book (Breaking Through) she wrote at the end of her life. She was very keen that she write it while she could. She was a self-made woman. Coming from a middle-class upbringing, a Hindi-medium background, she scaled enormous heights because of her intellectual appetite and capability. She was one of the most brilliant and inspiring minds I have met.

I met Isher about 15 years ago at a seminar in Delhi. I was a successful entrepreneur and she was a renowned economist. The moment we met, we hit it off. She became one of my dearest friends. I learnt a lot from her.

Continued on Page 7

# National Insurance Company Limited

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Registered & Head Office : 3 Middleton Street, Kolkata 700 071

CIN: U10200WB1906GOI001713

visit us at: <https://nationalinsurance.nic.co.in>

## AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2020

## REVENUE ACCOUNT

Rs. in lakhs

Particulars	For the year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)			For the year ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)		
	Fire	Marine	Misc.	Fire	Marine	Misc.
Premiums Earned (Net)	65,231	15,326	887,714	69,731	14,389	955,902
Profit/Loss on sale/redemption of Investments	5,257	820	53,039	13,666	1,903	124,385
Exchange Gain	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution from Shareholders Funds towards excess EoM	10,733	616	114,815	-	648	-
Interest, Dividend & Rent - Gross	11,908	1,857	120,145	12,534	1,745	114,081
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>	<b>93,129</b>	<b>18,619</b>	<b>1,175,713</b>	<b>95,931</b>	<b>18,685</b>	<b>1,194,368</b>
Claims Incurred (Net)	50,301	7,729	966,965	38,986	12,942	1,091,474
Commission	9,114	865	70,437	6,973	1,598	73,151
Operating Expenses related to Insurance Business	33,270	4,732	400,799	15,945	3,213	241,381
Exchange Loss	-	-	-	-	-	2,163
Provision for diminution in the value of investments/amortisation of premium on investments/ amount written off in respect of depreciated investments	1,955	305	19,730	431	60	3,923
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>	<b>94,640</b>	<b>13,631</b>	<b>1,457,931</b>	<b>62,335</b>	<b>17,813</b>	<b>1,412,092</b>
Operating Profit / Loss C = (A-B)	-1,511	4,988	-282,218	33,596	872	-217,724
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer to Shareholders' Account	-1,511	4,988	-282,218	33,596	872	-217,724
Transfer to Catastrophe Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Other Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL (C)</b>	<b>-1,511</b>	<b>4,988</b>	<b>-282,218</b>	<b>33,596</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>-217,725</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

Rs. in lakhs

Particulars	AS AT 31.03.2020 (audited)		AS AT 31.03.2019 (audited)	
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
SHARE CAPITAL		250,000		10,000
RESERVES AND SURPLUS		1,466		7,269
FAIR VALUE CHANGE ACCOUNT- SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS		-		2,025
FAIR VALUE CHANGE ACCOUNT - POLICYHOLDERS FUNDS		-165,722		258,669
BORROWINGS		89,500		89,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175,244</b>		<b>367,463</b>	
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
INVESTMENTS - SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS				18,403
INVESTMENTS - POLICYHOLDERS FUNDS		2,205,213		2,350,816
LOANS		3,686		3,914
FIXED ASSET		37,206		37,422
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash and Bank Balances		69,846		130,833
Advances and Other Assets		773,107		702,019
<b>Sub Total (A)</b>	<b>842,953</b>		<b>832,852</b>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,873,194		2,365,061
PROVISIONS		509,634		510,883
<b>Sub Total (B)</b>	<b>3,382,828</b>		<b>2,875,944</b>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES) (C) = (A-B)	<b>-2,539,875</b>		<b>-2,043,092</b>	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (to the extent not written off or adjusted)		63,105		-
DEBIT BALANCE IN PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		405,909		-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175,244</b>		<b>367,463</b>	

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Rs. in lakhs

<table border

# Opinion

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

I FOUND THE following data (somewhat outdated) from the National Sample Survey (see table).

Notwithstanding the Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMC) Acts of various states operating for a few decades, most farmers sold their produce to local private traders. In the cases of paddy and wheat, nearly 60 % of the farmers fell in this category. Official data show that only 1.24 crore paddy farmers (in 2019-20) and 43.35 lakh wheat farmers (in 2020-21) availed of MSP.

APMC: Merits and demerits

The reasons are obvious. 85 % of farmers have small holdings – less than one hectare – and have little surplus to sell. Distant APMC market yards are not an economically viable option: the cost of bagging, loading, transporting and unloading the few bags of grain, waiting at the APMC, paying the fees, and collecting the price in two days are beyond the means of small farmers. The local trader is a dependable partner to buy the produce at the farm gate and pay at once, even if the price is lower than the MSP.

APMC market yards are, however, important players in states like Punjab and Haryana where the marketable surplus is huge. Of the two states' production of paddy and wheat, 75 % is procured by government agencies. In other states, it has been argued by some scholars that the market yards are inadequate in number and too distant for the farmers. For example, in Tamil Nadu, there are 283 market yards in 36 districts, an average of 8 per district, and the total turnover in 2019-20 was just ₹129.76 crore. There are 326 market yards in Maharashtra and, on average, the farmer must travel 25 kilometres.

Undoubtedly, the APMC Acts restrict free trade in agricultural produce, but the market yards serve as safety nets. In Punjab and Haryana, the fees collected at the market yards contribute significantly to the state's revenues which are applied to develop agricultural and rural infrastructure. Nevertheless, I hold the view that the APMC Acts must, in course of time, yield in favour of free trade enabled by multiple, easily accessible markets.

Congress manifesto vs BJP bills

That is what the Congress Manifesto promised in 2019. It promised to "promote Farmer Producer Companies/Organizations to enable farmers to access inputs, technology and markets" and to "establish farmers' markets with adequate infrastructure and support in large villages and small towns to enable the farmer to bring his/her produce and freely market the same." The soul of the Congress' promise was the establishment of thousands of markets in the country. Such markets may be established by the state government, the local panchayat, a cooperative society or a private licensed operator. They will be lightly regulated and it will be stipulated that in every transaction in the market a price *not less than MSP* shall be paid. The proposal to repeal APMC Acts would be a natural sequel to the establishment of multiple, easily accessible markets.

On the contrary, what the Modi government has done is to weaken the safety net (of MSP) and dilute public procurement. Farmers are protesting on the streets because they fear that MSP will be done away with. State governments are worried that Public Procurement and

## ACROSS THE AISLE

P Chidambaram

# Fooling all the people all the time



An Indian farmer carries fodder to feed cattle at Ranbir Singh Pura, on the outskirts of Jammu

## INSIDE TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR

### Missing in action

The short, stormy Monsoon Session of Parliament was noteworthy for the number of prominent missing MPs. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared in the two Houses briefly at the beginning and end of the Session. Amit Shah stayed away throughout because of health reasons. Rahul Gandhi sought leave of absence to accompany his mother for her much-delayed annual check-up to the US. Sonia Gandhi's appointment with doctors was fixed in advance and Priyanka Vadra could not escort her mother since she was in quarantine after a domestic help in her household contracted Covid-19. Other missing MPs included Mammooh Singh, Ambika Soni, P Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal and Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. But the absence from India which has triggered the biggest buzz is not of a politician, but a leading Mumbai industrialist who has been in UK for a while.

### Political doublespeak

The Opposition played into the ruling party's hands by creating ugly scenes in front of the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, providing the government with an excuse not to have a division on the farm reform Bills. Contrary to the impression that the NDA was running away from a head count because it lacked the numbers, the ruling party had a clear majority, even if its normal supporters, the Akali Dal, TDP and BJD deserted. The Bills had the tacit backing of the NCP, Shiv Sena, AIADMK and YSR Congress, but because of political reasons, they did not want to be seen voting in favour of the Bills for fear of alienating some of their constituents. The BJP also benefited thanks to the large number of absents from the Opposition because of the Covid scare. Nine Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MPs stayed back in Kolkata and at least four elderly Congress MPs took permission from their parties not to attend.

### Not so tweet

Pollster Prashant Kishor holds such sway in West Bengal that Trinamool veterans are getting restless. Kishor's band of young, inexperienced hired hands assumes that it can even select candidates for next year's Assembly polls. His Internet army has taken over the social media accounts of Trinamool leaders and is busy tweeting in their names. Governor Jagdeep

Dhankhar smelt a rat when Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Trivedi abused him in uncharacteristically foul language on Twitter. Dhankhar tweeted back that he suspected the handiwork of mercenaries from Kishor's IPAC organisation. Similarly, Trivedi's tweet in Hindi, charging Prime Minister Modi of ignorance on agriculture, is suspect since Trivedi tweets generally in English.

### Enemy within?

In the recent Congress party re-organisation, many of the 23 party seniors who signed the letter to Sonia Gandhi asking for introspection into the party's functioning were unceremoniously downgraded. However, one signatory who bucked the trend was Mukul Wasnik. He was appointed to the powerful six-member committee which takes decisions in Sonia's absence, along with Ahmed Patel and KC Venugopal. Wasnik was also made general secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh and a member of the CWC. Now some of his suspicious co-signatories wonder whether he was actually the enemy within.

### Defensive tactics

The suggestion that the Enforcement Directorate too get involved in the case of journalist Rajeev Sharma, arrested on charges of spying for China, is surprising since until now only the Delhi Police was in charge of the probe, with inputs from the Intelligence Bureau. Some suspect the inquiry could go the way of the probe into Sushant Singh Rajput's death, where the Narcotics Control Bureau has completely sidetracked the CBI investigations and launched a witch-hunt against Bollywood for alleged drug abuse. It is apprehended that the ED could end up harassing defence analysts who have adopted an independent line on the Indo-China border dispute.

### Boss's thanks

Generally those nominated for the coveted post of Executive Director of the World Bank are from the PMO or Finance Ministry and are favourites of the powers that be in Delhi. In a refreshing departure, Rajesh Khullar, Principal Secretary to the Haryana Chief Minister who was not even empanelled but has done admirable work at the grassroots, has been selected. Khullar's appointment is thanks to the proximity of his boss Manohar Lal Khattar to Narendra Modi. Khullar was Khattar's right hand man the last five years.

## Percentage distribution of farmers selling to various agencies

Crop*	Local private trader	Mandis	Govt agency/coop	Processor
Paddy	65.94	19.46	9.49	1.7
Wheat	58.42	34.78	6.79	0.27
Maize	69.21	29.66	0.56	0.28
Mustard	54.61	45.83	0.44	0.22
Chana	52.82	46.8	0.38	0
Soyabean	52.15	46.72	1.36	0.11
Urad	73.96	25.45	0.8	0
Arhar	50.78	47.88	0.22	0
Groundnut	65.75	27.83	3.82	0

\*Sold in July-Dec 2012 or Jan-June 2013

PDS will be jeopardized. Once the three pillars of food security are undermined, the food security system that is being created under the National Food Security Act, 2013 will collapse.

The Modi government's laws do not create thousands of alternative markets. Instead, they will allow contract

farming and open the door for the entry of corporates and, eventually, cartels. Against such powerful purchasers, the small/medium farmers would not have equal bargaining or contracting power and the convoluted dispute resolution mechanism, under the new laws, will ruin the farmer.

### Another empty promise

The Agriculture Minister told Parliament that the new laws have absolutely nothing to do with MSP. That is literally true! Yet, he said that the government will guarantee MSP to the farmers. It was a bizarre promise. How will the government know which farmer sold what produce to which purchaser? If the intention was to make MSP mandatory in every private transaction, why did the Bills not contain a clause that the price paid to the farmer by the purchaser shall not be less than the notified MSP?

Just as demonetisation was a disaster and economic mismanagement since 2017-18 is continuing catastrophe, the two Farm Bills that will become law will debilitate the Indian farming community and the agricultural economy. They also dealt a blow to states' rights and federalism. Apparently, the Modi government believes that it can fool all the people all the time.

Website: [pchidambaram.in](http://pchidambaram.in)  
Twitter: [@Pchidambaram\\_IN](https://twitter.com/Pchidambaram_IN)

# Walking a tightrope

Football clubs estimate a loss of £200 million if 2020-21 season is played behind closed doors

## RINGSIDE VIEW



Shamik Chakrabarty

THIS CORRESPONDENT IS probably a lone voice who for once supports Manchester United's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward. Millions of United fans want him out of the club, along with the owners, the Glazers. But Woodward's approach during the ongoing transfer window is completely in sync with the current situation.

As United took on Crystal Palace in their Premier League opener last week, Woodward's programme notes suggested that the club hierarchy wasn't going to loosen the purse strings in the summer. "Disruption from the pandemic is continuing to create huge economic pressure from the top to the bottom of the football pyramid. And while we are fortunate to be in a more resilient position than most clubs, we are not immune from impact," Woodward wrote in his programme notes.

With less than a fortnight to go

before the summer transfer window closes on October 5, the 20-time Premier League champions have signed only one player so far — Donny van de Beek from Ajax, for £35 million. A disastrous 3-1 defeat to Palace has magnified the noise about more signings. The demand has a huge amount of merit. If Harry Maguire and Victor Lindelof are your two centre-halves, then you are not going to win anything. Lindelof is slow, apparently fearful in one-on-one situations and he hardly tackles. Lindelof doesn't meet the requirements that are laid out for a United defender. Maguire, the club captain, "turns like an ocean liner", as mentioned by former Crystal Palace chairman Simon Jordan on talkSPORT.

United great Gary Neville is convinced that the team has to look beyond the two current centre-halves. "We can talk about Sancho all we like but until United get a centre back, who can run and defend one-on-ones, they are never going to win the league," Neville told Sky Sports.

And yet, it is very unlikely that United are signing up a new centre-half in this transfer window unless they can offload the likes of Phil Jones and Marcos Rojo. It is unlikely that United will do



Manchester United's Mason Greenwood in action with Luton Town's Rhys Norrington-Davies Pool

any more transfer business in the summer. Jadon Sancho, reportedly for £120 million, is not happening unless Borus-

sia Dortmund lower the footballer's valuation and accede to United's demand of making part payments.

Only a few days ago, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that fans wouldn't be returning to sports venues from October 1, which was planned earlier. Matches could be played behind closed doors for another six months due to fears over a second wave of coronavirus spread. "We have to acknowledge that the spread of the virus is now affecting our ability to reopen business conferences, exhibitions and large sporting events," Johnson said in the House of Commons. The news is a devastating blow to sports clubs in the United Kingdom (UK), for they depend heavily on matchday revenue. Football clubs in the lower rung would be the worst affected.

The English Football League (EFL) comprising the Championship, League One and League Two clubs have estimated that they would suffer a collective loss of £200 million if the entire 2020-21 season is played behind closed doors. The EFL has already decided to reduce Covid testing due to financial reasons. West Ham United co-owner David Sullivan has criticised lower division clubs for potentially exposing Premier League teams when they meet in the League Cup. Then again, the cost of one round of testing is reportedly £5,000, which many lower division clubs can't afford. A lot of EFL clubs need support to carry on.

The Premier League clubs, too, will not be immune to the revenue slump.

Recently, Premier League chief executive Richard Masters revealed that top division clubs lost £700 million in revenue in the final quarter of last season, when matches were played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus outbreak. This was mainly due to two reasons — no gate money and the Premier League having to give big rebates to TV broadcasters.

In fact, the Big Six — Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea and Manchester City — are going to suffer the most. Figures put out by FootballCritic show that United's matchday revenue per game is £3.96 million, followed by Arsenal's £3.10 million, Liverpool's £3.01 million, Spurs' £2.92 million, and £2.08 million each for both Chelsea and City. Against this backdrop, United's apparent trepidation in the transfer market is justified. Yes, clubs owned by oligarchs and nation states are still spending big. But United, despite being one of the richest clubs in the world, have taken the correct route. Arsenal fans rejoiced after the club handed their star performer Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang a new £250,000-a-week (reportedly) contract for the next three years. Very few spoke about the club's decision to make 55 staff redundant. Sancho would be a great addition to United, but not at the expense of the canteen staff or laundry ladies, for example, at Carrington.

## INDIA AT UN

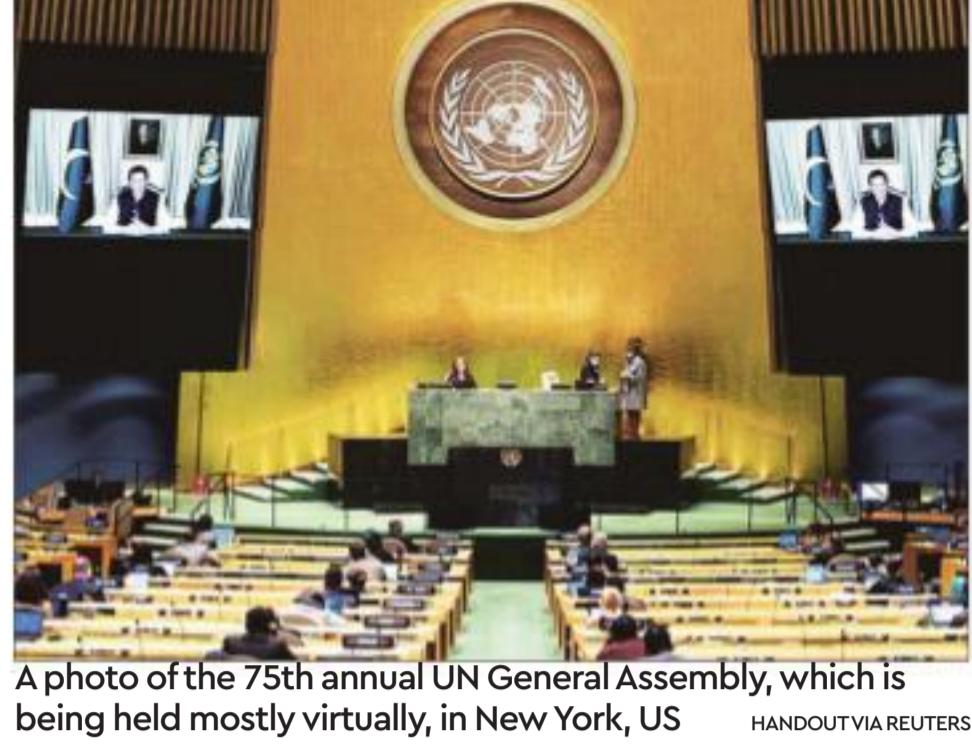
# 'Terrorism, clandestine nuclear trade Pak's only crowning glory'

The scathing response came after Pak PM Imran Khan spoke on India's internal affairs, including the issue of J&K, during his pre-recorded video statement at the high-level General Debate.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
United Nations, September 26

**THE "ONLY CROWNING** glory" that Pakistan has to show to the world for the last seven decades is terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and clandestine nuclear trade, India said in a scathing response on Friday, slamming Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's "incestuous rant" and "venom" in the UN General Assembly.

"This August forum witnessed a new low on its 75th anniversary. The leader of Pakistan today called for those who incite hate and violence to be outlawed. But as he went on, we were left wondering, was he referring to himself?" first secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Mijo Vinito said, making India's



A photo of the 75th annual UN General Assembly, which is being held mostly virtually, in New York, US. HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Right of Reply.

The strong rebuttal came after Khan spoke about India's internal affairs, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, during his pre-recorded video statement at the high-level General Debate. Vinito, who was sitting at India's seat in the UN General Assembly hall for the General Debate, walked out when Khan started his usual "diatribe" about India.

"This hall heard the incessant rant of someone who had nothing to show for himself, who had no achievements to speak of and no reasonable suggestion to offer to the world. Instead, we saw lies, misinformation, war mongering and malice spread through this Assembly," the young Indian diplomat said.

Slamming Pakistan for its record as a nation, Vinito said, "The only crowning glory that

this country has to show to the world for the last 70 years is terrorism, ethnic cleansing, majoritarian fundamentalism and clandestine nuclear trade."

Alluding to the "stellar record" of Pakistan, he said this is the country that has the "dubious distinction" of hosting the largest number of terrorists proscribed by the United Nations, a reference to terrorist masterminds such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) head Masood Azhar.

"This is the same country that provides pensions for dreaded and listed terrorists out of state funds. The leader whom we heard today is the same person who professed to be a champion of Islam, this is also a country that has encouraged killing of fellow Muslims merely because they belonged to a different sect or to a different region in Pakistan and through sponsoring terrorist attacks against its neighbours."

Pakistan has consistently used UN platforms, including the high-level General Assembly sessions, to take up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, but has repeatedly found no resonance with the international community for its "diatribe".

India strongly asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is its "integral and inalienable part" and the rules and legislations brought in the Union Territory are strictly its internal affairs.

prime minister) Manmohan Singh. So it is very sad that it is his birthday today. She admired him immensely and they would often have very interesting discussions. She didn't agree with everything he said, or anyone said. She had a mind of her own.

Isher was a whole person, always ready to enjoy life, whether it was a wedding or something else. She was the life and soul of gatherings. I remember especially the sangeet of Mr Murthy's daughter (Akshata), which was held at my house. She was marrying a Punjabi (Rishi Sunak), and I still remember how much Isher regaled us with beautiful Punjabi songs.

Shaw is chairperson and managing director of Biocon Ltd

I really feel blessed that I knew her and that I shared some special times with her, especially during these nine months of her illness. She knew that her life was coming to an end. "I feel so terrible, I have so much more to do, but I don't have enough time." I feel devastated even though I knew she was going to go. I spoke to her 10 days ago because she wanted to hear my voice. She was trying to say something but I couldn't make out what it was.

Modi told the 193-member UN General Assembly that in India and the neighbourhood, "we are moving ahead with phase 3 clinical trials". He further assured that India will also help all the countries in enhancing their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of the vaccines.

Enunciating the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign, he said a self-reliant India will be a "force multiplier" for the global economy. "In the changed circumstances of the post-pandemic era, we are moving forward with the vision of a 'Self-reliant India,'" he said. "Following the mantra of 'Transform', India has made great efforts to bring about transformation in the lives of millions of its citizens," he said.

"Today India is providing digital access to its millions of citizens, and in the process ensuring empowerment and transparency," he said. "Large-scale efforts are being made to promote women entrepreneurship and leadership. Indian women today are the biggest beneficiaries of the largest microfinancing scheme of the world," he said.

He also questioned for how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations, asserting that reform in the responses, processes and in the very character of the global body is the "need of the hour".

Modi said the stability in the United Nations and empowerment of the world body are essential for the welfare of the world," he said.

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Modi said a gesture of friendship by India towards one country is not directed against any third country. He also emphasised that when India strengthens its development partnership with a country it was not with any "malafide intent" of making the partner country "dependent or hapless".

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• SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

# Fe Lines

STORIES AND TRENDS FROM INDIA AND AROUND THE WORLD THAT CAUGHT OUR FANCY



## The Covid curios

From masks, letters and test kits to ventilators and grocery lists, museums across the world are collecting coronavirus artefacts to give future generations a glimpse of how the crisis affected people

VAISHALI DAR

**H**OW WILL FUTURE generations know what coronavirus meant for the world? Perhaps it is this question that has made museums collect artefacts reflecting the pandemic and the virus as official records for future generations.

Take, for instance, Washington DC's Smithsonian, collectively called the Smithsonian Institution. Its curators are working on a project that would keep a record of the pandemic. This includes collecting personal protective gear, test kits, letters from patients, ventilators and grocery lists. The Smithsonian has also launched a new storytelling initiative called Moments of Resilience, where they will hear stories of how communities are supporting each other during this time.

The Anacostia Community Museum in Anacostia, Washington, DC, is one of the 20 museums under the umbrella of the Smithsonian Institution and was the first federally funded community museum in the US. It collects documents of urban communities relating to lives of urban residents, from home life and everyday activities to community-building efforts of artists, activists and others. The holdings reflect a tremendous diversity of experiences, perspectives and achievements in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area and other cities across the US.

In a recent podcast, Melanie Adams, director, Anacostia Community Museum, explains how the new normal is preventing her from engaging in everyday activities. "The word

'community' is more important than ever, as individuals are finding support from their communities. These communities could be your family, friends, religious institutions, school or local barber shop or hair salon. The museum's mission is to amplify the collective power of the community and comfort each other in this time of need. We want to hear the stories of how community members are supporting each other on a day-to-day basis. Some stories will be shared on our social media channels, while others may become part of the museum's collection," Adams said.

Throughout its 53-year history, the Anacostia Community Museum has focussed on telling stories of individuals and events of the Washington, DC, region left out of the history books, with stories of conflict resilience and, most importantly, community action that led to a better future for all.

Then curators at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, a Smithsonian Institution museum located in Washington, DC, are collecting objects that tell the stories of black Americans during the pandemic. For the pilot programme, they have asked residents of Baltimore, Chicago, Denver and New Orleans to upload oral histories, images and short videos on an online platform.

The Wien Museum (the Vienna Museum) in Austria has also launched an appeal to collect references to objects that tell of the changed private or professional lives in the times of corona. Over 1,800 photos of masks, signs and other objects have already been received by the Vienna Museum.

London's Victoria and Albert

Museum has also started a project called Pandemic Objects. It's an editorial project that compiles and reflects on objects that have taken on new meaning and purpose during the coronavirus outbreak. During times of a pandemic, a host of everyday often-overlooked 'objects' (in the widest possible sense of the term) are suddenly charged with new urgency. Toilet paper becomes a symbol of public panic, a forehead thermometer a tool for social control, convention centres become hospitals, while parks become contested public commodities. By compiling these objects and reflecting on their changing purpose and meaning, this space aims to paint a unique picture of the pandemic and the pivotal role objects play within it.

At the Historical Museum of Urahoro in Hokkaido, northern Japan, curator Makoto Mochida showcases a list of food items, directions for attending a funeral, a note to cancel summer celebrations, as well as everyday objects of life in the pandemic.

Germany's Cologne City Museum, too, aims to collect as many objects as possible to give future generations a glimpse of how the pandemic affected people.

According to *The New York Times*, the National Museum of Finland has enlisted its curators and researchers to keep tabs on the pandemic in hopes of launching future exhibitions on the health crisis. Moreover, institutions in Denmark, Slovenia and Switzerland have already launched their own methods to preserve information such as requesting memoirs of citizens and acquiring physical objects that touch on different aspects of the outbreak.

## THE HASHTAG MOVEMENT

Several movements in recent times have made huge impact through social media, sometimes even more than physical protests. Here we take a look at some of the 21st-century movements that were as dominant on social media as on the streets. Some largely only spread on social media.  
By Reya Mehrotra



### Black Lives Matter

The #BlackLivesMatter movement might have accelerated globally with the murder of George Floyd, the African-American man killed in May this year during his arrest by two white Minneapolis police officers, but the movement dates back to 2013. The movement advocates non-violent civil disobedience against incidents of police brutality and racially motivated violence against the black community.

### Free the Nipple

The #FreeTheNipple campaign started in 2012 as a precursor to the 2014 movie of the same name. The campaign asks for gender equality—while men can appear topless in public without any shame, women are not supposed to do the same. Topless women are viewed as sexual, indecent or vulgar. The campaign argues that it should be legally and culturally acceptable to have top-

### Love Wins

Though not a movement in itself, #LoveWins and #LoveisLove became a strong figure of the gay pride movement. In 2015, when the Supreme Court of the US ruled in favour of gay marriages, then US president Barack Obama tweeted: "Today is a big step in our march toward equality. Gay and lesbian couples now have the right to marry, just like anyone else #LoveWins". The hashtag has since been used to ask for equality of genders and to celebrate gay pride. In 2018, when section 377 of the constitution, which criminalised gay sex, was scrapped in India, everyone celebrated on social media using the hashtag.



### Dress Like a Woman

The #DressLikeAWoman movement took social media by storm with images

of powerful women in 2017. It came up after an article claimed that US President Donald Trump wants women that work for him to dress in a certain way. The social media movement had photos of hundreds of women—like Serena Williams, women pilots, firefighters, soldiers and astronauts—being shared largely on Twitter. Current Vice-Presidential candidate Kamala Harris, too, took to Twitter to participate in the



### Me Too

American activist Tarana Burke first used the phrase 'me too' in 2006 to help women stand up for themselves. The purpose of the movement was to empower women by voicing out their harassment, especially sexual harassment at the workplace. The #MeToo movement began to spread globally with several sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein in 2017. The movement got widespread media coverage with several celebrities speaking up.

movement. It was aimed at rejecting the idea of a stereotypical and feminine way that a woman is supposed to dress up.

### He For She

Initiated by the United Nations, the #HeForShe campaign calls for men and people of all other genders to stand in solidarity with women and create a united force for gender equal-

ity. It was kickstarted in 2014 and hosted by UN women goodwill ambassador Emma Watson. The movement got around 1.1 million tweets with the hashtag #HeForShe in its first two weeks. The logo of the movement represents the union of men and women working together for equality. To share the burden of women while at home during the pandemic, He For She launched the #HeForSheAtHome campaign this year.

### Stop Funding Hate

The social media campaign #StopFundingHate was started in 2016 by Richard Wilson, a former corporate fundraising officer at Amnesty International. It called on large corporates to stop advertising in newspapers that use misleading reports or "fear and division" to sell more. By 2017, the campaign was widely trending on social media. Several businesses like The Body Shop and Specsavers withdrew their ads from newspapers like Daily Express and The Sun to show solidarity with the campaign.

### ASL Ice Bucket Challenge

The 2014 #IceBucketChallenge turned out to be a fun online movement where people poured ice and water on themselves and uploaded their videos on social media. It was done to promote awareness of the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and encourage donations for the same. Several celebrities all around the world took up the challenge.

## TECH-NOW-LOGY

# A trip to the past

To give netizens some succour in these trying times, social media sites are providing them nostalgic flashbacks to help them relive the good old days

SHRIYA ROY

**I**T'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE conversations and events around the world moved online. The Covid-19 pandemic, with its stay-at-home and social distancing guidelines, further intensified the process. It's no wonder then that in this new normal, where things are constantly changing and evolving, social media has seen a boom, especially in terms of conversations. The new normal has also led to nostalgia for the past, especially pre-Covid times when things were simpler and happier.

It's through these conversations of the past that social media giant Twitter is attempting to bring back some joy and hope in the life of netizens. It is giving users a flashback of 2019, specifically what they most talked about before things took a complete 360-degree turn. Through the "Conversation Replay" feature, Twitter is revealing what brought "joy" to people across the country in 2019.

In a study conducted by Twitter India and Quilt.ai, 8,500 lakh tweets across 22 cities in India were analysed during the period of September to November last year. Twitter calls this 'conversation replay' and it's meant to show all the 'joyful' conversations that people had on Twitter last year.

As per the study, themes such as animals, celebration, celebrity content, good deeds, family, food, humour, nostalgia, romance and sports drove joyful conversations on Twitter in 2019. The social media giant says Indians have always taken to Twitter to share anecdotes and

experiences of their day-to-day lives. According to the report, southern cities like Ernakulam, Hyderabad and Chennai led conversations across themes of sports, food, celebration, celebrity content and humour. While Ludhiana topped the charts in conversations on romance, Raipur led conversations around animals. Bhubaneswar had the most conversations around family and doing good deeds, whereas Mumbai led conversations on nostalgia.

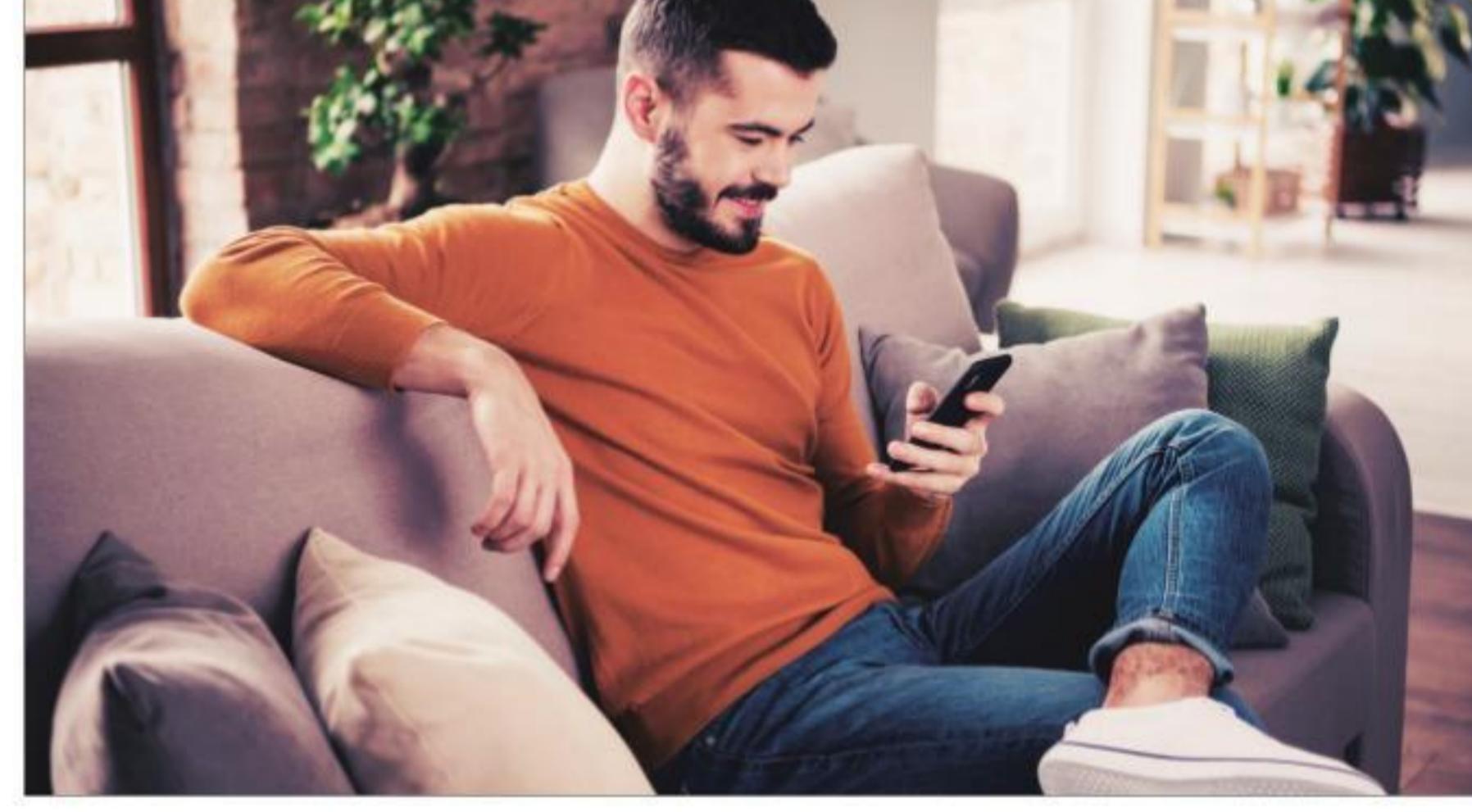
"Our research has found that Indians on Twitter love to talk about topics that bring them joy, and there is a diverse range of these topics that one can see emerging from different parts of the country, from food and family to celebration and celebrity content, and much more. With Conversation Replay, we hope to delight people with a throwback to the unique, happy and joyful moments that they tweeted about in 2019," Martyn Uren, the head of research at Twitter, said.

The study was conducted by Quilt.ai using advanced machine learning. First, the representation of "joy" on Twitter was manually checked in both text and image forms across the 22 shortlisted cities. The study then categorised all the themes into unique categories followed by curating data (both images and textual) for the AI model training. The AI models were then applied on the 'downloadTwitterdataset' from October 2019 till December 2019. This gave the distribution of how 'joy' was represented differently in all cities through text and imagery on Twitter.

"Twitter is a modern public square where diverse voices discuss their views on topics that interest them. Last year, people were revelling in the many joys of life. With Conversation Replay, we intend to throwback to those vibrant conversations across varied themes of joy from diverse parts of India. Sharing these conversations is our way of giving Indians a moment of happiness and reminding them that little pleasures lead to joy," says Manish Maheshwari, managing director, Twitter India.

Digging memories, however, is not something new on social media. Facebook's memory option has been around for a while now. Facebook memories let users see and share their past Facebook posts, posts they were tagged in, anniversaries, etc, through a simple notification. Instagram, too, has a memory feature that lets viewers share their pictures from the past.

With the help of tech, these social media giants have definitely struck the right chord with their audience. After all, who wouldn't like looking back at the good old days, especially in these trying times?





# Leisure

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

SHRIYA ROY

**O**N AUGUST 12, the Janhvi Kapoor-starrer *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl* released on Netflix.

The film, which is the biopic of retired Indian Air Force (IAF) officer Gunjan Saxena, is directed by Sharan Sharma. Soon after its release, however, a volley of criticism was hurled its way. The IAF itself took umbrage at its "undue negative" portrayal and even invoked the Censor Board. Several of Saxena's colleagues in the IAF, including retired flight lieutenant Sreevidya Rajan, who was her batchmate, also alleged that facts were 'twisted' to gain publicity. Rajan pointed out that Saxena was neither the first woman to be posted to the Udhampur helicopter base nor was she the first woman to fly during the 1999 Kargil War.

Others argued that the film sidestepped Saxena's other achievements and instead chose to depict her as a 'weak and oppressed victim of the system'. Interestingly,

after the controversy, Saxena herself said that there was no gender-based discrimination in the IAF at the organisational level.

The criticism the film faced has put the spotlight on the biopic genre as a whole, leading many to question the filmmakers' creative liberty while making a biopic. While many feel that biopics should not over-dramatise real events, there are others who feel there has to be a balance between fact and fiction, as one can't just show facts and eliminate the creative process. Every filmmaker will have different ways of approaching the same subject, explains filmmaker Brahmanand Singh whose film *Pancham Unmixed* on music composer RD Burman won the National Film Award for best biographical film in 2009. "In a biopic, the filmmaker can't take too much liberty just to make it appealing to the audience," Singh says. Talking about the *Gunjan Saxena* controversy, he says, "The film has taken the creative licence quite casually. It tries to show the victories of Gunjan by putting down the IAF, which was not necessary and is factually incorrect."

This isn't the first time, however, that this has happened. Another recent biopic, the Vidya Balan-starrer *Shakuntala Devi*, too, drew criticism for its over-the-top dramatisation, which many claimed overshadowed the brilliance of the mind of the legendary mathematician Shakuntala Devi on whose life it was based.

Earlier, in 2016, the film *Neerja*, which won actor Sonam Kapoor a lot of accolades and even grabbed a National Film Award, also came under the scanner. The film was based on the life of Neerja Bhanot, the chief flight attendant on Pan Am Flight 73, which was hijacked in Karachi in September 1986 with 376 passengers onboard. Bhanot died while covering three children from the line of fire. The Bhanot family, which had no grievances against the filmmakers as far as the story in the film was concerned, accused them of going back on their word of sharing 10% of the net profit and moved court.

Sources close to the Bhanot family said the production company tried to malign the family by spreading false rumours that the family wants to earn money "by digging up a dead body" and that they are "trying to live off late Neerja's name". When such maligning allegations are made against an 'outsider', practically the entire film industry 'gangs up' and indulges in character assassination, as has been seen in the Sushant Singh Rajput case, the source said. The source also pointed out that at no point did the producers try to make amends with the family. The case is still ongoing.

Even the crew members of the



## Based on a true story

**The recent controversy around the biopic of retired Indian Air Force officer Gunjan Saxena has rekindled the debate over a filmmaker's creative liberty while making a biographical film. How much is too much?**

hijacked flight, who had run away to the terminal building once the firing started, expressed disappointment over the film and said the "film was more fiction than reality" and that they were unable to accept what the movie was "unfairly propagating".

Similarly, when *Azhar*—a biopic based on India's controversial cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin who was involved in a match-fixing scandal in 2000—released in 2016, it was embroiled in controversy from the word go. A majority of the critics called the movie a PR stunt to wipe clean the image of Azharuddin. There were even reports that his former teammate and



current Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri was 'extremely angry' with the way his character was shown to be a drunk and cheating on his wife.

While there's no written rule on how much is too much when it comes to creative liberty, a filmmaker can enjoy some leeway as long as it does not tamper with the original story, feel experts. Botching up events or situations to suit their purpose, however, is a strict no-no.

"A filmmaker has to be authentic, as well as be creative and make the film beautiful and powerful. It is okay to be creative about the small details, but when that detail constitutes the larger picture of the character, it becomes important to be factually correct," says Singh.

New Delhi-based film critic and festival programmer Anuj Malhotra, however, believes

## BIOPIC CONTROVERSY

*The Fifth Estate*, a 2013 biopic of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, found itself in the middle of controversy even before filming began as Assange wrote a letter to Benedict Cumberbatch, urging the actor not to play him in the movie

name it *Sanju*, the responsibility increases and facts need to be adhered to," says Singh.

Malhotra feels that such films defeat the whole purpose of expression. "The movie starts to speak from a position of complete knowledge, which, in turn, means there exists no possibility of a further seeking or a greater exploration," he says.

Even Shekhar Kapur's 1996 film *Bandit Queen*, which was based on the life of bandit-turned-MP Phoolan Devi, created an uproar, with not just Devi but the Censor Board, too, taking offence to its content. The movie was released after many cuts, but Devi continued to dispute its accuracy and fought to get it banned in India. She even threatened to immolate herself outside a theatre if the film was not withdrawn. Eventually, however, Devi withdrew her objections after the producer paid her an amount of over ₹37 lakh.

Some biopics in the past have even gone on to reduce a real-life character just for comic relief. Take, for instance, Netflix's *Delhi Crime*, which was based on the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape. The crime-drama met with controversy when inspector Anil Sharma, station house officer of Lodhi Colony Police Station, took offence with his 'derogatory' portrayal as "dumb and slow". Sharma said his portrayal as someone who is not trusted and shrugs off responsibility was wrong and fabricated for profit.

Not just Bollywood, even Hollywood has seen its biopics come under fire. The 2010 movie *The Social Network*, which is based on the life of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, met with resistance when Zuckerberg himself pointed out that the movie "made up stuff that was hurtful". The film suggested that Zuckerberg only created Facebook to attract women following a breakup. The tech mogul, however, said that contrary to what was shown, he was not single at the time. Even with all the controversy, however, the movie was a massive hit and was nominated for eight Academy awards, going on to win three.

Another Hollywood biopic, *The Theory of Everything*, which was based on the life of world-famous theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, was accused of misrepresenting several elements of the relationship between him and his wife Jane Hawking. The film *Diana*, based on the Princess of Wales, was also criticised for a contentious storyline, provoking public row about the historical accuracy of the film.

It's clear that making a biopic is a

a creative artist and is free to do what he/she wants with the story. "Regardless of whether their source material is a novel, a historical incident, the memory of an event or someone's life, it is their work. It's their creative expression that they choose to imply," he says.

Delhi-based film and theatre practitioner Tasha Jaiswal says the disclaimer, 'This film is based on a true story', is so rarely found in the genre of biopics that it becomes almost invisible and inconsequential. "A biopic should not tamper with the historical representation or facts. If the intention of the film is clear on what it wants to depict and convey, and if that intention is coming

through without too much distraction, then small tweaks here and there seem harmless," he says.

When the much awaited *Sanju* by Rajkumar Hirani came out in 2018, there was a lot of excitement to watch Ranbir Kapoor portray the character of actor Sanjay Dutt. Like *Azhar*, though, the movie was criticised for whitewashing Dutt's image. "If you take away Sanjay Dutt from the movie, it is still a valid story of a rebel kid who went through ups and downs. But the moment you call it a biopic of Dutt and

Bollywood, however, is undeterred, with as many as eight biopics currently under production. And why not? It's been proven time and again that biopics are great money-spinners and potential blockbusters. Biopics also

provide a ready-made source material that can be intimately researched and easily emulated. But filmmakers should keep in mind that the audience is now increasingly opting to watch real content rather than over-the-top dramas.

"Biopics should serve as an opportunity for a filmmaker to contemplate a figure and attempt to arrive at the essential truth, and not just a cosmetic mimicry of their life," says Malhotra.

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The more than five-hour-long star-studded evening will witness dance performances by renowned Indian classical dancers Aditi Mangaldas, Malavika Sarukkai, Manjari Chaturvedi and Rukmini Vijaykumar.

"Artists and artisans across India have been impacted directly by Covid-19, which has led to a loss of work and income. #ArtMatters grew out of a need to focus attention on the plight of this vast sector, which spans the ragis in gurdwaras and the Bauls of Bengal to kathak and bharatanatyam dancers to those who weave magnificent temple and Banarasi saris to the toymakers and theatre actors, stage designers, stagehands and more. I Believe #ArtMatters creates a platform for the arts to resonate and enrich our lives and raise much needed resources to support artists, artisans and their families," said Sanjoy K Roy, managing director, Teamwork Arts.

The more than five-hour-long star-

studded evening will be hosted by actors Shabana Azmi and Manoj Bajpayee. Stand-up comedians Papa CJ, Radhika Vaz and Abish Mathew will add some comic relief to the proceedings, while poets Javed Akhtar and Varun Grover will present special spoken-word pieces. The idea behind the special performances is to raise awareness about how art and culture are necessary for a healthy society, especially in these difficult times. The concert, therefore, is not a ticketed one, but carries an appeal to donate funds to help the suffering artiste community.

## For the love of art

An upcoming musical evening with more than 450 artistes aims to lend a helping hand to the artiste community dealt a blow by Covid-19

SHRIYA ROY

**OVER A HUNDRED MILLION** people across the country earn their primary or secondary income from the art they practice. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 crisis has decimated the arts sector and left most artistes and artisans bereft of income.

In an attempt to provide some much-needed support to artistes and artisans across the country and celebrate their craft by highlighting their stories, not-for-profit organisation Teamwork Fine Arts Society has launched the initiative #ArtMatters, which works towards creating awareness about the new reality faced by artistes across India and develops support channels for them. Not just

that, #ArtMatters recently announced a fundraising gala called 'I Believe #ArtMatters' to raise funds for the artiste community.

Scheduled for October 4, the virtual concert will feature over 450 artistes and performers, including some of the most celebrated contemporary and classical musicians, dancers, comedians, visual artistes and theatre practitioners. The gala will showcase a range of performances by the likes of Grammy Award-winning percussionist Pt. Vikku Vinayakram, playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy, etc. Celebrated music composers AR Rahman, Salim-Sulaiman, Shekhar Ravjiani, Amit Trivedi and Shantanu Moitra will also be part of the event. The internationally-acclaimed Shillong

Chamber Choir is also among the list of artistes slated to perform.

Artistes from different artistic spheres will be part of the gala. These include classical artistes Shubhendra Rao and Saska Rao-de-Haas on the sitar and cello, mridangam and Konnakol artiste BC Manjunath, Hindustani classical vocalist Vidya Shah to name a few. Kailash Kher, Gurdaas Maan, Usha Uthup, the Raghu Dixit Project and Indian Ocean will also perform. Sufi and Punjabi vocalist Harshdeep Kaur, playback singer Shilpa Rao, fusion act Advaita and Bengali-British sarod prodigy Soumik Datta are also part of the exciting lineup.

THE MORE THAN FIVE-HOUR-LONG STAR-STUDDED EVENING WILL BE HOSTED BY MANOJ BAJPAYEE AND SHABANA AZMI



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# Spotlight

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

REYA MEHROTRA

**T**HAT HAS BEEN 18 years since Bengaluru-based psychiatrist Shamala (who goes by one name only) decided to move in with her partner Mohan Rao, an engineer. They both had two things in common: spirituality and the desire to be childfree. Eighteen years later, they are proud of their decision. "I had attended an Osho meditation camp in 2002 and felt that I should not get married. Within a year, I found someone who was also spiritually oriented. We both started questioning if we were mature enough to have a child. There is so much suffering in the world... it was not worth giving birth," says Shamala, who is in her 40s.

Before 2002, however, she did want to have a family of her own. "I really wanted to get married and have a child, but the discourse changed my life. Osho, in his recorded video, said that those who choose to give birth put their burden and expectations on their children and expect their unfulfilled desires and dreams to get fulfilled through them. It is a way of satisfying one's ego. Why bring children into this world and make them suffer?" says Shamala, adding that she never worried about any social stigma. "Our families were okay with the decision. My mother knew that we were happier than my married relatives... we are happy and proud to say that we are in a live-in relationship and are childfree by choice," she says.

Shamala and Rao are one among many couples in the 21st century who have decided to go down the marriage and parenthood roads. Marriage, they believe, is a bondage, where you are often forced to live together for the sake of families, children and society. This band of newthinkers is now actively shunning marriage and instead seeking partners who, like them, would rather be childfree. Kolkata-based Ayushi (name changed on request), for one, neither wants to get married nor have a child. "My mother and I have suffered a lot because my father was abusive. In my family, men have the power and women are voiceless and scrutinised. This bitter experience made me realise that I do not want this for myself. I have been through depression and anxiety, and also have endometriosis. I do not want to transfer my pain to my child," says the 28-year-old, who decided to go childfree when, during her college research, she learnt that motherhood does not define a woman. Going ahead, Ayushi says that she knows it's going to be an uphill ride, but is sure that she doesn't want marriage for herself.

Not just singles, there are many married couples as well who are choosing to not embrace parenthood. Take, for instance, Panchkula-based Deepak Negi, a mechanical engineer by profession, and his wife Anita Rawat. Negi says finding a partner willing to go childfree was a big challenge. "During my search, I spoke to many prospective partners over the phone. Finally, after five months of extensive search, I found Anita. Our thoughts matched and we got married in early 2016. We are happy about our decision to remain childfree," says the 34-year-old.

Thankfully, people looking for childfree marriages have help now, as there are platforms like Childfree India that not only function as support groups, but also act as unofficial matchmaking platforms for single people. "I have been talking to some men in the group," reveals Ayushi.

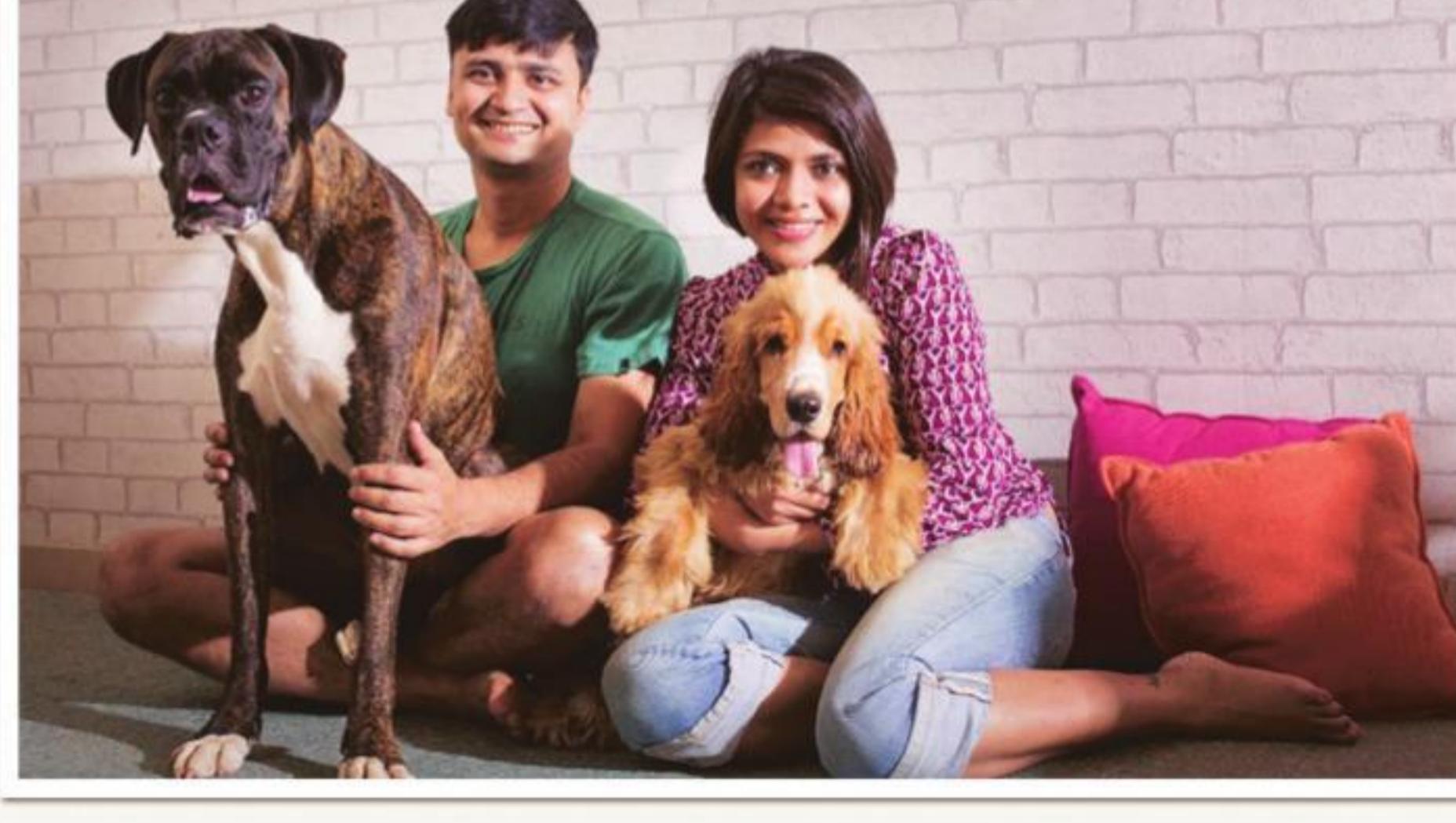
There are multiple reasons why couples are opting to be childless, says Delhi-based marriage and family counsellor Nisha Khanna. "Some might not have had a very healthy childhood. Secondly, today's generation lives a fast life in metro cities. They have too many responsibilities on their shoulders and feel that a child would be a bigger responsibility. For the first few years, it is important to be with a child physically and mentally. But with today's lifestyle, one hardly has that much time to devote to a child... People are also marrying late these days and then having a child might not seem a very good option, as they think they would be too old when the child grows up. Then there are financial issues, environmental issues like increasing pollution, etc, today," explains Khanna.

## Birth of a movement

There are anti-natalists all over the world and social media is full of such groups. But it was Belgian writer Theophile de Giraud who played a huge role in popularising the idea through his 2000 book *The Impertinence of Procreation*, a plea against human reproduction. Some also link the movement to ancient Greece.

As far as Indian history goes, marriages have always been an integral part of any Indian family. But change was long in the offing. As the anti-natalism movement began to take shape across the world, many Indians like Ayushi and Shamala, too, felt encouraged to break the shackles, deciding to stay away from marriage and children, and live life on their own terms.

Procreation is unethical, feel the co-founders of Childfree India. The support group was launched in February 2019 by Bengaluru-based anti-natalists Anugraha Kumar Sharma (an independent branding consultant), AS Prashanth (who runs a small business) and Pratima Naik (a social activist). After initial trolling for their ideology, the group soon went viral, says Sharma. Today, the movement is spread across the country with 2,000 members. "We got covered by international media



# NO KIDS ATTACHED

**M**any people today are opting out of parenthood. Financial concerns, burden of responsibility, late marriages are among the major reasons why they want to stay childfree. We look at the rise of the anti-natalist movement



(Clockwise from top, far left) Bengaluru-based Swagata Paul and husband Sundeep Dhar with their two dogs; Alok Kumar Pathak with his wife; Deepak Negi, a mechanical engineer by profession, and his wife Anita Rawat; and (left) Shamala with her partner Mohan Rao

and then many people joined us through social media," says the 45-year-old.

Sharma, separated from his wife since many years, says that initially his wife too was an anti-natalist, though, they didn't know the term then. But when she got pregnant, she considered it God's will and later even wanted another child to give company to the first one. "But I refused. A mistake should be committed only once. My wife was epileptic too and I did not want to burden her," says Sharma, whose 18-year-old daughter is an anti-natalist too and has decided to not get married.

The movement is attracting like-minded people, including enthusiasts (efilism is 'life' spelt backwards, an ideology that suggests humans can eradicate themselves by stopping to have children). "Some of our followers are asking us to plan for a commune where the childfree can live together as an extended family. A few others are asking us to pursue the Right to Die (voluntary euthanasia) movement. We are yet to decide whether we should invest our energies to build a commune or fight for the Right to Die Act," Sharma says.

## Consent matters

How do you ask an unborn child if he/she wants to see the light of the world? You can't. So you do not bring him/her into the world. After all, it is all about consent. This was the logic Mumbai-based Raphael Samuel gave to his parents (who are lawyers) last year before disclosing that he was planning to sue them. His parents were prepared to fight him in court and challenged him to find a lawyer, all the while agreeing with him. Samuel said he wanted to set an example and, therefore, would sue them for not more than a rupee.

Alok Kumar Pathak, a teacher based in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, who has married a physically challenged girl and has decided to go childfree, explains the logic of consent. "For me, the primary reason is that we cannot take the consent of an unborn baby whether he/she wants to come in this world. So whether the world needs this movement or not is secondary for me. The primary is the unborn child... No one really knows the answer to why people choose to give birth. They are just following others. Suffering is an inevitable part of life and

## SHRINKING POPULATIONS



Fertility rates in 183 of 195 countries won't be high enough by year 2100 to maintain current populations without liberal immigration policies, as per Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)



World population will be at its peak by 2064 with around 9.7 billion people and fall to 8.8 billion by the century's end with 23 countries seeing population shrink by more than 50%, as per IHME



Dramatic declines in working age populations in countries like India and China will hamper economic growth and lead to shifts in global powers



In India, fertility rate came down from 5.2 to 2.2 children per woman from 1971 to 2017, as per Office of the Registrar General



Fastest shrinking populations will be of Asia, central and eastern Europe, as per a 2017 Global Burden of Disease Study

forcing a child into this world without their consent is wrong," says Pathak, who goes by the name Alok Mystic.

For Delhi-based Parul Gupta, a PhD scholar at IIT-Delhi and a teacher, it was her aunt's pregnancy in 2008 and her condition post it that strengthened her resolve to go childfree. The 32-year-old is not actively looking for a partner, but says that the ones she has met have not really been accepting of her decision to go childfree even though her parents have no issues with her decision. "Factors like environmental/societal concerns have also strengthened my resolve. Children are a drain on financial, physical, emotional, environmental and societal resources. Moreover, conflicting advice makes parenting full of confusion, guilt, self-doubt and stress. I strongly believe that to bring a child into the world is a disservice to both the child and earth," says Gupta.

## Retirement plan

A common notion is that one should procreate to have financial and emotional support in old age, a sort of a retirement plan. Anti-natalists, however, believe this is a selfish reason. "I am a teacher and researcher of economics, and we talk about the 'demographic dividend' all the time. Yes, the dependency ratio will increase if more people go childfree. However, people without kids are more likely to have greater savings, better health and overall a higher quality of life. I feel productivity will improve without the stress of parenting responsibilities. The consumerist culture could also see a reversal and pressures on the environment may also ease. I view all of these as signs of development and improvement, not slower progress," says Gupta. "Developing countries should especially encourage and support childfree lifestyles since societal resources in these countries are already stretched to the maximum. Countries could extend tax breaks and other concessions to childfree individuals/couples," she adds.

Shamala says having like-minded people as friends helps when one is old. "People initially feel we are living an abnormal life, but when they know us closely, they like us. I advise my patients, too, who are struggling to have a child that

going childfree is a wiser choice," she says.

## Finding freedom

Many anti-natalists believe that the freedom that comes with breaking these societal constructs is priceless. One can invest in hobbies and indulge in interests as one remains free from the responsibilities of children. Negi says he values the freedom he and his wife have. "Freedom comes from money and raising child in India costs a fortune. We as a couple travel a lot, go backpacking and on motorcycle trips every quarter. A child will put a break on our free lives. Sometimes, I feel people see us as selfish and prefer to chill with couples with kids. However, it doesn't bother me," he says. Like many childfree couples, Negi and his wife have instead chosen to become pet parents to three-year-old Bruno.

Bengaluru-based Swagata Paul, who works in an automobile firm, and canine nutritionist Sundeep Dhar, in fact, took their role as pet parents so seriously that they started their own dog food company, Canine Cravings, in 2018. "We always wanted to go childfree and so adopted two special needs dogs, Cassius and Bailey. We love our boys. In fact my husband quit his job to focus on our canine food company. It's not like pets need lesser attention. A child might grow up, but pets are always dependent on you and need care. My parents are not happy about us dedicating our lives to dogs, but now they don't have much of a choice," she laughs. "We have seen half the world and led a very hectic work life and so never wanted a child," says the 35-year-old. Apart from their pets, Paul and Dhar are also the caretakers of about 40-50 street dogs in their community.

The trend of adopting pets as 'kids' has seen a rise in the last decade globally. In 2013, research by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics stated that expenditure on pets remained 1% of the total household expenditure between 2007 and 2011 despite the recession.

Not just animals, a number of couples have even adopted houseplants as 'kids', choosing to become plant parents, easier than becoming a pet parent. The reason? Plants are cheaper and easy to take care of, needing care only once or twice a week. The National Gardening Associa-

tion stated that between 2016 to 2019, houseplant sales in the US increased by 50% to reach \$1.7 billion, thanks to millennials adopting plant babies.

## Pitfalls & challenges

The idea may seem liberating, but has a flipside to it. If a majority of millennials decide to go childless, the global population could dwindle and the world economy will collapse. As per a July report by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), a research institute working in the area of global health statistics and impact evaluation at the University of Washington in Seattle, fertility rates in 183 of 195 countries will not be high enough by the year 2100 to maintain current populations without liberal immigration policies. It also predicts that world population will be at its peak by 2064 with around 9.7 billion people and fall to 8.8 billion by the century's end with 23 countries seeing the population shrink by more than 50%, including Japan, Thailand, Italy and Spain. It further goes on to state that dramatic declines in working age populations in countries like India and China will hamper economic growth and lead to shifts in global powers.

Additionally, the 2017 Global Burden of Disease Study predicted that the fastest shrinking populations will be of Asia and central and eastern Europe. Fertility is one major reason behind it. In India, the fertility rate has fallen down from 5.2 to 2.2 children per woman from 1971 to 2017, as per sample registration system data from the Office of the Registrar General.

There are other challenges as well. Societal pressure, for one, is relentless. Take, for instance, Gupta's case. Even though her parents have been supportive of her decision, her relatives, including those who live abroad, expect her to change her mind.

"Studying too much has gone to your head" is what I often hear," says that his family is still not convinced of his decision. "My family asked me to leave the house after I got married. But she understood my decision to go childfree. I will never have a child," he says, adding that the best way to protect people from suffering is not to bring them on this earth.

## CHILDFREE BY CHOICE

The word 'childfree' is said to have first appeared before 1901, according to the Merriam Webster dictionary, and originally referred to parents with children living elsewhere.

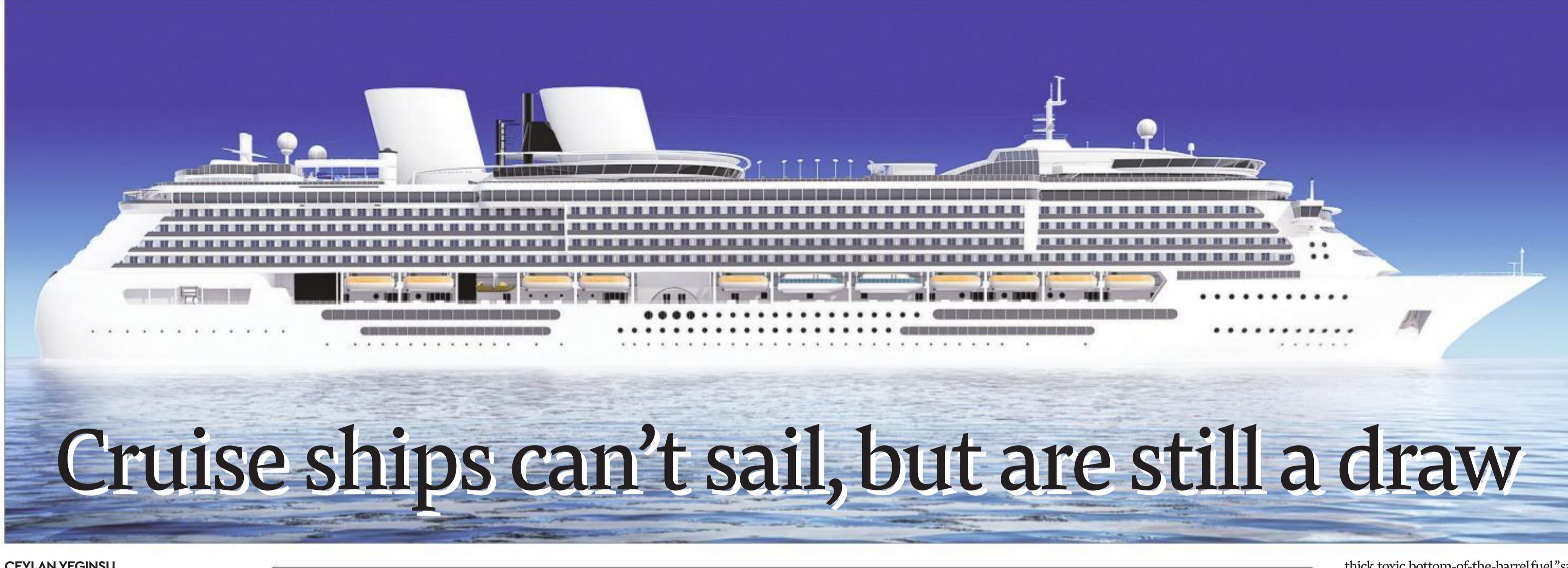
# Footloose

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020



## NARROW SEA

Known colloquially to the English as the 'Narrow Sea' until the 18th century, the English Channel had no fixed name either in English or French. It was never defined as a political border, and the names were more or less descriptive



## Cruise ships can't sail, but are still a draw

CEYLAN YEGINSU

**A**S THE FERRY slowly turned the corner of the Hengistbury headland off Britain's south-west coast, the passengers on board stood up and gaped at the silhouettes of giant cruise ships moored in the distance, letting out bursts of exhilaration as the vessels came into focus. "What a beauty, what a sight," one man shouted, as he scuttled to the front of the boat to take a closer look. "They're alive, they're breathing," said another, pointing to the plumes of smoke. "Absolutely stunning" said a woman, her hand resting on her heart. "I just can't wait to hop back on."

Avid European cruise-ship fans, who would normally be travelling around the world this time of year, but have had their own expeditions cancelled to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, are instead flocking to the southern coast of Britain to catch a glimpse of the empty liners. These vessels, belonging to various cruise companies, are anchored in small clusters across the English Channel.

The interest has been so high that Paul Derham, a former deputy captain for P&O cruises, has deployed one of his small passenger ferry boats in Dorset to give people close-up tours of the ships. The idea, first announced on his Facebook page in August, became an instant success, with the tours booking up within hours. "One day I noticed some of the most famous cruise ships, anchored right here in my back garden and I just wanted to give people the rare opportunity to see them close up," Derham said as he steered his boat toward the vessels. As he pulled up closer to the 225,282-tonne *Allure of the Seas*, the 24 ferry passengers, suddenly dwarfed by the giant blue hull of the ship, lined up to take selfies as if they had just spotted a celebrity. The 6,780-person vessel, operated by Royal Caribbean International, is known to be one of the largest and liveliest ships in the world, but on this day it appeared eerily empty with its lights out and curtains drawn.

The cruise fans did not allow the atmosphere to dampen their spirits. For many of them, the tour was a way to relieve past excursions, when the ships were filled with music, bright lights, bustling restaurants and people sprawled out across the lido decks. "It's like taking your own hotel with you wherever you want to go, without any hassle of changing rooms and luggage," said Victor Francisco, a fashion salesman, who had been hoping to get a glimpse of the P&O-operated Aurora vessel on the

**Empty cruise liners idling in the English Channel have become a tourist destination of their own, drawing cruise fans temporarily stuck on land**

tour as he had booked it for a December cruise, before it was cancelled.

"It's also so much more than that," he continued. "You get to have these really special experiences like dressing for dinners and cocktail parties with the captain and attending lectures with maritime historians. But the best part is the inner peace and pleasure you get from being out at sea and away from everything." Some 30 million people sailed on a cruise last year, helping the \$150 billion cruise industry to continue its record growth over the last decade. But now most of the nearly 350 vessels operated by major cruise companies worldwide are idle.

Ano-sail order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for all US cruises is in place until September 30. In most European countries, cruises remain restricted until local authorities deem it safe to start up operations. Industry officials remain optimistic that cruising will indeed bounce back, but the unpredictability of the pandemic is forcing many companies to consider what to do with fleets should the financial challenges become untenable.

Most of the cruise-goers touring Britain's southern coast said they could not wait to get back on the ships and had booked excursions for next year, even as their cruises for 2020 continue to get cancelled. Never mind that cruise ships played a significant role in the initial spread of the coronavirus and several operators continued to sail despite the outbreak of infections onboard their ships.

Gay Courter, a 75-year-old American novelist and avid cruise-goer, was stranded on board the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship in Japan in February as hundreds of guests and crew members became infected with the virus. Luckily, Courter did not contract the virus, but her experience in quarantine — the first 12 days confined to her cabin, followed by 15 days in a US Air Force base in Texas — was so distressing that she received therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder when she returned home.

Still, every day she contemplates when she will return to a cruise. "I understand why so many people are eager to go back," she said in a telephone interview. Courter said cruising triggers endorphins, and "like

**THE INDUSTRY IS OPTIMISTIC THAT CRUISING WILL BE BACK, BUT THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF THE PANDEMIC LOOMS LARGE**

a drug, it becomes addictive and I think many people can't find that level of satisfaction anywhere else." Yet, Courter says she cannot realistically consider cruising until an effective vaccine becomes available and everybody on board is required to take a shot. "I think a lot of people are in denial," she said. "We need a full prescription that includes vaccines, rapid testing and even medication in case you get infected when you are out in the middle of the Indian Ocean."

Several cruise companies that resumed operations over the summer were forced to cut short their expeditions because of suspected or confirmed infections on board. Some European cruise operators, like the Italian line Costa, have started reduced capacity local cruises within Italy and require that all crew members and guests are tested before they board the vessel.

Craig Lee tested positive for the virus onboard the *Diamond Princess* even after

Off the coast of Britain, day trips to view idled cruise ships are filling to capacity GUY MARTIN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

two weeks of quarantine in his windowless cabin. The retired schoolteacher from Canada said he could not imagine going back on a cruise without the requirement of mandatory testing. "I was lucky because I was asymptomatic and did not have any problems breathing, but then you think of all the people you came into contact with during the trip and that is very concerning," said Lee, 72, in a telephone interview.

When Canada lifts its travel restrictions, Lee said he plans to travel to England to see his relatives and then will explore small cruise routes from Britain to Europe. "I trust the Europeans a lot more than I do the Americans right now," he said, laughing. Other cruise loyalists, including those who travelled to Dorset to view the idled ships, said they trusted the operators to

take all the necessary precautions.

Shannon Wright, a 45-year-old beautician, drove six hours with her family to Osmington Mills, a coastal hamlet in Dorset that offers some of the best views of the ships. "Nobody really knew how the virus worked at the beginning and now that they do I trust that they will take all the right measures," she said. While Wright and other ship sightseers have been part of a tourism wave welcomed by coastal communities, some local residents worry about the ships' effect on the environment, especially in the seaside town of Weymouth where people have grown concerned about pollution, having noticed a new yellow smog in the atmosphere.

Unlike planes, which are switched off when they are not being used, cruise ships run auxiliary engines when moored out at sea, enabling power for the maintenance procedures and safety precautions in the event of bad weather. "Most cruise ships operate on heavy fuel oil, which is really

thick, toxic, bottom-of-the-barrel fuel," said Lucy Gilliam, an aviation and shipping campaigner for Transport & Environment, a non-profit group.

"When anchored they have a base load of energy demand for air filtration systems, keeping the lights on, keeping the auxiliary engines ticking over, being able to do all of that maintenance and cater for the skeleton staff that are on board," she explained. "It's not going to be at the same level as if they had a full passenger load, but the chimneys are still going to be pumping out pollutants." Local officials in Dorset rejected claims that the cruise ships were causing smog. "The summer weather we have been experiencing is causing temperature inversions — these are responsible for producing smog, trapping the pollutants produced by all vehicles, fires and industrial activities," a spokeswoman for the Dorset council said in an email.

All the cruise ships anchored across the British coast are required to meet environmental regulations imposed by the International Maritime Organization, which are strictly enforced, according to the British Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

"The UK monitors emissions from vessels very closely. They must use fuel within approved limits to make sure they comply with these regulations," a spokeswoman for the agency said in an email. Cruise ships are increasingly being equipped with technology to allow the delivery of shoreside electricity, so that when they are anchored in a port they can plug into local electric power and switch their fuel engines off.

"The cruise industry has invested over \$23.5 billion in ships with new technologies and cleaner fuels, and is working diligently to identify innovative new ways to build upon this progress and, ultimately, achieve a zero-carbon future," the Cruise Lines International Association, the cruise industry's trade group, said in a statement. Laura Baldwin, an environmental activist in Dorset and former Olympic sailor, has been campaigning against the anchored cruise ships in recent weeks. "We are one of the most deprived areas in the country, and many people are worried about their daily struggle and feeding their children," Baldwin said. "It's just too much to take on the climate and ecological emergency."

For many of the tourists visiting Weymouth, the sight of the ships outweighs any concerns over pollution. "You should see them at night when they are all lit up in the distance," said Mary Rhodes, a retired restaurant manager, who had never been on a cruise ship, but noticed them while visiting relatives in a nearby town. "It's the most marvellous view I've ever seen."

## The flight goes nowhere. And it's sold out

People who miss flying are rushing to buy tickets for flights that land in the same place they depart from

TARIRO MZEZWEWA

**I**N AUGUST, NADZRI Harif, a DJ at Kristal FM radio station in Brunei, set foot in an airport for the first time in six months. The experience, he said, was exhilarat-

ing. Sure, moving through Brunei International Airport was different, with masks, glass dividers and social-distancing protocols in place, but nothing could beat the anticipation of getting on a plane again. His destination: nowhere.

Harif is one of thousands of people in Brunei, Taiwan, Japan and Australia who have started booking flights that start and end in the same place. Some airlines call these "scenic flights"; others are more direct, calling them "flights to nowhere."

"I didn't realise how much I'd missed travelling — missed flying — until the moment the captain's voice came on the



speaker with the welcome and safety announcement," said Harif of his 85-minute experience on Royal Brunei Airlines. On its flight to nowhere, which the airline calls the "dine and fly" programme, Royal Brunei serves local cuisine to passengers while flying over the country. At a time when most people are stuck at home and unable to travel, and

**THESE FLIGHTS ALLOW AIRLINES TO KEEP STAFF WORKING. THE PRACTICE ALSO SATISFIES THE ITCH TO TRAVEL**

the global airline industry has been decimated by the pandemic, flights that take off and return to the airport a few hours later allow airlines to keep staff working. The practice also satisfies that itch to travel — even if it's just being on a plane again. Although most people may think of flying as a means to an end, existing solely to get them from one place to the next, some say that it is an exciting part of the travel experience. For those people, flights to nowhere are the salve for a year in which just about all travel has been cancelled and people have been fearful of airlines not enforcing social distancing and mask-wearing rules.

Royal Brunei has run five of these flights since mid-August, and since Brunei has had very few cases of the coronavirus, the airline is not requiring passengers to wear masks, but staff members are. Recently, the Taiwanese airline EVA Air filled all 309 seats on its Hello Kitty-themed A330 Dream jet for Father's Day in Taiwan, and Japan's All Nippon Airways had a Hawaiian-themed, 90-minute flight with 300 people on board.

Recently, Qantas announced a flight to nowhere over Australia. That flight sold out in 10 minutes. "So many of our frequent fliers are used to being on a plane every other week and have been telling us they miss the experience of flying as much as the destinations themselves," Alan Joyce, the chief executive of Qantas Airlines, said in a statement, when that airline announced its seventh flight in October that would depart and land in Sydney.

Tickets for that flight range in price from 787 to 3,787 Australian dollars, or about \$575 to \$2,765. It will take travellers around Australia, flying over the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. The airline also recently brought back its popular sightseeing flights to Antarctica that don't actually land in Antarctica, but allow passengers to walk around and have different views of the continent. The tour company Antarctica Flights charters Qantas to operate the flights. Dozens of Australians took to the airline's Instagram to express a desire for more of these kinds of trips to be added.

NYT



# Well-Being

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020



## VERSATILE FRUIT

The versatile avocado is very good for heart health. The good fats—mono and polyunsaturated—in avocados help one lose weight and boost heart health. Avocados also help in reducing bad cholesterol in the body.

REYA MEHROTRA

**W**ITH WORK FROM home becoming the new constant, the hustle and bustle of life might have slowed down thanks to zero traffic and commute hours, but WFH stress seems to have become the new elephant in the room that many are living with. A study published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* in August revealed that those who suffered a severe heart attack were more than twice as likely to die from it during the pandemic in the US as compared to previous years as hospitalisations and checkups began to decline February onwards. Coupled with anxiety and unhealthy eating, this could be a disaster situation. With World Heart Day round the corner (September 29), we take a look at the problem and its solution.

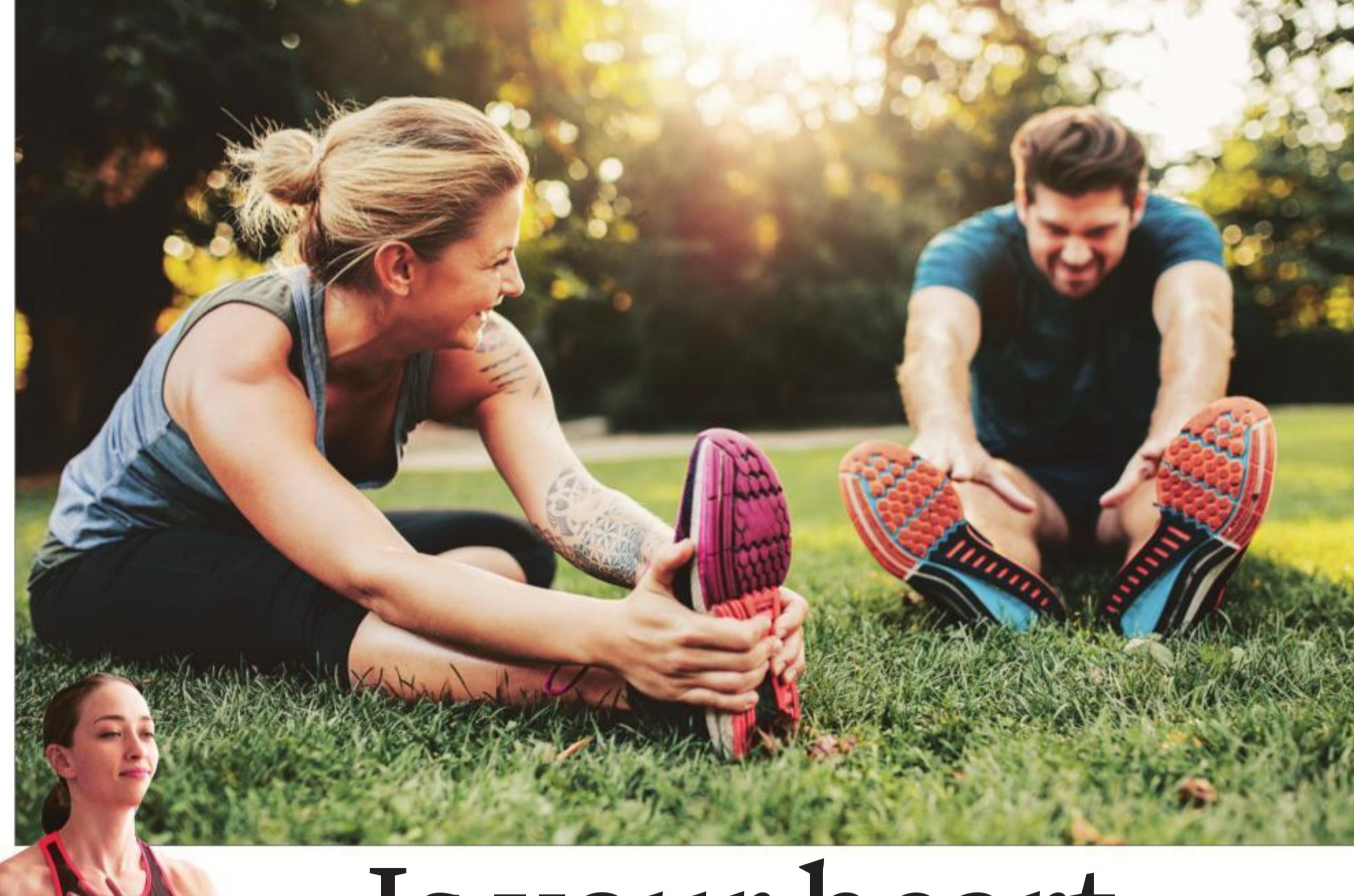
### A stressful year

Cardiologists believe that adapting to a new way of life has taken a toll on people's mental and physical health. Post the pandemic, there has been an upsurge in the number of patients dealing with stress disorders while enduring Covid, says Viveka Kumar, principal director and chief, Cath Labs (Pan Max) Cardiac Sciences, Max Hospital, Delhi. "The age bracket of 35–60 years has been hit the most. A country where one in four deaths is attributed to cardiovascular disease (CVD) burden, Covid-19 has brought with it many challenges for heart patients. Higher levels of stress, especially this year because of job losses, collapsing businesses, etc., is an added risk," he says.

Kumar shares that stress leads to obesity in many cases and that increases the chance of heart diseases due to high blood cholesterol and blood pressure, and unhealthy levels of blood glucose, which can clog arteries. This can raise the risk of blockages, leading to heart attack. Symptoms like shortness of breath, chest pain, cold sweat and lightheadedness could be hinting at blocked arteries or coronary artery disease (CAD).

Working from home while dealing with household chores and children has taken a toll especially on women. In September, the 10th edition of the LinkedIn Workforce Confidence Index (India), which gauges the hopes, anxieties and attitudes of the workforce, revealed that nearly 50% of India's working women are more stressed out due to working from home amid the pandemic, as it's taking a toll on their emotional well-being. Around 38% of working men were found out to be stressed out about working from home. The survey was conducted between July 27 and August 23 among more than 2,200 working professionals. Though the stress levels while working from home for men might be lower as compared to women, they are twice as likely to have heart attacks as women, according to a 2016 research published in the *Harvard Heart Letter* by Harvard Medical School.

There could be long-term impacts of the stress induced this year, believes Delhi-based TS Kler, chairman, PSRI Heart Institute, and adviser, SeekMed, a telemedicine platform. "The pandemic has forced all of us to embrace a new reality. Businesses have been challenged... there is an additional burden on the workforce... people are confined indoors with limited mobility and restricted movement. This is not a good scenario for maintaining a healthy heart. Job-related stress is very personal in nature and people react differently to stress. Short-term side effects of stress could lead to headaches, anxiety, upset stomach or lack of sleep. However, long-term constant stress can result in heart disease, back pain, depression and a weakened immune system," he says. According to Kler, young adults, coping with work uncertainties and those away from their families, are the most vulnerable.



### Tips for healthier work from home

- Manage your time well and prioritise tasks. Let go of less important activities
- Take mini breaks at regular intervals and stretch
- Don't skip meals and fix a time for them
- Eat healthy and exercise regularly
- Do not overwork yourself
- Socialise keeping in mind social distancing
- Call at least five elderly people you know who may need mental support
- Be positive
- Get help from an expert doctor when in need
- Eat fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean poultry and fish, and avoid saturated fats, trans fats, and excess sodium and sugar
- Work out for 30 minutes before or after office hours
- Prioritise sleep
- Limit alcohol consumption to not more than a glass a day
- Avoid smoking



## Is your heart skipping a beat?

Pandemic-induced stress along with unhealthy eating habits due to WFH are proving detrimental for heart patients. With World Heart Day round the corner, we take a look at what one can do for a healthy heart

### Healthy snacking for the heart



The most common and popular way to beat stress is unhealthy binging and that was evident from the sales of FMCG products this year. In May this year, Nestlé India said that the company in the January-March quarter recorded the best quarterly sales growth in almost five years globally for the firm, as consumers stocked up on packaged food products. Demand for items like Maggi Noodles, coffee, Milkmaid condensed milk, KitKat and Munch chocolates surged during this period.

Doctors believe that these unhealthy and packaged snacks can be replaced with healthier ones, while the stress can be dealt with subtle lifestyle changes. "It is imperative to take the right steps like

healthy eating and exercising, and get your blood pressure and cholesterol checked regularly. Exercising improves blood circulation and strengthens the heart. Yoga, meditation, listening to music and focusing on something peaceful and calm can help in managing stress, which is a major cause of high blood pressure and can trigger a heart attack," says Kumar.

### Healthy working

Not only stress and unhealthy snacking, but habits like smoking and drinking are easy to fall prey to as well while working from home. Mukesh Goyal, senior consultant, cardiothoracic surgery, heart and lung transplant, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi, agrees that many have picked up habits like unhealthy snacking, smoking, drinking and working at odd hours while working from home and that the boundaries "have been blurred". But the good news is that this can be altered. "The best way to maintain a daily schedule is to work according to office hours strictly and not exceed it. One should avoid excessive tea and coffee... go for lemon water or fill a jar with water and put some mint leaves and then have it. Offices are usually no-smoking zones and have air conditioners, so one might not smoke as much as while working from home. They must strictly avoid that. Even drinks must be limited to not more than a drink per day, which is 50 ml of hard liquor or 100 ml of white or red wine. For exercises at home, there are so many apps nowadays. One can even take a 5-to 10-minute walk every hour instead of sitting at a stretch."

Sharing the burden of home chores and parenting can also, in fact, be treated as exercise. "Household chores could be looked at as opportunities to reconnect with family. Even a good laugh with loved ones can do wonders in maintaining a healthy heart. Walking from one room to the other, morning walk and cycling are good options too. For those in IT or similar professions involving a lot of screen time, it always helps to disconnect at regular intervals, take a short walk, stretch, drink water or green tea and have a quick family chat before getting back to work," says Kler.

## Are mushrooms the future of wellness?

Long thought to have medicinal benefits, fungi including reishi, lion's mane and chaga are gaining popularity in the wellness world

ARDEN FANNING ANDREWS

EVEN BEFORE THE onset of the pandemic, which has increased the demand for all manner of so-called organic immunity elixirs, wellness-minded people were warming to mushrooms. To be clear, mushrooms don't cure Covid-19, but they are thought to provide a host of other benefits, from serving as an aphrodisiac to bolstering one's defenses to toxins. As writer Ligaya Mishan explains in an article, eastern cultures have long

been enthusiastic about edible fungi, both in culinary and health contexts — mushrooms are rich in umami, the Japanese "fifth taste" that denotes savouriness, and woody species such as reishi are often prescribed in traditional Chinese medicine — while the West has been more ambivalent.

Today, though, people cook and diners delight in foraged morels and matsutakes, while others mix mushroom-based powders into shakes and teas. In an article published in 2014 — over 80



MYCOLOGIST PAUL STAMETS HAS DESCRIBED MUSHROOMS AS 'NATURE'S MINIATURE PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORIES'

years after the British scientist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the powerful group of antibiotics derived from the fungus Penicillium — mycologist Paul Stamets described mushrooms as "nature's miniature pharmaceutical factories".

"Fungi have the ability to soak up and

escort waste from our cells, and have a digestive system almost identical to that of humans," says Liz Smithers, who studied Ayurvedic medicine and herbal sciences before launching the sustainable Kauai-based nutrition brand Laka Living with her sister Kate in 2015. The line includes a chocolate-flavoured hemp protein containing mushrooms such as lion's mane (shown in studies to reduce anxiety and prevent cognitive decline), and Super Shroom Dip, a macadamia nut butter laced with a five-mushroom blend.

"At this point, only 7% of the world's fungi have been discovered, and Hawaii, the most isolated archipelago in the world, has some of the most understudied species," says Benjamin Lillibridge, the Kailua-Kona-based founder of the wellness company Malama Mushrooms, and of the Hawaii Fungi Project, a non-profit dedicated to the discovery and responsible use of the islands' native species. Lillibridge's wider point, perhaps, is that with so much still to discover about fungi, who knows what heretofore unknown powers they may possess?

Lion's mane (which has the look of a

shaggy, faux-fur ottoman), for one, was found in a 2016 study published by the *Chinese Journal of Integrative Medicine* to promote peripheral nerve regeneration in rats. For humans, the mushroom is typically used with the goal of enhancing concentration, memory and mental clarity. "It has a mild taste and is fantastic sautéed in butter," says Wooden Spoon Herbs founder Lauren Haynes.

But the repeatedly invoked "cure-all" of functional fungi is reishi. "Its most popular and well-known benefits are its ability to reduce stress and fatigue, and, in general, help chill you out," says Lillibridge, who suggests Malama Mushroom's Reishi Mushroom Extract Powder. When taken consistently, the multitasking "queen healer," as reishi is sometimes called, is even believed to help regulate rest cycles: "It's been shown to increase deep delta-wave sleep," Lillibridge says. It's no wonder emperors of the Qing dynasty were said to exchange gifts of ceremonial ruyi scepters sculpted to resemble reishi, the so-called mushroom of immortality.



# Mind & Games

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

## Maybe the best home school is... on a boat?

Thanks to adventurous parents, some screen-addled children are getting a reprieve—and an education—at sea

MARIYA MANZHOS

**T**WO YEARS AGO, Alison and Luke Williams bought a 44-foot monohull *Moody Blue* with the dream of sailing around the world with their three children. But many commitments tethered them to shore: two full-time jobs, piles of debt and their children's school in New South Wales, Australia. Then the pandemic hit. Luke, 43, lost his job at the landscaping company, school went online, and life became restricted to the home. "If not now, when?" they thought.

They sold their home, most of their belongings and moved their crew of three kids aged seven, 12 and 13, two Labradoodles and a cat onto their new floating home. "Covid has given us a push forward rather than holding us back," said Alison, 39, who left her job as a kindergarten teacher. They are reclaiming something they've lacked for years. "We finally have time as a family!"

For many families, the coronavirus upended the delicate balance of work, home-schooling and child care. But for a growing number, the pandemic has catalysed a leap that may have seemed irresponsible: one onto, if not into, the sea. "We have never been busier," said Behan Gifford, a coach for families seeking to set sail and the founder of Sailing Totem. "Our rate of inquiries and new clients are a multiple of pre-Covid. People want to get away."

"The families are home-schooling and working remotely anyway," Gifford said. "Why not take the cash from a home or savings and turn it into an unforgettable family adventure?" Families with children aboard are referred to as "kid boats" in the sailing community. Gifford estimates there are over a thousand of them at sea.

In 13 years of cruising (another term



for recreational sailing), Gifford, along with her husband and three children, circumnavigated the world, visited 48 countries and territories, swam through the wrecks of a Japanese fighter plane in the Western Pacific, and searched for Napoleon's ghost on St Helena island.

This unconventional upbringing benefitted her oldest son, who's now a junior at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon. "Our kids are articulate and interesting and very different," said Gifford, who is currently anchored in the Sea of Cortez with her family. "Being different is good, it means that you stand out."

As online school launches, to use the term in its modern landlocked sense, many children are confined to the four corners of their computer screen. But for boat kids, their classroom is as wide as the world.

Nathalie and Michael Neve, along with their own three children, are

anchored in front of a deserted beach, surrounded by turquoise water, in sight of the tropical hills of Moorea in French Polynesia. When they catch a fish, Neve and Noah, 12, cut it open to study its digestive system before filleting it for dinner. They peer into its gut, often spotting smaller fish, little squid or a piece of coral.

"It's not the kind of thing you'd do in a typical school environment," said Neve, who left his engineering job in Oregon to cruise in 2018. The Neves' solar-powered monohull *Ubi* is itself an object lesson. "We always come back to energy and space—how do you get essentials like electricity and fresh water on the boat? Is there room for a Lego you just built, or do we have to break it back into pieces before we go to bed?" said Neve, a professor of mechanical engineering who enjoys teaching innovation to kids.

In addition to home-schooling books, the kids use an offline Wikipedia, which a friend downloaded to a hard drive for

CORONA HAS CATALYZED A LEAP FOR MANY THAT MAY HAVE SEEMED IRRESPONSIBLE: ONE ONTO, IF NOT INTO, THE SEA

them, and a modest library. The internet signal wavers in remote locations like French Polynesia, which reduces fights over screen time. Instead, the children keep a running list of questions to look up once they can get access to the internet.

"There is definitely something about the internet not being easily available that makes it feel like a special thing," Neve said. Kid boats appeal to those seeking a less mediated life, one that cultivates independence and problem solving. On a recent morning, a panicked woman ran up to Jace Chapman, 13, and his mother, Caci, who had disembarked onto a dock in San Diego Bay. The woman's husband was being blown out to sea in a dinghy, after finding that their oars had been stolen.

Jace jumped into his dinghy and motored to the man paddling furiously against the wind with a Tupperware lid. Jace connected the two dinghies with a line and pulled the man to shore. "I felt like a US Coast Guard on a rescue mission," Jace said. He was joking, and yet.

Back home in Los Angeles, Jace's days revolved around going from one audition to the next with his parents (he plays the lead in the Netflix series *The Healing Powers of Dudes* which premiered in January). But after casting offices moved to remote auditions, the Chapman family saw an opportunity to escape not only Covid-19, but also the pervasive ele-

ments of online culture.

"They didn't want their children "to be materialistic zombies, chasing after the latest fashion trend, TikTok dance or YouTube celebrity," said Chapman, 35. "We want them to care about real issues and make real change." The Chapmans, who go by The Expedition Family on their YouTube channel, moved aboard their 46-foot monohull *Siren* in April with their five children and have spent the confinement sailing along the Channel Islands in California, gearing up to circumnavigate the globe.

Aboard *Siren*, every Chapman child participates in the careful choreography of delegated family duties. Jace is his father Trevor's first mate, responsible for hoisting the sails, setting the anchor, and scrubbing the hull. At night he helps keep watch by sleeping in the cockpit.

Cal, 10, and Kensington, eight, scrub the deck, organise and coil lines, clean water tanks, and do laundry by hand. The other two children, three and five, have trash duty and organise shoes. Instead of sequestering a misbehaved child to a timeout, the Chapmans came up with a punishment designed for communal benefit: the arduous job of polishing stainless steel on the boat.

"If someone slacks off, there are real consequences out here," said Chapman, 36, who runs e-commerce businesses online. "If you don't secure the halyard at night, it can cause severe damage. If you don't throw out the trash, it will hinder the work of the engine."

NYT

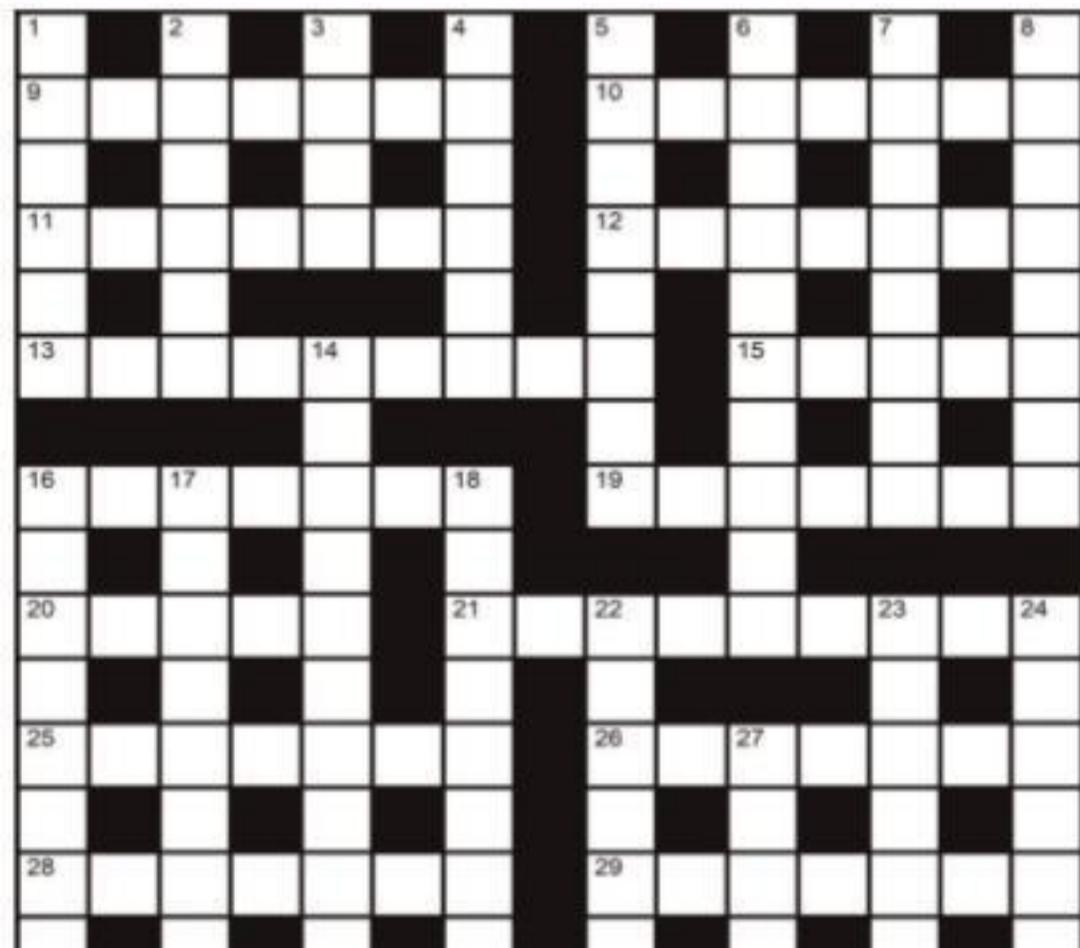


### Are exotic skins out of fashion?

- Among younger western consumers, fur has been steadily slipping down the rungs of popularity
- Now, signs abound that a fur-like reckoning is coming for exotic skins, partly buoyed by the pandemic, which may be linked to illegal wildlife trafficking
- Before the virus spread, brands like Chanel, Diane von Furstenberg and Mulberry were already dropping exotic hides because of animal-welfare concerns and other supply-chain issues. Amid the pandemic, the momentum has only grown
- When PVH, which owns Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, updates its animal-welfare policy later this year, exotic skins will join angora and fur on its list of verboten materials, according to a spokeswoman
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has been doing its best to link exotic skins to wet markets in Wuhan, China—and was heavily lobbying the fashion group
- It is in these markets, where "blood and fluids from dead animals wash into the street," said Dan Mathews, the senior vice-president of PETA, that the coronavirus could have originated
- The confinement and slaughtering of wild animals for bags and coats, PETA says, create conditions where pathogens similar to Covid-19 can spill over to infect humans

JASMIN MALIK CHUA/NYT

### CROSSWORD



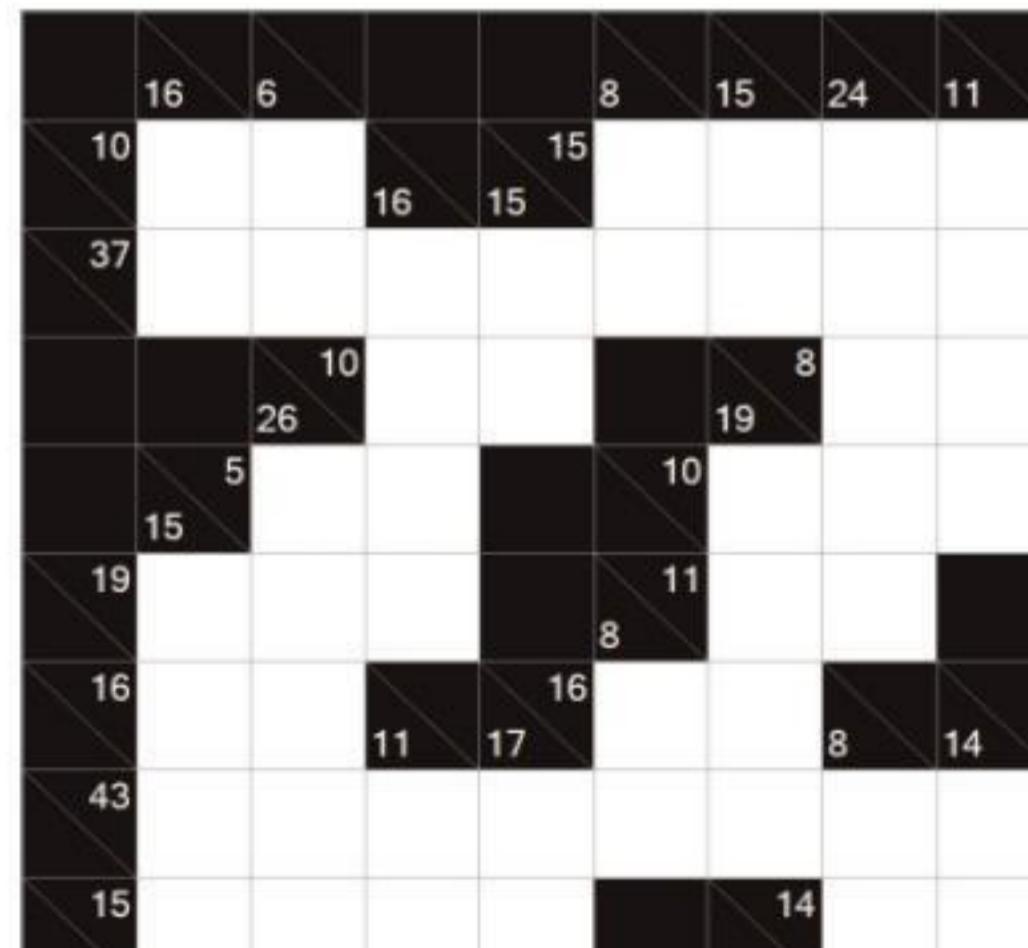
#### ACROSS

- 9 Put to use or make use of (7)  
10 Point: business and office area of Mumbai? (7)  
11 Networks: Pradeep Sindhu's US based fibre optics firm (7)  
12 It may be black and worn over sleeves during mourning or protest (7)  
13 It is made up of an unpacked commodity such as grain (4,5)  
15 Down the \_\_\_: wasted? (5)  
16 Recommended or started again (7)  
19 Stretches out or extends (7)  
20 Large northern American deer (5)  
21 Combine funds or properties into a common mass (9)

#### DOWN

- 1 "P" in PNB, the famous nationalised bank (6)  
2 Any incitement to action (6)  
3 Wilted; not stiff (6)  
4 Closer at hand; not so far (6)  
5 Notorious, scandalous or of shady character (8)  
6 CEO and MD of TCS who retired in October 2009 (1,9)  
7 Mexican savoury pie (8)

### KAKURO



In Kakuro sum puzzles, the numbers in the black squares refer to the SUMS of the digits, which you are to fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the black square containing the number. No zeroes are used here, only the digits one through nine. An important point: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination.

### BRIDGE BOUTS

L SUBRAMANIAN

#### TACKLING A TRICKY HAND - PART 2

We continue with our discussion of last week's deal, repeated below for convenience of the readers.

Dlr: South Game All	SJT9 HQJ5 DT4 CAJT62	S 2NT* N *22-23 balanced
S 64 HK 962 D 975 CK 984	N S	S 8732 HT 84 DK 863 C 75
		S AKQ5 HA 73 DAQJ2 C Q3

**Contract:** 6NT by south. West leads the S6. Plan the play.

**Bidding explanation:** N-S were using the old-fashioned range of 22-23 for their 2NT opening. North felt the five-card suit in his hand could prove useful in the play and took a calculated risk by jumping to 6NT all the way.

In the last week's column, you may recall, declarer receiving the spade lead at one table, overtook dummy's jack with the ace, and played the CQ from hand which west covered with the king. Cashing the jack and the ten of clubs, declarer ran the ten of diamonds. When it won, he reverted to clubs and made the contract by repeating the diamond finesse.

**Play:** At another table, the play to the first four tricks were the same. When declarer led the ten of diamonds from dummy at trick five, east covered it with the king.

This created a problem for the declarer. As you can see, this prevents him from enjoying the fifth club though he is able to establish it. Watch declarer in action to see how he managed the situation which seemed to go out of his hand.

Declarer won with the ace and cashed two more diamonds, pitching a heart from dummy. After cashing the SK, declarer crossed to the ten of spades, played the fourth club to pitch the last diamond from hand. West won and was forced to play a heart, **resurrecting** the dummy. How fantastic!

Play out the hand with a deck of cards to understand the beauty of the play.

### FIBERHOOD

■ n. A neighbourhood that has internet access via fiber-optic cable.

Signing up for Google Fiber isn't simply a matter of scheduling an installation appointment. Google divided up the two Kansas Cities (Missouri and Kansas) into 202 "fiberhoods" of about 800 homes each, and asked residents to preregister and plunk down a \$10 fee to express their interest. —Jon Brodkin, "Google Fiber will hit 89% of neighborhoods, some poor areas miss out," Ars Technica, September 10, 2012

### BIZ QUIZ

1. Which social media giant has launched a new tool called "Business Suite" to help small businesses?  
2. What is the rank of India in the World Bank's 2020 Human Capital Index?  
3. India has lifted the ban of which commodity that was contracted by importers of Bangladesh?

### ANSWERS

### SOLUTIONS



### BUZZ WORD

- The Buzz Word is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's clue: LJN equals Kui pzyipptzs ciapqo gbjip b umjik qt lqjon vubk kui tbjsjoni ciapqo lqipok sjhi kq lg. - Kuqgbp Iljjp



New Delhi



**PASUPATI SPINNING & WEAVING MILLS LIMITED**  
Regd. Office : Village Kapriwas (Dharuhera) Distt. Rewari, Haryana  
Head Office : 127-128, Tribhuvan Complex, Ishwar Nagar, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 065

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS  
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020.

Rs. in Lacs except EPS

PARTICULARS	3 Months Ended 31-Mar-20	3 Months Ended 31-Dec-19	3 Months Ended 31-Mar-19	12 Months Ended 31-Mar-20	12 Months Ended 31-Mar-19
	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Audited
Total Income from operations(net)	2,723	2,660	2,907	11,238	11,568
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax & Exceptional items)	2	4	1	11	25
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	2	4	1	11	25
Net Profit/Loss for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(1)	2	(5)	5	10
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/Loss for the period(after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(4)	3	28	6	49
Equity Share Capital	934	934	934	934	934
Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Balance Sheet of previous year				2248	
Earning Per Share (for continuing and Discontinued operations) (before exceptional items) (of Rs. 10 each) (not annualised)					
a) Basic	0.00	0.02	(0.03)	0.05	0.11
b) Diluted	0.00	0.02	(0.03)	0.05	0.11
Notes					

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of the Bombay Stock Exchange and listed entity.

2. The above results have been considered by the audit committee at its meeting held on 25th September 2020 and by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 25th September 2020.

3. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015 and Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Accounting Rules, 2016.

In earlier years, the company had received compensation of Rs.61.61 lacs on acquisition of part of its factory land at Dharuhera. Representation has been made before Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gurugram competent authority(LA) of National Highway Authority of India for payment of compensation at a higher rate. Additional compensation of Rs. 614.64 lacs demanded in the representation will be accounted for and when received.

5. Pursuant to Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned by Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) vide its order dated 17.02.2012, the company has already despatched cheques to all concerned parties for payment of compensation of 14% of the amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs for Redeemable Partly Convertible Debentures and (b) 15% Secured Redeemable Partly Convertible Debentures. If any debentureholder has not received the cheque, he may contact - Mr. Abhinav Tyagi, Company Secretary at the Head Office address mentioned above or write an email to abhinav.tyagi@pasupatitextiles.com

6. Pursuant to outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) worldwide and its declaration as global pandemic, the Government of India declared lockdown on March 24, 2020 which led to the temporary suspension of operations of the Company and has impacted the overall business activities of the Company. COVID-19 has impacted the normal business operations of the Company by way of interruption in production, supply chain disruption, unavailability of personnel, closure of offices and the like during the lockdown period. After resumption of operations, the management has made detailed assessment of its liquidity position and has prepared future cash flow projections and also assessed the recoverability of its assets and factored assumptions used in the annual impairment assessment of its cash generating units, using various internal and external information. The situation is changing rapidly giving rise to inherent uncertainty around the extent and timing of the potential future impact of the COVID-19 which may be different from that estimated as at the date of approval of these financial statements. The Company will continue to closely monitor any material changes arising of future economic conditions and impact on its business.

7. The company has adopted Ind AS 116 'leases' effective April 1, 2019. This has resulted in recognizing a Right of use Asset and a corresponding lease liability. There is no material impact on the profits of the company.

For Pasupati Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd  
Sd/- Ramesh Kumar Jain  
Chairman & Managing Director

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 25/09/2020

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**PASUPATI FINCAP LIMITED**

Regd. Office : Village Kapriwas (Dharuhera) Distt. Rewari, Haryana

Head Office : 127-128, Tribhuvan Complex, Ishwar Nagar, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 065

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020

Rs. in Lacs except EPS

PARTICULARS	3 Months Ended 30-Jun-20	3 Months Ended 31-Mar-20	3 Months Ended 30-Jun-19	12 Months Ended 31-Mar-20
	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed	Reviewed
Total Income from operations(net)	-	-	-	-
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax & Exceptional items)	(0.01)	(1.01)	(0.01)	(1.03)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	(0.01)	(1.01)	(0.01)	(1.03)
Net Profit/Loss for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(0.01)	(1.01)	(0.01)	(1.03)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/Loss for the period(after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-	-	-	-
Equity Share Capital	-	-	-	-
Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as per Balance Sheet of previous year	470	470	470	470
Earning Per Share (for continuing and discontinued operations) (before exceptional items) (of Rs. 10 each) (not annualised)	-	-	-	-
a) Basic	-	-	-	-
b) Diluted	-	-	-	-
Notes	-	-	-	-

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For Pasupati Fincap Ltd  
Sd/- Vidhi Jain  
Director

Place : Delhi  
Date : 25.09.2020

For Pasupati Fincap Ltd  
Sd/- Vidhi Jain  
Director

Place : Ghaziabad Dated : 23.09.2020 Authorized Officer (M/s PNB Housing Finance Ltd.)

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# World Tourism Day

## Chhattisgarh Tourism Destinations

**Chhattisgarh**  
full of surprises  
Chhattisgarh Tourism Board

### Achanakmar Tiger Reserve

Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh is a tropical moist deciduous and tropical dry deciduous forest. The reserve is also a part of the much larger Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve. Sal, bija, saja, haldu, teak, tinsa, dhavara, lendia, khamar and bamboo flourish here along with over 600 species of medicinal plants. The winding Maniyari river that flows right through the heart of the reserve is its lifeline. Wild fauna found here includes the tiger, leopard, bison, flying squirrel, Indian giant squirrel, chinkara, wild dog, hyena, sambar, chital and over 150 species of birds. Even a short trek through this park easily reveals its extraordinary beauty and biodiversity.

### INDRAVATI TIGER RESERVE

Indravati National Park is the finest and most famous wildlife parks of Chhattisgarh. Indravati National Park is located in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh. The Park derives its name from the Indravati River, which flows from east to west and forms the northern boundary of the reserve with the Indian state of Maharashtra. With a total area of approximately 2799.08 sq km, Indravati attained the status of a National Park in 1981 and a Tiger Reserve in 1983 under the famous Project Tiger of India to become one of the most famous tiger reserves of India.

### Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

Barnawapara Wildlife sanctuary, is named after Bar and Nawapara forest villages, which are in the heart of the sanctuary. It is a land mass of undulating terrain dotted with numerous low and high hillocks well forested area of North-eastern corner of Raipur district. The Tributaries of Mahanadi are the source of water. River Balamdehi forms the western boundary and Jonk River forms the north-eastern boundary of the Sanctuary. The well stocked forests of the sanctuary classified as teas, sal and mixed forests. This sanctuary is famous for the frequent sighting of the Indian bison (Gaur) Cheetal, Sambar, Neelgai, Wild boar are commonly seen. Bar-Nawapara boasts of over 150 species Birds.

### Bastar

Bastar is a tribal region in Chhattisgarh, blessed with an exceptional scenic beauty that beckons the lovers of nature to explore the forests, waterfalls, wildlife, ancient temples, tribal dances and music. Located at a distance of 264 km from Raipur, Bastar is one of the most significant eco-friendly destinations of the country. It has plenty to offer to its visitors with its valuable tribal art and culture that lie in and around the lush green city of Jagdalpur. One can choose from National Parks, waterfalls, natural caves, palaces, museums and places of religious significance.

### Bhoramdeo Temple

Bhoramdeo Temple, or the 'Khajuraho of Chhattisgarh', carved on the rocky stones in the Nagar style is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Situated in the Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh, This temple was built in the period of 7th to 11th century A.D and is beautifully located amidst mountain ranges. The temples are said to be built by King Ramchandra of the Nag Dynasty. The Shiva Linga in the temple is wonderfully carved and the artistic appeal beckons the visitors. The Bhoramdeo temple has a resemblance with the Sun temple of Konark and The Khajuraho temple.

### Champaranya

Champaranya (earlier known as Champajhar) is a small but famous village as it's the birthplace of the saint Vallabhacharya, the reformer and founder of the Vallabh Sect. A beautiful temple has been constructed in honor of this great saint, which has enhanced the

religious holiness of the place. The temple of Champakeshwara Mahadeva is another attraction at Champaranya, worth visiting on your Champaranya Tour. It is now generally regarded as a Vaishnava peeth (pilgrim site). The temple complex is also referred to as Sudamapuri. The shrine attracts large number of pilgrims, mostly Gujaratis during the Hindu month of Shravan.

called Triveni Sangam is at Rajim. Rajim is also known as the "Prayag" of the Chhattisgarh. Every year sages from all across the country reach the Kumbh mela which begins from Maagh poornima and lasts till Mahashivratri.

### Sirpur

Sirpur has a rich background of traditional cultural heritage and architecture. The archaeological remains

northwards, to Sirpur. It is an enriching experience to see how life goes on in these quiet villages, without getting affected by the hustle bustle of the outside world.

### Tirathgarh Waterfall

Chhattisgarh is famous for its waterfalls. One of these magnificent falls is the Tirathgarh Waterfall. The fall here splits into multiple falls, creating a stunning vista. The falls comes under the eco-tourism venture of the state tourism department as it enjoins the Kanger National Park. The fall here splits into multiple falls, creating a stunning vista. The waterfall has lush green forest surrounding it. Well maintained steps lead down to the bottom. There is a small temple on a large rock opposite the falls. All around are the ruins of a 1,000 year old, advanced, Hindu civilization. This 300 feet fall is an enticing and magnificent one and is also a 'must see' tourist picnic spot.

### Wildlife In Chhattisgarh

The Pamed Wildlife Sanctuary is an important wildlife reserve in Chhattisgarh. With an area of 262 sq km, it is placed in the Dantewada district in southern part of Chhattisgarh and the Sanctuary is close to the state border with Andhra Pradesh. Pamed Wildlife Sanctuary has some precious trees like Sal and teak. There are mixed forests creating a different aura about the place. The travellers who visit the place are fortunate to get a feel to the dense forests which create an enchanting atmosphere. In Pamed wildlife sanctuary deer can be easily sighted. Here you find the chital or the spotted deer, India Gazelle and the chinkara. Those who are interested in wildlife will never forget the images of the deer running all around the sanctuary like carefree creatures of nature.

### GOMARDA SANCTUARY

Gomarda Wildlife Sanctuary is another of the wildlife sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh and it is located near Sarangarh town in Raigarh. It is the natural habitat of a number of rare species and is one of the exotic places. Gomarda Wildlife Sanctuary is the abode of other species like the Nilgiri, Sambar, Gaur, Barking Deer, Chousingha, Muntjac, Sloth Bear, Wild Boar, Dhole or the wild dog and the Jackel.

### Off beat tourism destinations in the state

When we talk of off beat destinations..... Chhattisgarh is full of it. This state boasts of untouched, untapped, unexplored and virgin locations. These places offer a unique and alternate experience to the tourists as compared to other traditional destinations which have become overcrowded with the given time.

In this era of pandemic Chhattisgarh presents itself as one of the most promising destination.

We have got every kind of attraction to lure local as well as tourists from far and wide. There is so much so hidden about Chhattisgarh that it would be difficult for a person to visit it in one go. We have rich archaeological, monumental and natural heritage. Other than these we offer whole lot of experiences to the tourists. Our USPs

include;-

Rich tribal culture, cuisine and their lifestyle

- Stalactite & stalagmite caves in Bastar
- Megalithic burial site, Karkabhat famous for its menhirs.
- Rock paintings
- Kosa fabric and bell metal and wooden Handicrafts
- Longest running festival Bastar Dussehra is celebrated for 75 Days
- Very few people are aware of the fact that Lord Rama spent good time in Chhattisgarh during his exile.

The only temple of Mata Kaushalya is located here in Chhattisgarh at Chandrakhuri

### Chitrakote Waterfall

Chitrakote waterfalls, also called as the mini Niagara Fall of India, bear the proud distinction of being the broadest waterfall in India. The majestic beauty is located 38 km from Jagdalpur in Bastar on the river Indravati. The water of the river flows through the dense vegetation and cascades from a height of about 95 feet. A horse-shoe shaped waterfall, best seen during and after the monsoon, between July and October. This paints a very beautiful sight.

### Kanger Valley National Park

Get enchanted by rugged mountain views, deep gorges, dancing trees and seasonal wild flowers, as together they make the perfect environment for varied species of Wildlife. Chhattisgarh gives you the rare opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat at the Kanger Valley National Park.

### MadkuDweep

Madku Dweep is an island of great natural beauty marked by lush verdure and splendid waterfalls. Ruins of temples, epigraphs, coins and pottery from ancient times have been unearthed here. The ancient art found here reveals highly skilled workmanship

### Malhar

It is time to delve into the historic treasure of Chhattisgarh's most ancient town. Malhar's antique charm and mesmerizing sculptures create an ambience that can never be forgotten.. This town is in the list of "Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains of National Importance" maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.

### Rajim

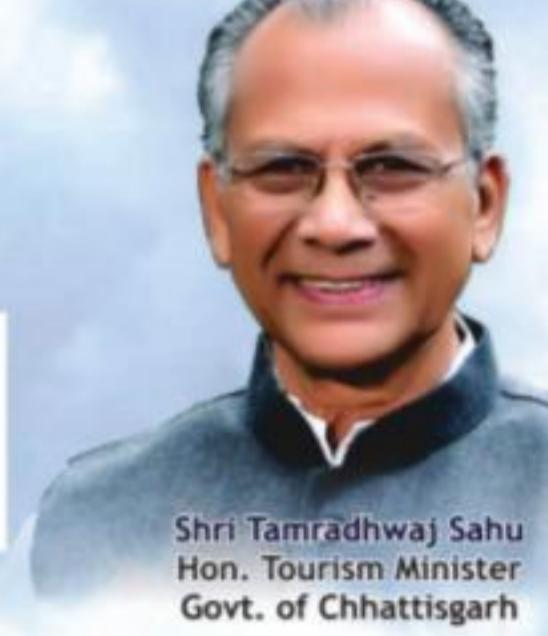
Rajim is famous for its rich cultural heritage and the beautiful ancient temples. The holy confluence of three rivers Mahanadi (Chitrotpala), Pairi and Sondur,

are still a pride for this region. The Buddha Viharas in Sirpur are older than Nalanda. The town of sirpur has been mentioned in ancient epigraphic records, dating back to the 5th to the 8th centuries A.D. Drained by the pristine waters of the Mahanadi and facing the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary on the Northeast, Sirpur is a small town, 84 kms from the capital, Raipur. Moving along from Raipur, one reaches Arang, from where one goes to Tumgaon. A road from here leads

**Chhattisgarh**  
full of surprises  
Chhattisgarh Tourism Board

Full of Surprises

WORLD TOURISM DAY 2020 | TOURISM & RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Shri Bhupesh Baghel  
Hon. Chief Minister  
Govt. of Chhattisgarh

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Kurdar, Dist Bilaspur

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New Delhi



## ● PM MODI-RAJAPAKSA MEET

# India for devolution of powers by Lanka to Tamils

**Modi stresses on full implementation of the 13th amendment to Lankan Constitution. He announces a \$15m aid to promote Buddhist ties with SL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 26

**INDIA ON SATURDAY** pitched for devolution of powers by the Sri Lankan government to the minority Tamils in the island to realise their expectations of equality, justice, peace and dignity and take forward the process of peace and reconciliation.

The issue figured prominently in a virtual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa.

India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement the 13th amendment, which was brought in after the Indo-Sri



File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa during a meeting in New Delhi in February

PHOTO: PTI

Lankan agreement of 1987, which envisaged devolution of powers to the Tamils.

The two leaders also deliberated on a range of key issues,

including on ways to deepen defence and security ties as well as trade and investment cooperation.

"The outcomes of the sum-

mit are substantial, forward looking and will help in setting an ambitious agenda to deepen ties," joint secretary in the Indian Ocean division in the MEA Amit Narang said at a media briefing.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the fishermen issue and agreed to continue and strengthen the ongoing "constructive and humanitarian" approach to deal with it, Narang added.

In the talks, Modi also announced a grant assistance of \$15 million to promote Buddhist ties with Sri Lanka.

In his opening remarks, Modi said he was confident that the massive electoral victory by the ruling party in Sri Lanka backed by Rajapaksa government's policies would facilitate deeper cooperation between the two countries.

"An opportunity has come to begin a new chapter in India-Sri Lanka ties after your party's massive electoral victory. People from both countries are looking at us with new hope and expectations," Modi said.

Rajapaksa was sworn in as Sri Lankan PM for a fresh term on August 9 after his party, Sri Lanka People's Front, secured a two-thirds majority in the parliamentary polls.

Modi said India gave priority to its relations with Sri Lanka as he mentioned his government's neighbourhood first policy as well as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.

It was Prime Minister Modi's first such virtual bilateral engagement with a leader of a neighbouring country. For Rajapaksa, it was the

first diplomatic engagement with a leader of a foreign country after he was sworn in as prime minister.

On the Tamil issue, Narang said both the leaders exchanged views on the reconciliation process.

"PM Modi called on the new government in Sri Lanka to work towards realising the expectations of Tamils for equality, justice, peace and dignity within a united Sri Lanka by achieving reconciliation," he said.

Modi and Rajapaksa expressed satisfaction over robustness of defence cooperation and agreed to further strengthen maritime security ties.

Narang said the technical discussions on Sri Lanka's request for deferment of debt repayments are going on; MEA after Modi-Rajapaksa talks.

**Chennai**  
EOW files FIR against arms of Franklin Templeton

FE BUREAU  
Chennai, September 26

## THE ECONOMIC OFFENCES

Wing (EOW) of Chennai police has registered a first information report (FIR) against Franklin Templeton Asset Management India (FTAMIL) and Franklin Templeton Trustee Services (FTTSPL) and their top management personnel, in a case related to the alleged criminal conspiracy to defraud three lakh investors by causing wrongful losses to them. Unlawful gains were made by these units. Various offences under the IPC have been allegedly committed by them.

The EOW registered the FIR after investigating a complaint filed by the Chennai Financial Markets & Accountability (CFMA), the investors' group, and few others, in May this year.

The investors' group has been fighting for millions of aggrieved investors of Franklin Templeton whose over ₹28,000 crore is stuck because the fund house abruptly closed down its six debt schemes in April.

The FIR has named Santosh Das Kamath, MD and chief investment officer, FTAMIL; Sanjay V Sapre, whole-time member, FTAMIL; their directors Jayaram Subramanian Iyer, Vivek Kudva, RV Subramanian and Pradip P Shah, among others.

According to CFMA, a larger number of investors have dragged Franklin Templeton in court demanding refund of their investments.

Investors all over the country are now demanding a cash back especially when Franklin Templeton recently claimed that two of the funds, Franklin India Low Duration Fund and Franklin India Credit Risk Fund turned cash-positive on August 31. Since then, the six schemes have received over ₹6,486 crore, it said.

## MSP procurement of paddy begins in Punjab, Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 26

**THE CENTRE ON** Saturday announced commencement of paddy procurement at the minimum support price (MSP) with immediate effect in Punjab and Haryana in the wake of early arrival of the kharif crop in these two states.

Otherwise, paddy procurement for the 2020-21 kharif (summer) marketing season is scheduled to begin from October 1 in all the key growing states, it said.

"However, in view of early arrival of paddy in the 'mandies' of Haryana and Punjab, Government of India has approved the commencement of procurement operations for paddy/rice immediately in both these states from today i.e. with effect from September 26, 2020," the Union Food Ministry said in a statement.

This is to ensure that farmers are facilitated in selling their produce at the MSP expeditiously, it said.



The government has kept a target to procure 113 lakh tonne of rice from Punjab and 44 lakh tonne from Haryana during the kharif marketing season

The orders for commencement of procurement operations for paddy/rice from September 26, in Haryana and Punjab, have been issued, it added.

According to the ministry, state procuring agencies, including the Food Corporation of India (FCI), are in a state of readiness for smoothly undertaking procurement operations. The Centre has fixed MSP for 'common vari-

ety' paddy at ₹1,868 per quintal and for 'A' grade variety at ₹1,888 per quintal for the current year. The government has kept a target to procure 113 lakh tonne of rice from Punjab and 44 lakh tonne from Haryana during the kharif marketing season.

Otherwise, total rice procurement target is kept at 495.37 lakh tonne for the entire country for the 2020-21 kharif season.

## Liquid medical oxygen, cylinders price capped to ensure availability

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 26

**TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY** of medical oxygen in the country at a reasonable price amidst the pandemic, the national drug pricing regulator NPPA has capped the price of medical oxygen cylinders and liquid medical oxygen for six months, the government said on Saturday.

The present situation of Covid-19 has resulted in increased demand of medical oxygen up to almost four times from 750 MT per day to around 2,800 MT per day, the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers said in a statement.

The issue related to availability, including pricing of oxygen, has been under the continued consideration of Empowered Group 2, Government of India.

It recommended the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to consider capping the ex-factory price of liquid medical oxygen



in order to ensure its supply to fillers at reasonable prices, it added.

The Empowered Group 2 also requested NPPA to consider a cap for ex-factory price of oxygen in cylinders in order to ensure supply of oxygen cylinders from fillers at reasonable prices, the ministry said.

The ministry of health & family welfare delegated pow-

ers under Section 10(2) (l) of Disaster Management Act, 2005 to NPPA to take all necessary steps to immediately regulate the availability and pricing of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) and medical oxygen in cylinders, it added.

NPPA decided "to cap the ex-factory price of LMO at manufacturers end at ₹15.22/cubic metre (CUM) exclusive of GST; and to further cap the ex-factory cost of medical oxygen cylinder at filler end at ₹25.71/CUM exclusive of GST in suppression of the existing ceiling price of ₹17.49/CUM, subject to transportation cost fixation at state level, for six months," the statement said.

The existing rate contracts of state governments for oxygen purchase, as applicable, shall continue, in consumer interest, it added. The ex-factory price cap of LMO and oxygen gas cylinders will be applicable to domestic production and supply, the statement said.

The ministry of health & family welfare delegated pow-

ers to providing about more job opportunities by 2022.

Agarwal told Thakur that the state is among the strongest performing markets for OYO and the company is committed to doubling economic opportunities and presence in the state shortly.

OYO is further planning to launch a start-up accelerator programme where it will partner to groom budding entrepreneurs from the state in the travel and hospitality business, he added.

It can be estimated that tripling of the room count may lead to providing about more job opportunities by 2022.

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These are indeed challenging times worldwide, and the significant uptick in jewellers and consumers selling gold assets to offset hardships is expected to

## Natarajan, family sell 4.66L Mindtree shares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 26

**MINDTREE CO-FOUNDER KRISHNAKUMAR** Natarajan and his family have sold over 4.66 lakh shares of the company, reducing their combined shareholding to 2.01%.

The transactions were carried out by Krishnakumar N, wife Akila Krishnakumar and son Siddarth in multiple tranches between September 15 and 23, Mindtree said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

This reduced their combined shareholding from 2.29% to 2.01%, it added.

Earlier this month, another regulatory filing had stated that Natarajan and his family had sold over 42 lakh shares of the company in multiple tranches between April 30 and

September 14 that had reduced their combined shareholding to 2.29%.

Krishnakumar Natarajan, who held 1.96% share, sold about 2.85 lakh shares, the filing said on Saturday.

Post the transaction, his shareholding reduced to about 1.79%. Akila sold about 1.32 lakh shares between September 15 and 21, bringing down her holding from 0.19% to 0.11%. Siddarth Krishna Kumar sold 49,405 shares and bought 1,000 shares, bringing his latest shareholding to 0.10%. The shares were sold and purchased in the open market, the filing said.

Larsen and Toubro, which acquired majority share in Mindtree last year, had 61.08 per cent shareholding at the end of June 2020 quarter.

September 14 that had reduced their combined shareholding to 2.29%.

Krishnakumar Natarajan, who held 1.96% share, sold about 2.85 lakh shares, the filing said on Saturday.

Post the transaction, his shareholding reduced to about 1.79%. Akila sold about 1.32 lakh shares between September 15 and 21, bringing down her holding from 0.19% to 0.11%. Siddarth Krishna Kumar sold 49,405 shares and bought 1,000 shares, bringing his latest shareholding to 0.10%. The shares were sold and purchased in the open market, the filing said.

Larsen and Toubro, which acquired majority share in Mindtree last year, had 61.08 per cent shareholding at the end of June 2020 quarter.

These are indeed challenging times worldwide, and the significant uptick in jewellers and consumers selling gold assets to offset hardships is expected to

continue for some time," MMTC-PAMP CEO and MD Vikas Singh said in a statement. He said the purity verification centre has advanced technology to check the quality of gold so that to ensure maximum buy back or exchange value.

Certain conditions will apply on consumers, the company said. A nominal transaction fee, sellers can receive the maximum value of gold as a direct bank transfer or in the form of a gold bar with 9999, 999 and 995 purity, the bullion refiner said.

Starting with its Lajpat Nagar centre in Delhi, this facility will be rolled out soon across the country, it added.

The gold price will be determined based on the daily updated prices based on international live price plus applicable taxes.

Bank transfer is available only at Delhi for which it is mandatory to provide details of Pan card, Aadhaar card and cancelled cheque, it added.

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