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Two women are leading a campaign for gender diversity in films **Page 7**



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# FE SUNDAY

FINANCIAL EXPRESS ON SUNDAY

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In a world post Covid, consumers are actively seeking products that carry the 'clinically tested and proven' tag. This has, in turn, ushered in a new age of marketing, with many brands going the clinical trial route to promote and sell their products

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An interesting read on how makeshift ideas can lead to innovation

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ROHNIT PHORE

**QuickPicks****US working closely with India to help address Covid crisis**

THE US is working closely with India to identify ways to help address the current Covid-19 crisis in the country, American officials have said, as the Biden administration came under intense pressure from various quarters to ship Covid-19 vaccines along with life-saving medical supplies to it, reports PTI. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that the US offers its deepest sympathy to the people of India. She said the US has made vaccine cooperation a big priority, including with its Quad partners.

**Rental in Delhi's Khan market down 14% in 2020: Report**

DELHI'S UPSCALE Khan Market has witnessed 14% decline in rental during the last year amid the Covid-19 pandemic and is ranked 21st in the most expensive high street retail location in Asia Pacific region, according to Cushman & Wakefield, reports PTI. Around 80% of Indian high street retail markets experienced declines in rent during this period, the property consultant said in its latest Main Streets report. The top three most expensive cities for retail remain as Hong Kong, Tokyo and Sydney.

**COVID-19**

## 20 die in Delhi hospital as oxygen crisis deepens

● Kejriwal appeals to other states; new cases across country at record high of 3,46,786

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, April 24

EVEN AS a record single-day rise of 3,46,786 coronavirus cases pushed India's tally of infection to 1,66,10,481, while active cases crossed the 25-lakh mark, and the death toll rose to 1,89,544 with a record 2,624 more fatalities in a day, oxygen scarcity continued to take its toll on lives and infrastructure both.

Twenty people died at Delhi's Jaipur Golden Hospital, their lives ebbing away as the hospital waited for oxygen to be replenished, officials said on Saturday. Every few hours, as it has been for the last days, hospitals across the national capital and its suburbs sent out desperate messages of help on social media and other platforms, flagging their dwindling stocks of oxygen.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal urged his counterparts in other states to provide oxygen to the national capital, saying all available resources are proving to be inadequate given the severity of Covid-19.

At the Jaipur Golden Hospital in Rohini, the worst fears came true. "Oxygen pressure has



A woman gets oxygen at a gurdwara in Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, on Saturday. People are forced to procure oxygen on their own instead of getting support in hospitals PREM NATH PANDEY

**Six patients die at Amritsar; two in Maha**

SIX PATIENTS DIED at a private hospital on Saturday in Amritsar due to shortage of oxygen, hospital authorities said. Five of the six patients were infected with Covid-19. "Despite the district administration being repeatedly asked to extend help, no one turned up to do the needful," Sunil

dipped as we are running out of stock," medical director DK Baluja told PTI as news came in of its 20

Devgan, CMD of Neelkant hospital, alleged.

"Six patients, including two women, died due to the shortage of oxygen," he said.

In Beed district of Maharashtra, two Covid-19 patients died after an oxygen supply valve was allegedly turned off by an unidentified person at

patients dying through the night. He said the hospital has over 200 patients and at 10.45 am, only

the civil hospital, their relatives claimed on Saturday.

"The hospital team saw the oxygen supply valve had been closed...Somebody could have shut the valve," said Sukhdev Rathod, additional civil surgeon of Beed District Civil Hospital.

— PTI

half-an-hour of oxygen was left.

Continued on Page 11

**TOUGH TALK**

## Will 'hang' anyone hindering oxygen supply: Delhi HC

● Asks Centre about steps on Covid, terms 2nd wave 'tsunami'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, April 24

THE DELHI HIGH Court on Saturday asked the Centre about the preparedness to deal with the expected Covid-19 second wave peak in mid-May, terming the massive rise in cases as a 'tsunami,'

and warned it will 'hang' any person who tries to obstruct oxygen supplies to hospitals in the capital.

Talking tough, a bench of justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli said this during a special hearing on a holiday on the issue



Oxygen tanker outside the Jaipur Golden Hospital

of mounting oxygen crisis in various hospitals in Delhi. "We are calling it a wave, it is actually a tsunami," the court said, and asked the Centre about the preparedness in terms of infrastructure, hospitals, medical staff, medicines, vaccines and oxygen as on date for the peak.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said there might be a rapid rise in the number of cases in May and June and the country needs to be ready for the worst.

Continued on Page 11

ICICI BANK ON Saturday reported a 261% year-on-year (y-o-y) rise in its net profit at ₹4,402 crore in the March quarter (Q4 FY21) on the back of healthy interest income and reduced provisioning.

The operating profit of the lender increased 15.6% y-o-y to ₹8,540 crore.

The interest income (NII) increased 17% y-o-y and 5.24% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) to ₹10,431 crore.

Provisions for the lender declined 51.7% y-o-y to ₹2,883 crore.

However, the bank has made an additional Covid-19 related provision of ₹1,000 crore in the March quarter. The provision coverage ratio stood at 77.7% at the end of March, 2021.

Continued on Page 11

**A JAB TOO COSTLY**

## SII defends pricing of vaccine in India

● Says initial rates based on advance funding

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, April 24

SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA, which makes the most used Covid-19 vaccine in the country, on Saturday defended pricing Covishield vaccine at 1.5 times the initial rate, saying the earlier price was based on advance funding and now it has to invest in scaling up and expanding capacity to produce more shots.

We have to ensure sustainability as we must be able to invest in scaling up and expanding our capacity to fight the pandemic and save lives

— Serum Institute of India

Serum Institute of India (SII), which manufactures AstraZeneca's vaccine Covishield at its Pune facility, earlier this week announced a price of ₹600 per dose and at ₹400 for state governments and any new contract by the central government. This compared to ₹150 per dose.

Continued on Page 11

## Justice Ramana takes oath as 48th CJI

● Authored key verdicts, ensured end of internet ban in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, April 24

JUSTICE NV RAMANA, the new chief justice of India, has authored path-breaking verdicts as a Supreme Court judge and one of them led to the end of internet ban in Jammu and Kashmir, and another brought the apex court under the ambit



President Ram Nath Kovind administers the oath of office to Justice NV Ramana as the 48th Chief Justice of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on Saturday

of transparency law.

Hailing from an agriculturist family of Ponnavaram village of Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district, a soft-spoken Justice Ramana, sworn in as the 48th CJI by President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday, will have a tenure of over 16 months. He will demit office on August 26 next year and have to deal with key task of ensuring smooth functioning of apex court amid resurgence of the coronavirus pandemic.

Born on August 27, 1957, Justice Ramana was enrolled as an advocate on February 10, 1983. He started practice as a first-generation lawyer.



Serum Institute of India (SII), which manufactures AstraZeneca's vaccine Covishield at its Pune facility, earlier this week announced a price of ₹600

per dose and at ₹400 for state governments and any new contract by the central government. This compared to ₹150 per dose.

The initial supply price of Covishield for all government immunisation programme, including India, has been the lowest," it said.

Continued on Page 11

# Opinion

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

**TWO YEARS AGO**, the country voted the BJP to office with a thumping majority—303 seats for the BJP alone and 353 seats for the NDA. As we enter the third year, it would be appropriate to ask what kind of governance have we got and what are the outcomes.

An overwhelming number of the 26 crore families want, foremost, food on their plates every day. That leads to other needs like security, jobs, living wages/income, homes, healthcare, education for their children and other things.

**Malnutrition worsens**

India is a large producer of cereals (the staple food), pulses, millets, milk, vegetables and fruit apart from meat and fish. The goal is that everyone should have enough food on his/her plate and, if we are progressing, things should get better every year. If children do not get adequate food, they will be victims of anaemia, stunting and wasting. The last complete data is NFHS-4 (2015-16). According to NFHS-4, 58.6% of children were anaemic, 38.4% were stunted and 21% were wasted, a marked improvement over NFHS-3 done 10 years earlier. NFHS-5 was started in 2019-20 but could not be completed because of the pandemic. However, data for 22 states that have been released shows that out of the 22 states anaemia had increased in 18 states, stunting had increased in 13 states and wasting had increased in 12 states.

The conclusion is painful: despite mountains of food grain and other food, our children do not get enough food, the poor getting the least quantities. All other things flow logically. Let me indicate some metrics of today. Since the beginning of NDA-2, GDP, GDP growth rate and per capita income have declined; the labour participation rate has declined while the unemployment rate has increased; WPI inflation and food inflation are on the rise; and gender inequality has widened.

Made worse by incompetence

The pandemic has made the situation worse. At the risk of repetition, let me state that the economic slide preceded the detection of the first case of Covid-19 on January 30, 2020. The economic slide and recession were man-made. The pandemic was a natural disaster made worse by man. In both cases, men and women in power were responsible, not the people who voted them to power.

As we begin 2021-22, it is apparent that the economy will suffer another horrendous year. Jobs will be lost, more women will lose jobs than men, and the irregular/casual workers will suffer more than the regular workers; wages and incomes will be hit; thousands of MSMEs will be closed down or scaled down; there will be more reverse migration; and more people will be pushed into poverty and debt. Everyone will be worse off than what he/she was at the same time in 2019-20 or even 2020-21.

A lockdown — God forbid — seems inevitable. I wonder why after "we won the war against Covid in 2020" (so claimed the Prime Minister on April 17), a lockdown has become inevitable. This time, however, the buck has been passed to the state chief ministers who, having no other option, will close down step by step until all activity is shut down one

## ACROSS THE AISLE

P Chidambaram



# After 7 years, deprivation, disease and death



Police stand guard during lockdown in Puri as coronavirus cases surge nationwide



## FIFTH COLUMN

TASVEEN SINGH

### India cannot breathe

**INDIA IS IN THE ICU** and those who put her there now spend their time trying to shift the blame. The change from 'victory' over Covid to gasping for oxygen began in the last week of January this year when the Prime Minister proudly declared that India had not only defeated the pandemic but had been an inspiration for other countries. He then proceeded to personally oversee vaccine exports to needy countries and his Minister of External Affairs boasted about it. After this 'victory', the Prime Minister and Home Minister spent their time organising a blitzkrieg of election rallies in West Bengal and Assam without wearing masks and while exhorting large crowds to gather.

Why the Election Commission allowed this to happen is another story. What matters is that the message ordinary Indians took from the example of their leaders was that they could happily go off to the Kumbh Mela and plan pilgrimages to temples in the mountains that begin at this time of year. When opposition leaders said that it was wrong to allow huge election rallies, BJP spokesmen attacked them for playing politics. They took their lead from Amit Shah who gave a series of television interviews between the many phases of the Bengal election and repeated in each of them that the only reason opposition leaders were trying to stop rallies in West Bengal was because they knew that the BJP was winning. "Why did they not complain during the Assam election?"

When epidemiologists and doctors started ringing alarm bells about the possibility of a second wave, they were ignored by high officials in the Government of India with an arrogance that they continue to exhibit. They have been responsible for criminal mismanagement and should be sacked. It was their strategy to fight the pandemic in a centrally planned way. Now they blame state governments for the grim shortages we are seeing of oxygen supplies in major hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai. Their strategy was so flawed that India now has more daily cases than any other country and the death toll is rising so rapidly that there are long queues outside cremation grounds and graveyards are running out of burial space.

The horror of what is happening seems finally to have pierced the echo chamber in which Narendra Modi is sealed, so last week he took a series of urgent steps. He allowed the import of foreign vaccines thereby admitting that his slogan of *'atmanirbharta'* was badly timed. It was also faulty since to make Indian vaccines we need raw materials that come from other countries. Modi also cancelled his election rallies in Bengal and held a series of meetings with chief minis-

ters and oxygen suppliers, but whatever new strategy that results from this will take many months to become effective. Many, many more Indians will be dead by then.

The Prime Minister may have become fully aware of the horror that has resulted from criminal mishandling by his officials, but the message his ministers, sycophants and party spokesmen continue to send remains defiant. If anyone dares suggest that India is in the ICU because our strategy to deal with the pandemic was wrong, they respond with disdain. Last week, a senior BJP spokesman appeared on a prime-time chat show to declare that the opposition parties were playing 'vulture politics'. These spokesmen also make every effort to blame the Maharashtra government for everything that has gone wrong because other than winning Bengal the BJP wants nothing more than to take back the state that they believe they won.

They need to be careful of what they say because among the states with the biggest surge now is Uttar Pradesh, which is ruled by the man who in Hindutva circles is not just a hero but a future prime minister. Not long ago he was chosen by an *India Today* poll as India's best chief minister. He seems more eager to retain this image than fight the pandemic because his office has now taken to lying about the death toll. It is brave journalists taking pictures of rows of funeral pyres and desperate people begging for oxygen and beds outside hospitals that tell the real story of how bad things are in the state that Yogi Adityanath claims he has 'transformed'.

So, what should happen now? As a first step the Prime Minister needs to sack the officials in his government whose criminal negligence has put India in intensive care without oxygen. He should then make a new team with all chief ministers in it and take their advice to evolve a new strategy. He should show that he has risen above the partisan politics his supporters continue to show. The most important thing he needs to do is to open the purse strings of Prime Minister Cares and use it, along with that ₹35,000 crore allocated in the Budget, to vaccinate at least half of our population as soon as possible.

Countries that have put vaccinations at the centre of their fight against Covid are now looking to reach pre-pandemic normalcy by the summer. Many of these countries have made it clear that their borders will remain closed to Indians until we can establish that vaccinations are effective against the Indian double mutants. Putting our best scientists on the job should be a priority. For the moment India feels like a ship that is totally adrift.

# Football's escape to victory

The proposed Super League went against the basic fundamentals of fair play and competition

## RINGSIDE VIEW



Shamik Chakrabarty

**MERCIFULLY, THE CURTAIN** was brought down on football's 'Packer Circus' in less than 48 hours. Credit to Chelsea fans who took their protest to the Bridge and unnerved the club owner. Credit to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for threatening the proposed European Super League with a 'legislative bomb'. Credit to the British royalty for lending support to the commoners' fight. Credit to Gary Neville, whose put-down of the breakaway league on mainstream media was Churchill-esque. Together, all of them ensured that football escaped to victory.

The proposed Super League went against the two basic fundamentals of the sport, fair-play and fair competition. It was a by-product of avarice. Uber-wealthy owners of six self-styled English super clubs and some of their continental counterparts showed complete disregard for the fans and more importantly, what football stood for.

The world's most popular sport is a celebration of the collective. For the owners of Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur, however, bank-balance was all that mattered.

Last Sunday, only a few hours before the clubs had announced the creation of the breakaway league, Burnley, placed 17th in the Premier League table, gave United a mighty scare. Only in the dying moments, did United secure three points through a third goal. Before that, Arsenal needed a 96th minute equaliser to take a point against relegation-threatened Fulham. The Premier League's broadcast rights value of £9.2 billion is down to this competition. It's the toughest league in the world which is why fans pay hefty subscription fees to watch the matches on television and internet. The 'wretched-six' didn't want this competition for being richer than the rest.

Spurs haven't won the league since 1961. Arsenal haven't won it since 2004.

Currently they are placed sixth and ninth respectively in the league table.

They don't have a single European Cup to show for.

'Silly money' and 'kamikaze spending' haven't yet taken City to the European football summit. They had the temerity to



Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp

bypass Ajax, the club of Johan Cruyff and Rinus Michels, with four European Cups in their trophy cabinet. The also-rans and nouveau riches considered themselves European elite. Laughable. Leicester City are placed third in the Premier League table and West Ham United could well have a top-four finish this term ahead of Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham. Leicester City winning the league in 2015-16 from being 5,000-1 underdogs was one of the most emotionally rewarding stories that football could offer. Fair competition allowed them to overcome the odds. But the 'greedy-six' became uneasy. They closed ranks to

ensure that such upsets didn't happen again. The proposed closed-shop league trickled down from their feudal mindset.

The Premier League condemned the idea of the Super League. "The Premier League condemns any proposal that attacks the principles of open competition and sporting merit which are at the heart of the domestic and European football pyramid," it said in a strongly-worded statement. Too late. The Premier League allowed capitalists, oligarchs and petrodollars to take control of an English community sport; men who were only interested in money and cared a damn about football.

The whole thing came back to haunt the English football set-up. Greedy owners demanded their pound of flesh.

United legend Gary Neville erupted on Sky Sports in his condemnation of the Super League. "They're breaking away to a competition they can't be relegated from? It's an absolute disgrace. We have to wrestle back power in this country from the clubs at the top of this league – and that includes my club. It's pure greed, they're impostors," he said. He showed the honesty to publicly speak about being "complicit" for not raising his voice when the Glazers' takeover of United happened in 2005. The Glazers' takeover has drained more than £1 billion out of the club.

In fact, the less said about United and Liverpool the better. A level playing field allowed United to rise like a phoenix from the Munich wreckage. Fair competition allowed them to bounce back after they were relegated from the old first division in 1974. Mind, railway workers of Lancashire founded the club as Newton Heath.

As for Liverpool, a club that claims to represent the Merseyside working class, their rise from a second division outfit to six European Cups happened because a fair system allowed their forward march.

These owners were dismissive of the football pyramid. They didn't want promotion and relegation. They despised a top-four scrap. There was a sense of entitlement, as if they had a god-given right to sit at the high table for the being club foot-

ball's biggest revenue generators.

Don't tread too much into their mea culpas. They had no other option after a heavy defeat. It would be important not to lower the guard. As Neville said, the "scavengers"

need "booting out" of the game. United's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward's impending departure is a good beginning. He has always been the Glazers' go-to man.

Actually, the sextet's the 'dirty dozen' in Europe to be precise – plans weren't well thought-through and prisoners of their hubris, they underestimated fan-power and undermined their footballers and managers. So along with the supporters and authorities, a massive vote of thanks to Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp and his City counterpart Pep Guardiola for speaking out against a project that was devised by their employers. A big round of applause for United captain Harry Maguire and his teammate Luke Shaw for confronting Woodward and then voicing their protest on social media. Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson played a stellar role to unite the footballers cutting across club colours. Harry Kane, the England captain, were you on a holiday?

The Super League is now dead and hopefully buried, and every sane mind is celebrating its downfall. And maybe, the BCCI, too, shall take note. It might sound a little far-fetched at the moment, but the Indian board that owns one of the richest leagues in the world, should never cede control of its property to 'outsiders'.

## OXYGEN CRISIS

# Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital reduces Covid beds to 700

Second Delhi govt facility to do so after Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, April 24

THE DELHI GOVERNMENT-run Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital on Saturday reduced the number of Covid beds from 986 to 700 amid a deepening crisis over the scarcity of oxygen vital to save critically ill coronavirus patients.

This is the second government hospital in Delhi to have reduced the number of Covid beds, as health facilities across the national capital struggle for a continuous oxygen supply.

According to data available on the Delhi government's "Delhi Corona" application, there are 700 Covid beds in the hospital located at Shahdara. Of these, 400 are ICU beds.

On Friday, the city government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital had reduced the number of Covid beds from 650 to 350 due to shortage of oxygen.

All 350 beds at the hospital are ICU beds. Asked if "not enough oxygen" was the reason to reduce the number of beds, RGSSH medical director B L Sherwal had replied, "Yes."

An official said it is becoming increasingly difficult to operationalise more beds in

## AIIMS emergency dept admissions briefly disrupted

ADMISSIONS TO THE emergency department of the AIIMS were restricted for around an hour as the oxygen pipelines were being reorganised due to an increased demand for the life-saving gas for Covid-19 patients coming in high numbers, officials said.

Around 100 coronavirus-infected patients are already receiving treatment at the emergency department. This is in addition to

## Reduce patient intake: Ganga Ram Hospital tells govt

SIR GANGA RAM Hospital on Saturday asked the government to consider reducing patient intake amid a deepening oxygen crisis in Delhi. The hospital had on Friday reported the death of 25 of its "sickest" patients as the administration grappled with depleting oxygen

supplies.

"I appeal to both the Centre and the state to help. On one hand, they increased Covid beds and on the other, they can't supply oxygen in sufficient quantity. How are we supposed to work?" Dr Rana said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, April 24

AN OXYGEN EXPRESS train carrying three tankers of liquid medical oxygen arrived in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday morning via a green corridor as the state battled a surge in Covid-19 cases.

In view of the high demand for oxygen in the country following a record spike in coronavirus cases, the railways has decided to run Oxygen Express trains to transport liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders across the country.

Roll-on-roll-off trucks are being transported on flat wagons by the trains for quick supply of medical oxygen.

"Two trucks of medical oxygen arrived in Lucknow around 6.30 am while one truck was offloaded in Varanasi. Each truck has a capacity of 15,000 litres of medical oxygen," additional chief secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi told



Oxygen Express Train at Lucknow station in UP on Saturday

PHOTO: PTI

PTI. He said both the trucks may be used for Lucknow. The train arrived from Bokaro in Jharkhand. "The arrival of two trucks of medical oxygen will meet around half the demand of Lucknow for Saturday. The state capital will now be in a better position. The second Oxygen Express departed at around 5.30 am from Lucknow for Bokaro with four tankers," Awasthi said.

District Magistrate of Varanasi Kaushal Raj Sharma said a tanker carrying 14,000 litres of liquid medical oxygen has reached there.

## Oxygen Express reaches Nashik

THE FIRST OXYGEN Express carrying liquid medical oxygen tankers from Visakhapatnam reached Nashik in Maharashtra on Saturday morning. The train reached Nasik Road station at 10.25 am, where four tankers were unloaded, the Central Railway (CR) said in a statement. Tweeting about it, minister of railways Piyush Goyal said, "Oxygen Express' train loaded with liquid medical oxygen tankers from Vizag has reached Nashik. 4 Oxygen tankers have been unloaded to provide additional oxygen to the patients."

— PTI

Karnataka Bank aims to grow at 12% in FY22

KARNATAKA BANK ON Saturday said it is targeting to grow its business at 12% to over ₹1.42 lakh crore in the current fiscal year and will gradually increase the share of retail loan in its portfolio.

In a communication to shareholders, the bank said it strives to see 2021-22 as a year of excellence on the back of its healthy business growth, 'Cost-Lite' liability portfolio and strengthened fundamentals.

"For the new Financial Year, the Bank is planning to grow its business at a moderate 12% to take the total business turnover (ie total of Deposits and Advances) to around ₹1,42,500 crore," it said. As a realignment strategy in its advances portfolio, the private sector lenders it has been eyeing credit exposure of minimum 50% to retail, 35% to mid corporates and not more than 15% to large corporates.

The intent is to minimise the concentration on large corporate borrowers, it said. — PTI

## PUBLIC NOTICE



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## FINANCIAL RESULTS

(₹ in crore)

Sr. no.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Three months ended		Year ended		Three months ended		Year ended	
		March 31, 2021 (Q4-2021) (Audited)	March 31, 2020 (Q4-2020) (Audited)	March 31, 2021 (FY2021) (Audited)	March 31, 2020 (FY2020) (Audited)	March 31, 2021 (Q4-2021) (Audited)	March 31, 2020 (Q4-2020) (Audited)	March 31, 2021 (FY2021) (Audited)	March 31, 2020 (FY2020) (Audited)
1.	Total income from operations (net)	23,953.02	23,443.66	98,086.80	91,246.94	43,621.29	40,121.48	161,336.48	149,786.10
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,656.36	1,422.65	20,182.72	14,048.04	7,010.33	1,977.47	26,028.33	18,588.61
3.	Exceptional items	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,656.36	1,422.65	20,182.72	14,048.04	7,010.33	1,977.47	26,028.33	18,588.61
5.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4,402.61	1,221.36	16,192.68	7,930.81	4,886.16	1,251.32	18,384.32	9,566.31
6.	Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising profit/(loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)] (refer note no. 7)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
7.	Paid-up equity share capital (face value ₹ 2 each)	1,383.41	1,294.76	1,383.41	1,294.76	1,383.41	1,294.76	1,383.41	1,294.76
8.	Reserves excluding revaluation reserves	143,029.08	112,091.29	143,029.08	112,091.29	153,075.71	118,518.45	153,075.71	118,518.45
9.	Earnings per share (EPS):								
	Basic EPS before and after extraordinary items, net of tax expense (not annualised) (in ₹)	6.37	1.89	24.01	12.28	7.07	1.93	27.26	14.81
	Diluted EPS before and after extraordinary items, net of tax expense (not annualised) (in ₹)	6.25	1.86	23.67	12.08	6.93	1.90	26.83	14.55

### Notes:

1. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted most economies and banking systems globally, including India. The nation-wide lockdown in April-May 2020 substantially impacted economic activity. The easing of lockdown measures subsequently led to gradual improvement in economic activity and progress towards normalcy. For the banking sector, these developments resulted in lower demand for loans and fee-based services and regulatory measures like moratorium on payment of dues and standstill in asset classification to mitigate the economic consequences on borrowers. It also resulted in increase in provisioning reflecting higher actual and expected additions to non-performing loans following the cessation of moratorium and asset classification standstill. The current second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, where the number of new cases has increased significantly in India, has resulted in re-imposition of localised/regional lock-down measures in various parts of the country.

The impact, including credit quality and provision, of Covid-19 pandemic, on the Bank and the Group, is uncertain and will depend on the spread of Covid-19, the effectiveness of current and future steps taken by the governments and central bank to mitigate the economic impact, steps taken by the Bank and the Group and the time it takes for economic activities to return to pre-pandemic levels. The Bank's capital and liquidity position is strong and would continue to be a focus area for the Bank during this period.

The Supreme Court, in a writ petition, through its interim order dated September 3, 2020 had directed that accounts which were not declared as NPA till August 31, 2020 shall not be declared as NPA till further orders. The Bank made contingency provision of ₹ 497.30 crore in Q2-2021 and ₹ 3,012.16 crore in Q3-2021 for such borrower accounts not classified as non-performing. At December 31, 2020, the Bank held contingency provision on these borrower accounts amounting to ₹ 3,509.46 crore and included in Covid-19 related provision. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's final order in Q4-2021 and the related RBI notification issued on April 7, 2021, the Bank has classified these borrower accounts as per the extant IRAC norms with effect from September 1, 2020 and utilised the above contingency provisions towards provision on these accounts.

In addition to Covid-19 related provision of ₹ 2,725.00 crore made in FY2020, during Q1-2021, the Bank made Covid-19 related provision of ₹ 5,550.00 crore. In Q3-2021, the Bank utilised ₹ 1,800.00 crore of Covid-19 related provisions made in the earlier periods.

Further, in Q4-2021, on a prudent basis the Bank made additional Covid-19 related provision amounting to ₹ 1,000.00 crore. Accordingly, at March 31, 2021, the Bank held aggregate Covid-19 related provision of ₹ 7,475.00 crore.

2. In accordance with RBI notification dated April 7, 2021, the Bank is required to refund/adjust 'interest on interest' to borrowers. As required by the RBI notification, the methodology for calculation of such interest on interest has recently been circulated by the Indian Banks' Association. The Bank is in the process of suitably implementing this methodology. At March 31, 2021, the Bank has created a liability towards estimated interest relief and reduced the same from the interest income.

3. RBI through its circulars dated March 27, 2020, April 17, 2020 and May 23, 2020 on Covid-19 regulatory package permitted banks to grant a moratorium to their customers on the payment of instalments and/or interest, falling due between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. The Bank had accordingly extended the moratorium option to its borrowers in accordance with its Board approved policies.

The disclosure as required by RBI circular dated April 17, 2020 on Covid-19 regulatory package - asset classification and provisioning is given below:

Particulars	Amount
Respective amounts in SMA/overdue categories, where the moratorium/deferment was extended in terms of paragraph 2 and 3 of the circular (At March 31, 2020)	14,564.15
Of the above, respective amounts where asset classification benefits is extended at period-end <sup>2</sup>	390.86
Provision made during the period <sup>2</sup>	Nil
Provisions adjusted against slippages during the period ended	Nil
Residual provision held at period-end <sup>2</sup>	2,725.00

1. Represents borrowers which were overdue but standard at February 29, 2020 and continued to be overdue till March 31, 2020.

2. At March 31, 2021.

3. Total Covid-19 related provision held at March 31, 2021: ₹ 7,475.00 crore (March 31, 2020: ₹ 2,725.00 crore).

4. The Bank did not divest any stake in its subsidiaries during Q4-2021. During Q3-2021, the Bank sold equity shares representing 2.21% in ICICI Securities Limited and made a net gain of ₹ 328.64 crore in standalone financial results and ₹ 301.05 crore in consolidated financial results.

During Q2-2021, the Bank sold equity shares representing 2.00% in ICICI Securities Limited and made a net gain of ₹ 305.01 crore in standalone financial results and ₹ 280.13 crore in consolidated financial results.

During Q1-2021, the Bank sold equity shares representing 3.96% in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited and 1.50% in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited and made a net gain of ₹ 3,036.29 crore in standalone financial results and ₹ 2,715.87 crore in consolidated financial results.

5. During Q4-2021, the Bank has allotted 12,298,860 equity shares of ₹ 2 each pursuant to exercise of employee stock options.

6. The Board of Directors has recommended a dividend of ₹ 2 per equity share for FY2021. The declaration and payment of dividend is subject to requisite approvals.

7. The Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) are currently not applicable to banks in India.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations

# Words Worth

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

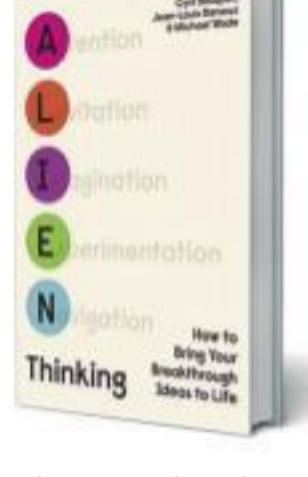
ON THE SHELF



**RETHINKING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**  
Ram Charan  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹799

## Getting out of the box

An interesting read on how makeshift ideas can lead to long-lasting innovation



### Alien Thinking: How to Bring Your Breakthrough Ideas to Life

Cyril Bouquet, Jean-Louis Barsoux & Michael Wade  
Penguin Random House  
Pp 292, ₹699

MADAN SABNAVIS

**T**HE NAMES OF Billy Fisher and Teresa Hodge will not mean much to the reader when this book *Alien Thinking* is picked up, but will constantly be referred to as some kind of role models that the authors have presented when explaining the concept of alien thinking. In short, the authors show that there are no limits to imagination, and we can achieve a lot if we want to. For this we need to think differently. This holds for entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors or artists and hence even companies.

*Alien Thinking* by Bouquet, Barsoux and Wade is a very interesting book that is meant more for individuals, which when applied at the macro level will translate to affirmative action in companies. As the word ALIEN suggests, it has something to do with out-of-the-box thinking. This works better if you are not



Bertrand Piccard created a solar-powered craft capable of flying around the world without fuel AP

THE AUTHORS USE THE ACRONYM 'ALIEN' TO DENOTE THE FIVE CHARACTERISTICS THAT GO INTO ALIEN THINKING: ATTENTION, LEVITATION, IMAGINATION, EXPERIMENTATION AND NAVIGATION

While deciding on the solution we should prepared to go forward and backward, to understand the situation and see what works. This is levitation and here they give the example of Bertrand Piccard who had to swing his thoughts in all directions to create a hot-air balloon which could fly around the globe without using

any fuel and came up with the idea of solar impulse which was a solar powered craft capable of perpetual flight.

Third, one needs to be imaginative which does not come very easily because it depends on the situation and the response will be varied. Next we need to be willing to experiment with new ways of doing things and last we have to navigate the system to ensure you do what you have to. This is dealing with the external environment and adjusting to the forces that can make or break the solution.

Let us look at Billy Fisher who is a doctor sent by WHO to Guinea to attend to Ebola patients who were just dying by the day with little hope of survival. Patients did not want to go to the hospital because they knew that death was beckoning them. The hospital had no air conditioning, limited equipment and doctors who were clothed in protective garments could talk only on phone which did not work. The conven-

tional course of medication did not help. Dr Fisher keeps observing what happens to patients as they move towards death and then drew a pattern. Most of them had severe diarrhoea which led to dehydration combined with high temperatures and finally death. Put in a simplistic way, he thought differently and put the patients on saline with antibiotic and the mortality rate came down sharply and patients revived. It was quick thinking and experimentation which worked. There was no time to consult with the authorities and he had to do the best that he could and hence imagination and experimentation had to be invoked.

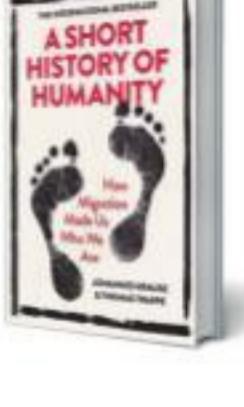
Teresa Hodge was jailed for an offence and when she came out decided to do something for prisoners who were released but did not know what to do. Not really a techie, she embarked on creating a model which she presented to bankers on evaluation of such people who now sought loans. The R3 Score which is a risk assessment tool was engineered by her and is used widely today.

The point being driven by the authors is that we need to be innovative in thinking and have the courage to go ahead with our thoughts to the implementation stage. This is the only way in which changes can be brought in. It holds for individuals and also for enterprise. The example of Narayana Peesapati is given where he gives up his job as a researcher and blends his thoughts concerning India's problem of water for farming. People grow more rice which uses more water which is given cheap due to government policy and hence lowers the water table level. A solution is to encourage new crops. This includes growing more millets which use less water. He has his eureka moment on a plane when he is eating his meal in disposable plates where the idea of using edible cutlery strikes him and he is able to develop edible spoons etc made of millets.

A mechanic Jorge Odon visualises and finally brings in an alternative to forceps used by obstetricians to extract babies with zero risk and harm. He invented a device that was similar to a cork remover that could free a baby stuck in the mother's birth canal. These examples are quite amazing and show that people can achieve a lot when they stop to think.

The basic message of the authors is that this is something all of us can do if we are willing to put in effort to start thinking differently. We do have the capability of alien thinking but have to search for the same and use it to become creative.

Madan Sabnavis is chief economist, CARE Ratings



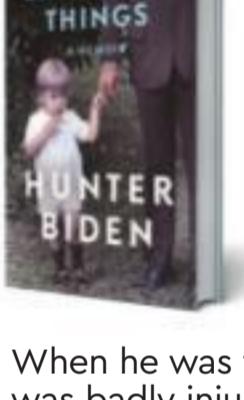
**A SHORT HISTORY OF HUMANITY**  
Johannes Krause, Thomas Trappe  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹799

Marshalling unique insights from archaeogenetics, an emerging new discipline that allows us to read our ancestors' DNA like journals chronicling personal stories of migration, Krause charts two millennia of adaption, movement and survival, culminating in the triumph of Homo Sapiens as we swept through Europe and beyond in successive waves of migration.



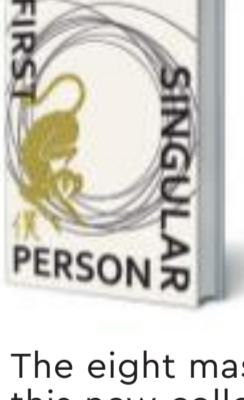
**BEYOND ORDER**  
Jordan B Peterson  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹799

In *12 Rules for Life*, acclaimed public thinker and clinical psychologist Jordan B Peterson offered an antidote to the chaos in our lives: eternal truths applied to modern anxieties. His insights have helped millions of readers and resonated powerfully around the world. Now in this sequel, Peterson goes further, showing that part of life's meaning comes from reaching out into the domain beyond what we know.



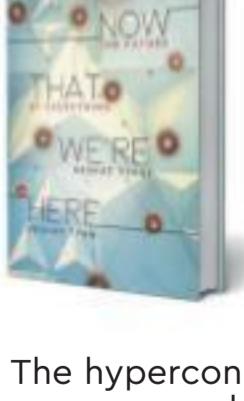
**BEAUTIFUL THINGS**  
Hunter Biden  
Simon & Schuster  
Pp256, ₹799

When he was two, Hunter Biden was badly injured in a car accident that killed his mother and baby sister. In 2015, he suffered the devastating loss of his beloved big brother. These hardships were compounded by the collapse of his marriage and a battle with drug and alcohol addiction. In *Beautiful Things*, he recounts his descent into substance abuse and his tortuous path to sobriety.



**FIRST PERSON SINGULAR**  
Haruki Murakami  
Penguin  
Random House  
₹799

The eight masterly stories in this new collection are all told in the first person by a classic Murakami narrator. From nostalgic memories of youth, meditations on music and an ardent love of baseball to dreamlike scenarios, an encounter with a talking monkey and invented jazz albums, together these stories challenge the boundaries between our minds and the exterior world.



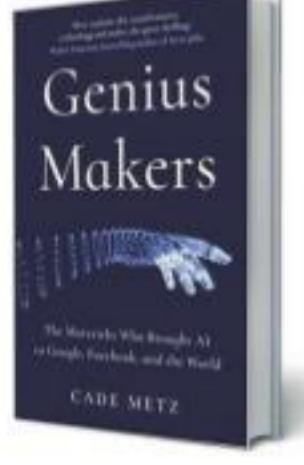
**NOW THAT WE'RE HERE**  
Akshay Tyagi and Akshat Tyagi  
Penguin  
Random House  
Pp176, ₹499

The hyperconnected world that once seemed futuristic is now here. By harnessing the wisdom of thought leaders and intellectuals throughout history, by blending business and humanity, industry and society, and by covering cross-disciplinary themes, the authors give a groundbreaking, genre-defying and utterly mind-bending collection of essays that will help us prepare for the here and now.

All books available as e-books



A cyclist passes an autonomous grocery delivery robot in Singapore earlier this month



**Genius Makers: The Mavericks Who Brought AI to Google, Facebook, and the World**  
Cade Metz  
Penguin Random House  
Pp 384, ₹799

In this extract from *Genius Makers*, we read an enticing start to the story of artificial intelligence and how it all took shape

**B**Y THE TIME he stepped onto the bus in downtown Toronto, bound for Lake Tahoe, Geoff Hinton hadn't sat down for seven years. "I last sat down in 2005," he often said, "and it was a mistake." He first injured his back as a teenager, while lifting a space heater for his mother. As he reached his late fifties, he couldn't sit down without risking a slipped disk, and if it slipped, the pain could put him in bed for weeks. So he stopped sitting down. He used a standing desk inside his office at the University of Toronto. When eating meals, he put a small foam pad on the floor and knelt at the table, poised like a monk at the altar. He lay down when riding in cars, stretching across the back seat. And when traveling longer distances, he took the train. He couldn't fly, at least not with the commercial airlines, because they made him sit during takeoff and landing. "It got to the point where I thought I might be crippled—that I wouldn't be able to make it through the day—so I took it seriously," he says. "If you let it completely control your life, it doesn't give you any problems."

That fall, before lying down at the back of the bus for the trip to New York, taking the train all the way to Truckee, California, at the crest of the Sierra Nevadas, and then stretching across the back seat of a taxi for the thirty-minute drive up the mountain to Lake Tahoe, he created a new company. It included only two other people, both young

graduate students in his lab at the university. It made no products. It had no plans to make a product. And its website offered nothing but a name, DNNresearch, which was even less appealing than the website. The sixty-four-year-old Hinton—who seemed so at home in academia, with his tousled gray hair, wool sweaters, and two-steps-ahead-of-you sense of humor—wasn't even sure he wanted to start a company until his two students talked him into it. But as he arrived in Lake Tahoe, one of the largest companies in China had already offered \$12 million for his newborn start-up, and soon three other companies would join the bidding, including two of the largest in the United States.

He was headed for Harrah's and Harvey's, the two towering casinos at the foot of the ski mountains on the south side of the lake. Rising up over the Nevada pines, these twin slabs of glass, steel, and stone also served as convention centers, offering hundreds of hotel rooms, dozens of meeting spaces, and a wide variety of (second-rate) restaurants. That December, they hosted an annual gathering of computer scientists called NIPS. Short for Neural Information Processing Systems—a name that looked deep into the future of computing—NIPS was a conference dedicated to artificial intelligence. A London-born academic who had explored the frontiers of AI at universities in Britain, the United States, and Canada since the early 1970s, Hinton made the trip to NIPS nearly every year. But this was different. Although Chinese interest in his company was already locked in, he knew that others were interested, too, and NIPS seemed like the ideal venue for an auction. Two months earlier, Hinton and his students had changed the way machines saw the world. They had built what was called a neural network, a mathematical system modeled on the web of neurons in the brain, and it could identify common objects—like flowers,

dogs, and cars—with an accuracy that had previously seemed impossible. As Hinton and his students showed, a neural network could learn this very human skill by analyzing vast amounts of data. He called this "deep learning," and its potential was enormous. It promised to transform not just computer vision but everything from talking digital assistants to driverless cars to drug discovery.

The idea of a neural network dated back to the 1950s, but the early pioneers had never gotten it working as well as they had hoped. By the new millennium, most researchers had given up on the idea, convinced it was a technological dead end and bewildered by the fifty-year-old conceit that these mathematical systems somehow mimicked the human brain. When submitting research papers to academic journals, those who still explored the technology would often disguise it as something else, replacing the words "neural network" with language less likely to offend their fellow scientists. Hinton remained one of the few who believed it would one day fulfill its

promise, delivering machines that could not only recognize objects but identify spoken words, understand natural language, carry on a conversation, and maybe even solve problems humans couldn't solve on their own, providing new and more incisive ways of exploring the mysteries of biology, medicine, geology, and other sciences. It was an eccentric stance even inside his own university, which spent years denying his standing request to hire another professor who could work alongside him in this long and winding struggle to build machines that learned on their own.

"One crazy person working on this was enough," he says. But in the spring and summer of 2012, Hinton and his two students made a breakthrough: They showed that a neural network could recognize common objects with an accuracy beyond any other technology. With the nine-page paper they unveiled that fall, they announced to the world that this idea was as powerful as Hinton had long claimed it would be.

Excerpted with permission from Penguin Random House

New Delhi

# Spotlight

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021



## FIRST TRIAL

In medical history, physician James Lind is said to have conducted the first proper clinical trial in 1747 to study the effects of dietary supplements in treating scurvy, which is caused by vitamin C deficiency.

REYA MEHROTRA

**I**N 2020, DABUR, which had long had a monopoly in the Chyawanprash market, suddenly faced a slew of competitors all selling clinically tested and proven immunity boosters. Dabur, too, rolled out a whole new range of immunity-boosting products that were clinically tested.

In a world post coronavirus, clinical trials seem to have become synonymous with authenticity. As the world waited with bated breath for vaccines to come out, consumers realised how critical a part clinical trials play in proving the efficacy of a product. And this is now manifesting in how they buy other products as well. Taking a cue, brands, be it skincare, healthcare or FMCG, are going the clinical trial route to promote and sell their products.

### A new era

Dabur India's head of Ayurveda research Rajiva Rai shares that clinical studies at Dabur are conducted as part of research & development (R&D) activities to reiterate the safety and efficacy of the products and not purely for branding purposes, but agrees that it does provide an advantage to communicate the distinct features of the product in a scientific way to consumers and, hence, is always good for brand promotion. "As e-commerce is increasing, consumer awareness is also growing and they are increasingly seeking products with better quality and research data," says Rai.

Clinical trials are taking the shape of brand identities and partly influencing purchase behaviour, offers Shankar Prasad, founder of skincare brands Plum and Phy. But, Prasad says, other factors like brand reputation, reviews, peer recommendations and ingredient list are also important determinants of purchase behaviour.

Both the online shopping boom and the pandemic are driving the change, believes Karan Daftary, global vice-president, SIRO Clinpharm, a clinical research services company which has done a total of 56 studies in the dermatology therapeutic area and 10 studies in the nutrition sector. Talking about the need for transparency, he says, "The in-built feedback mechanism on e-commerce websites can be viewed by other consumers and competitors. Therefore, any claim made by a company about their products should be transparent. Further to the government-issued guidelines on Covid-19 prevention, the usage of disinfectants witnessed a surge and their claims do need data to prove their efficacy. The Ayurvedic sector, too, faced huge challenges in generating authentic scientific data for consumers."

Yet clinical trials have their own footprint when it comes to health-related claims. A new study, for instance, relooks at the benefits of almonds in a whole new perspective. A six-month trial (which concluded in 2021) conducted by the University of California and funded by the Almond Board of California found that daily consumption of almonds instead of calorie-packed snacks improved measures of both wrinkle severity and skin pigmentation in post-menopausal women. Forty-nine healthy postmenopausal women with Fitzpatrick skin type I or 2 (characterised by increased tendency to burn with sun exposure) participated in the randomised controlled trial.

After coronavirus, the need for clinically-backed claims might look important for brands, but the pandemic alone is not responsible for the trend, which has, in fact, existed for at least five years now, shares Radhika Iyer Talati, founder, Beauty By Anahata, an organic beauty and wellness brand. "However, post Covid-19, fear regarding skin and overall health has increased the demand. It opened our eyes to the need for natural and organic products," Talati adds.

Prasad of Plum and Phy agrees, saying that the spurt in the clinical test trend has largely been driven by the increasing demand for transparency from consumers as they want the claims verified. "Until a year ago, consumers were more focused on ingredients and their benefits. The pandemic has in general increased the respect and awareness for science- and data-driven decision-making," he says.

For Kama Ayurveda, clinical trials don't pertain to the dynamics of a pre- and post-Covid era, but as a modal and scientific backing to the claims the products allow, Rai of Dabur concurs. "Consumers have always preferred quality and scientifically-tested/studied products. It has got nothing to do with Covid," he says, adding, "Consumers are deeply concerned about the impact of Covid-19



Until a year ago, consumers were more focused on ingredients and their benefits. The pandemic has in general increased the respect and awareness for science- and data-driven decision-making.

— SHANKAR PRASAD, FOUNDER OF SKINCARE BRANDS PLUM AND PHY



Any claim made by a company about their products should be transparent

— KARAN DAFTARY, GLOBAL VICE-PRESIDENT, SIRO CLINPHARM, A CLINICAL RESEARCH SERVICES COMPANY



Post Covid-19, fear regarding skin and overall health has increased the demand. It opened our eyes for the need of natural and organic products

— RADHIKA IYER TALATI, FOUNDER, BEAUTY BY ANAHATA, AN ORGANIC BEAUTY & WELLNESS BRAND



In case of foods and food products, clinical trials are designed to examine basic health effects of complex food mixtures in healthy individuals

— JALARAMA REDDY, AGM, NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & FACTORY OPERATIONS, POSSIBLE, A NUTRITION SERVICE AND HEALTHY FOOD PRODUCTS COMPANY



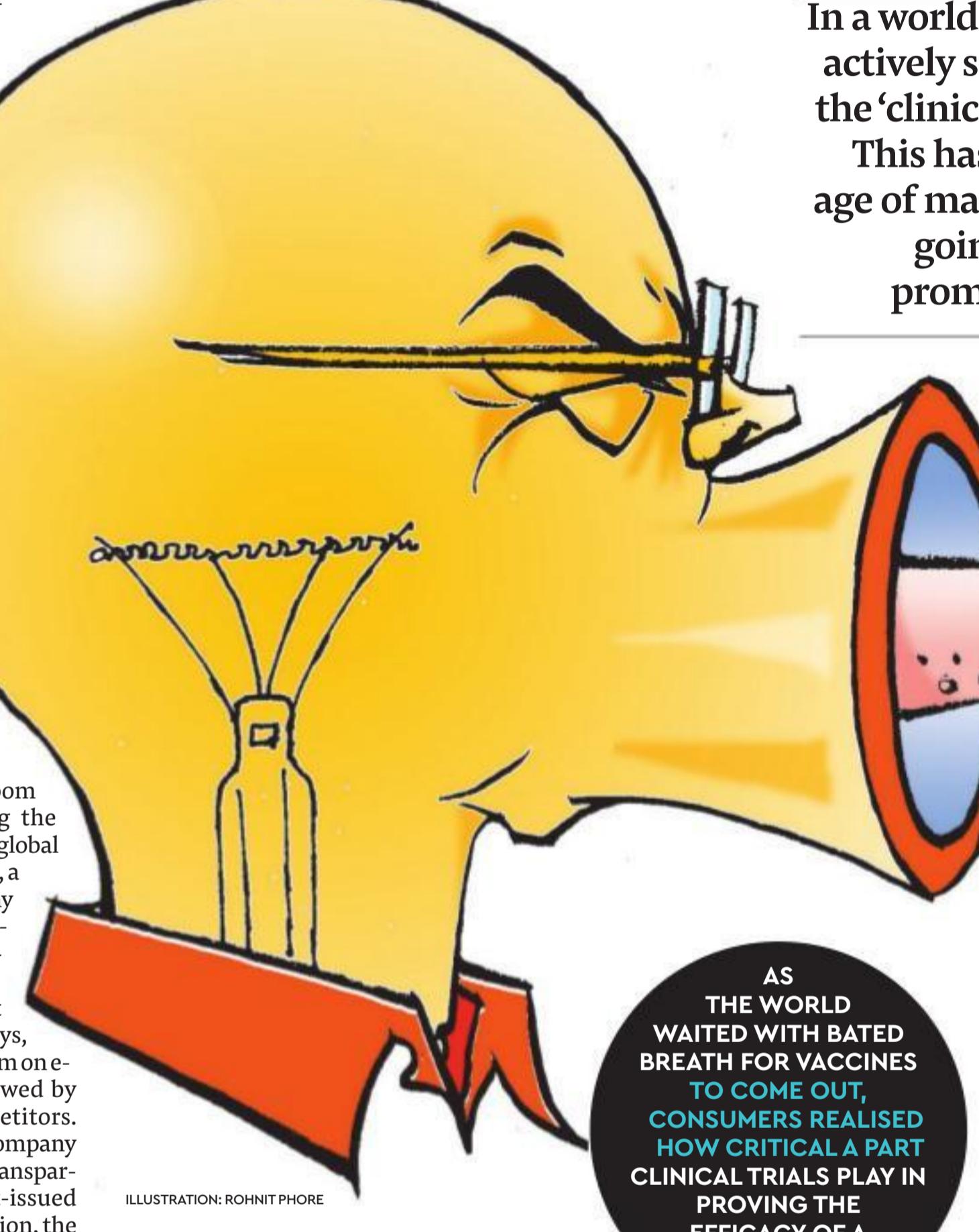
As e-commerce is increasing, consumer awareness is also growing and they are increasingly seeking products with better quality and research data

— RAJIVA RAI, HEAD, AYURVEDA RESEARCH, DABUR

## TRIED & TESTED

In a world post Covid, consumers are actively seeking products that carry the 'clinically tested and proven' tag.

This has, in turn, ushered in a new age of marketing, with many brands going the clinical trial route to promote and sell their products



AS THE WORLD WAITED WITH BATED BREATH FOR VACCINES TO COME OUT, CONSUMERS REALISED HOW CRITICAL A PART CLINICAL TRIALS PLAY IN PROVING THE EFFICACY OF A PRODUCT

ILLUSTRATION: ROHINI PHORE

both from a health and economic perspective. And this is reflected more in their purchase behaviour where we are seeing more and more consumers making online purchases."

### The influencer marketing dynamic

When social media boomed, influencer marketing became the new profession for many. From celebrities to unknown people, everyone cashed in on the trend. Brands happily turned to influencers with social media followers running into millions to promote their products by sending out free samples or getting into paid partnerships. It was all going well when in February this year, the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) issued draft rules for influencers on digital media platforms to protect consumer interest. Plus, the pandemic, too, reiterated the need for more clinically-backed claims rather than a word from an influencer.

The regulation makes sense as the influencer marketing industry is estimated between \$75 million and \$150 million, as per AdLift, a digital marketing agency. According to the new rules, an influencer has to specify if their content is through a paid partnership, an advertisement visible on all mediums like phones, tablets, etc, prominently. The final guidelines are to be announced in mid-April.

With the new regulations in place and as clinical trials become one of the new marketing tools, influencer marketing is likely to be impacted. However, the 2021 Business Insider Intelligence report still suggests that, by 2022, brands will spend upto \$15 billion on influencer marketing, up from \$8 billion in 2019.

### Behind the scenes

The process of clinical trials ranges



use internationally-certified clinical testing agencies for this purpose."

Kama Ayurveda's testing process is even more intensive. The brand conducted its first ever trial in 2017 for its Bringadi Intensive Hair Treatment Oil and found it fit for reducing flaky scalp, treating scalp infections, deep conditioning the hair and reducing hairfall. The trials were conducted on humans who were screened on the basis of their skin conditions (evaluated by dermatologists), regular habits, clinical observation and medical history. It was also a blind study, which means the participants were not aware of the type of product being applied. Each of the participants was asked to fill an elaborate questionnaire for evaluation under the guidance of a clinical research associate at Mascot Spincontrol India (MSI), a clinical research organisation. The subject panel included both men and women aged between 36 and 55 years with skin concerns ranging from dull skin, pigmentary spots, crow's feet and wrinkles. Each product application was shown first by the clinical research team after which the application was carried out at home for 28 days. During this period, the participants were evaluated at regular intervals.

Dabur India, on the other hand, established its R&D centre in 1919 to develop scientific processes and quality checks for mass production of traditional Ayurvedic medicines. However, it was not until 25 years ago that Dabur conducted its first clinical study. Its flagship products like Chyawanprash and Amla hair oil were some of the earliest products to be tested clinically in the early 1990s. The brand's scientific studies are conducted through a third party (Contract Research Organisation, or CRO) following all applicable guidelines and the clinical studies are registered at the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI), a portal of the Indian Council of Medical

Research (ICMR). Dabur's R&D centre, in fact, has more than 35 standard operating procedures in place to conduct such studies. "Pre-clinical studies may be completed within few weeks to a few months, whereas clinical studies usually take longer, which may be from a few months to more than one year, depending on the number of subjects, number of groups and many other variables involved in the study," offers Rai.

When it comes to Dabur's proprietary formulations (special blends, the concepts and ingredients of which are essentially rooted in the textbooks), a rigorous research process from the initiation of development to launch is followed. From selection of ingredients, sourcing of authentic and quality raw materials to development of herbal extracts and polyherbal formulations, it is all based on various research models and a comprehensive approach to health conditions. Such proprietary Ayurveda formulations then undergo specific pre-clinical screening, tests for safety and efficacy, clinical studies, etc. Only when it passes all is the product launched.

It is, however, important to note that clinical trials differ from consumer testing, wherein brands send out products to a group of potential consumers for their inputs. At Beauty By Anahata, it is a mix of both. "The first step of the testing process is to test on friends and family to gauge usage, texture and effectiveness of the product. We prepare a beta group this way that vets out any cons and alerts us of any updates or changes the product may need. Beta testing also allows us to understand the human side of the process. For example, a product may work well for two-three people, but the fourth person may ask for more foam. Depending on the responses we get, we further work on the product. To gain scientific confirmation of our products' safety, usability and effectiveness, we get them tested at an FSSAI-approved lab in Vadodara, Gujarat," shares Talati.

When it comes to food, brands may ditch the usual clinical trial for testing for a comprehensive study. Jalarama Reddy, AGM, New Product Development and factory operations at Possible, a research-driven nutrition service and healthy food products company, shares that their products are monitored for nutritional profile, shelf-life studies, chemical, microbiological and pesticidal residues at the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). This process, he says, differs from the typical clinical trials. "In the case of foods and food products, clinical trials are designed to examine basic health effects of complex food mixtures in healthy individuals, whereas food products testing is in terms of its nutritional profile, shelf-life studies, chemical, microbiological and pesticidal residues. Food product testing is vitally necessary to ensure that the food is free of physical, chemical and biological hazards," Reddy explains.

An important question that arises here is: how are the subjects on whom trials are to be performed selected? "The volunteers are people who are healthy and can be easily approached via recruitment agencies. Although not simultaneously, each volunteer can participate in multiple studies. They are required to follow various compliance procedures which help in achieving the desired data and undergo counselling and various social worker visits for an efficient trial," says Daftary of SIRO Clinpharm Pharma. "The basic step is to approach recruitment agencies that already contain a huge database of people who have registered for different segments like skin trials, nutrition, hair, etc. This reduces the time in recruiting patients and ensuring trial timelines are met."

He says that advertisements in public places, social media, public health departments are also placed to attract and build awareness among interested volunteers. Registrations are then done through various camps at different locations. The final stage post identification of volunteers involves consent for the study and further screening requirements.

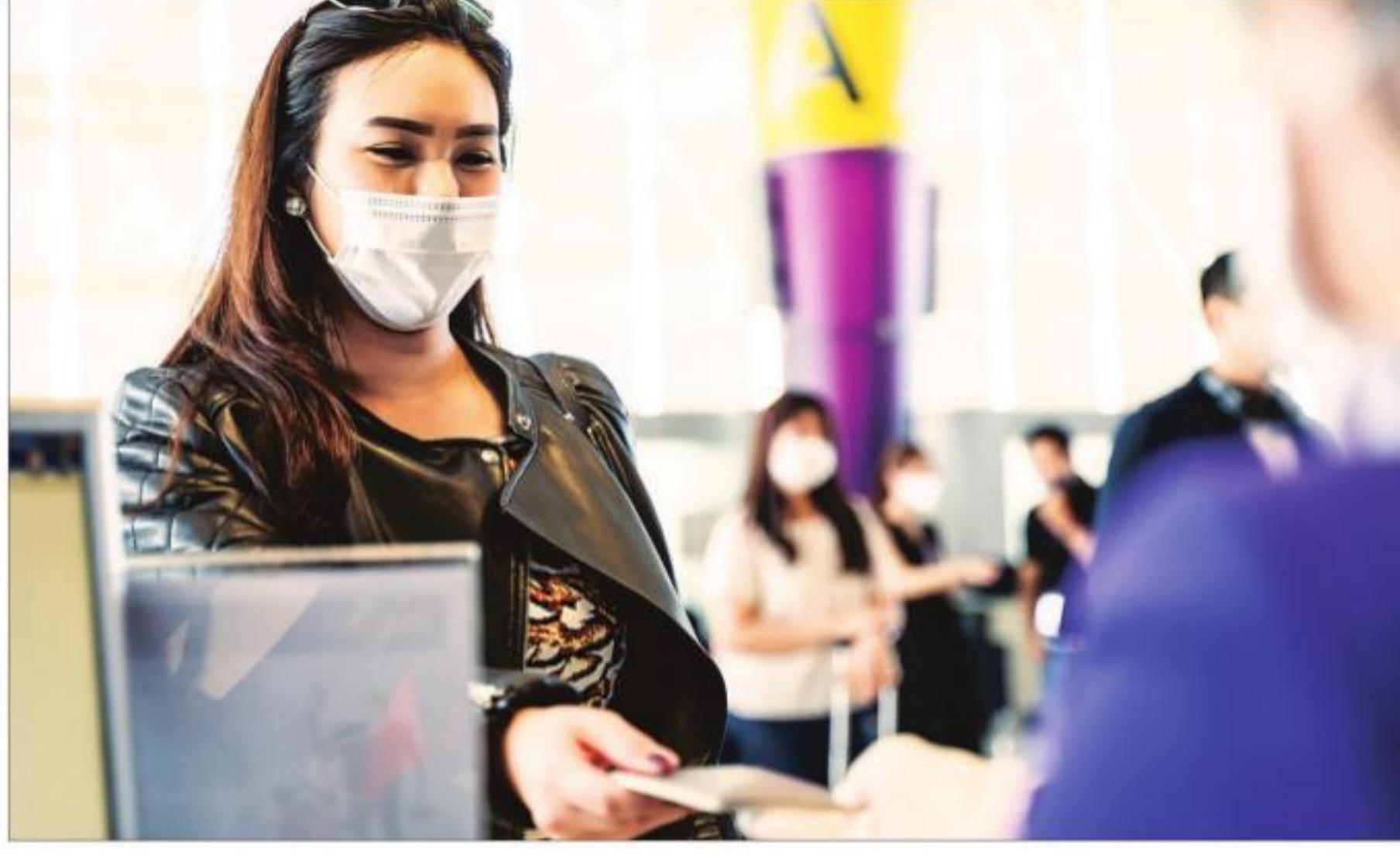
Clearly, in the post-pandemic world, clinical trial is the new mantra for brands to win over consumers' trust and confidence.

New Delhi

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

# Fe Lines

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



## Passport, please

The vaccine passport seems to be the most desirable travel document currently. But could it become an inevitable part of our future?

VAISHALI DAR

**VACCINE PASSPORT IS** currently a hot topic of discussion on social media, among the public and leaders of countries. A digital record with scannable QR codes, it indicates if one has received Covid-19 vaccination or, in some cases, recently tested negative. Naturally, it seems to be the most desirable new travel document, the fastest route to ease travel and accelerate the return to normalcy. But could it become inevitable in the future? Experts feel that the calibrated approach planned by health authorities will require travellers to continue taking all the necessary precautions to ensure their personal health and safety.

Thoyyib Mohamed, managing director, Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation, says vaccine passports will be inevitable in the future as they will protect public health, help restart the economy and remove barriers for travel globally. "Vaccine passports should allow people to prove themselves to be 'safe' and bypass mandatory quarantine requirements by different countries. It will serve as a crucial way to loosen restrictions on travel and access to facilities, easing travel to many countries. Maldives is in the process of developing a fair framework for vaccine passports."

With vaccinations being rolled out in most countries, the passport is a concrete step towards the recovery of the civil aviation and tourism industry. "A health passport would be of value to ensure ease and convenience in facilitating travel across borders while ensuring strong checks are in place," says Rajeev Kale, president and country head – holidays, mice, visa, Thomas Cook.

While the logistics of the process are

on way, Munnmunn Marwah, COO, Think Strawberries, a tourism representation brand in Gurugram, feels the vaccine passport will be of utmost relevance for travellers. "India has been on the forefront of the vaccination drive and, by the end of the summer of 2021, we should be having significant numbers of safe travellers."

Talking globally, China has created digital vaccine passports for its 1.4 billion citizens. A vaccine pass can be used for domestic activities like concerts, weddings or work and is already being used in Israel. New York debuted its own app called Excelsior Pass (a digital proof of Covid-19 vaccination or negative test) in partnership with IBM.

Iceland has also issued vaccination certificates. A Danish vaccine passport app is likely to cause a 'domino effect' across Europe as it allows venues to see whether a person has been vaccinated. Hungary is also working on 'immunity passports' to prove travellers have never contracted the virus or have antibodies.

The International Air Transport Association, the trade association for the world's airlines, is making a Travel Pass as a digital certificate, validating a flyer's Covid-19 test result and vaccination status. The pass will have a global registry of vaccination centres to find testing labs, a lab app to share test certificates digitally. The trials are on for 20 airlines—Emirates, Qatar Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Japan Airlines, Etihad, Air New Zealand and others.

The European Commission is also proposing to create a Digital Green Certificate to facilitate free movement inside the EU during the pandemic.

Dharminder Nagar, MD, Paras Healthcare, a chain of hospitals in India, says, "If certain countries open up for international travel, there will

be an element of competitiveness... others will have to react. With more openings, digital vaccine passports could become inevitable for international travel."

However, some Republicans in the US and other public figures denounce requiring such certification to travel. The White House press secretary Jen Psaki confirmed that the federal government will not enact a nationwide vaccine passport programme unlike other countries.

As per an April *Reuters* report, the WHO does not support requiring vaccination passports for travel due to uncertainty over whether inoculation prevents transmission of the virus, as well as equity concerns. "We, as WHO, are saying at this stage, we would not like to see the vaccination passport as a requirement for entry or exit as we are not certain at this stage that the vaccine prevents transmission," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said.

Twitterati, too, claim this to be a 'class thing' which can create a sort of barrier for many who cannot be issued one. Some call it 'corporate communism' for private corporations who thrive on capitalism. The US Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene expressed the new mentality when she took to Facebook to denounce vaccine passports as "corporate communism". As quoted in the American magazine, *The Atlantic*, she interprets communism to mean "any interference in the right of people like me to do whatever we want, regardless of the rights of others."

While it would take a while for people in all the countries to get vaccinated, the rhetoric around vaccine passports is a cause for concern. With not enough vaccines to go around the world, vaccine passports should not pose a false sense of security.

## SPRING-SUMMER FESTIVALS

It's summer and the spring season calls for a celebration of nature and culture. Every year, several parts of the country celebrate summer festivals with various shows and cultural extravaganza. An array of newly bloomed flowers is the most common sight as flower shows play a big part in summer festivals. Here we bring you some popular summer festivals celebrated across the country. By Reya Mehrotra



Chithirai festival

Chithirai festival of Madurai is celebrated in the month of Chithirai, that is, between April 14 and May 13. The 12-day festival this year began on April 15. However, this year, devotees are only allowed *darshan* at given time slots. The first half of the month celebrates the coronation of goddess Meenakshi and her marriage to Lord Sundareswara and the second half celebrates the journey of Lord Alagar to Madurai from Kallazhagar temple.

### Yercaud Summer Festival

A hill station in Tamil Nadu, Yercaud is known for its coffee, spice and fruit plantations. The summer festival in Yercaud is held every year in May. Several events like flower shows, musical concerts, dog shows, boat races, various cultural and village shows are part of the festival. A number of tourists attend the festival. It celebrates the local deity and

### Shimla Summer Festival

The five-day carnival celebrated in May marks the arrival of summer in Shimla and is a tribute to the gods for the harvest. It first started in 1960 and since then has become a tourist attraction. A number of renowned artists perform at the festival. A flower show is organised to present the visitors with a colourful spectacle. From fashion shows to sports tournaments, ice skating to music festival, one can find everything here. Local food dishes that make up Himachal's cuisine and photography competitions that give a platform to budding photographers are also major attractions.



gives the message of the importance of preserving nature and planting more trees. The flower show is held at the National Orchidarium and Botanical Garden of Yercaud which consists of more than 100 varieties of 50,000 potted plants. Since Yercaud has a moderate and humid climate and is generally pleasant between March and May, it makes for a good time to visit the place.

### Mount Abu Summer Festival

The summer festival of Mount Abu, a hill station in Rajasthan, is held in May for two days during Buddha Poornima. The summer festival is held with great enthusiasm as the weather, lush greenery and natural beauty of the place make it a good time for



Ooty Summer Festival

The resort town in Tamil Nadu is famous for its picturesque sites and scenery. A number of festivals are held in the town throughout the year, but most of them are held during the summer. Every year in the month of May, Tamil Nadu's tourism department organises Ooty Summer Festival to boost tourism. Cultural programmes, boat races, flower shows, local handicrafts made by artisans, folk dances are organised for the visitors.

### Moatsu Festival

The festival is celebrated in Nagaland every year in the month of May by the Ao people, a major ethnic group in Nagaland. It is celebrated when the seeds are sown in the fields after clearing them. It marks harmony and unity as people sing, dance and celebrate together while expressing gratitude for the abundance and blessings. The best-made rice wine is awarded after a competition. It is an important source of tourism and is celebrated with splendour. The entire village is cleaned for the festival as men and women sit around a large bonfire. Animals are reared for the festival and the strongest one is used for meat.

### International flower show, Sikkim

Held in the capital of Sikkim, Gangtok, the month-long festival is celebrated in May. It is held at a time when nature is in full bloom, flowers are sprouting in all colours and the river is flowing from the mountains. Exhibitions, food festival, flower shows, cultural programmes, competitions make up for the festival. Some adventurous activities include river rafting, yak safari, trekking and mountain biking. The flower exhibition takes place in the Flower Exhibition Centre or the White Hall Complex of Gangtok. Around 250 different species of plants, trees and ferns, 30 species of rhododendron and 600 species of orchids are put on display.

## TECH-NOW-LOGY

# The race for attention on social media sites

What factors are driving us to get into heated fights online and watch hateful videos?

SHIRA OVIDE

**WHEN WE GET** caught up in heated arguments with our neighbours on Facebook or in politically charged YouTube videos, why are we doing that? That's the question that my colleague Cade Metz wants us to ask ourselves and the companies behind our favourite apps.

Cade's most recent article is about Caolan Robertson, a filmmaker who for more than two years helped make videos with far-right YouTube personalities that he says were intentionally provocative and confrontational — and often deceptively edited.

Cade's reporting is an opportunity to ask ourselves hard questions: Do the rewards of internet attention encourage people to post the most incendiary material? How much should we trust what we see online? And are we inclined to seek out ideas that stoke our anger?

**Shira:** How much blame does YouTube deserve for people like Robertson making videos that emphasised social divisions — and in some cases were manipulated?

**Cade:** It's tricky. In many cases

these videos became popular because they confirmed some people's prejudices against immigrants or Muslims. But Caolan and the YouTube personalities he worked with also learned how to play up or invent conflict. They could see that those kinds of videos got them attention on YouTube and other websites. And YouTube's automated recommendations sent a lot of people to those videos, too, encouraging Caolan to do more of the same.

**One of Facebook's executives recently wrote,** in part, that his company mostly isn't to blame for pushing people to provocative and polarising material. That it's just what people want. What do you think?

There are all sorts of things that amplify our inclination for what is sensational or outrageous, including talk radio, cable television and social media. But it's irresponsible for anyone to say that's just how some people are. We all have a role to play in not stoking the worst of human nature, and that includes the firms behind the apps and websites where we spend our time.

I've been thinking about this a lot

in my reporting about artificial intelligence technologies. People try to distinguish between what people do and what computers do, as though they are completely separate. They're not. Humans decide what computers do, and humans use computers in ways that alter what they do. That's one reason I wanted to write about Caolan. He is taking us behind the curtain to see the forces — both of human nature and tech design — that influence what we do and how we think.

### What should we do about this?

I think the most important thing is to think about what we're really watching and doing online. Where I get scared is thinking about emerging technologies, including deepfakes that will be able to generate forged, misleading or outrageous material on a much larger scale than people like Caolan ever could. It's going to get even harder to know what's real and what's not.

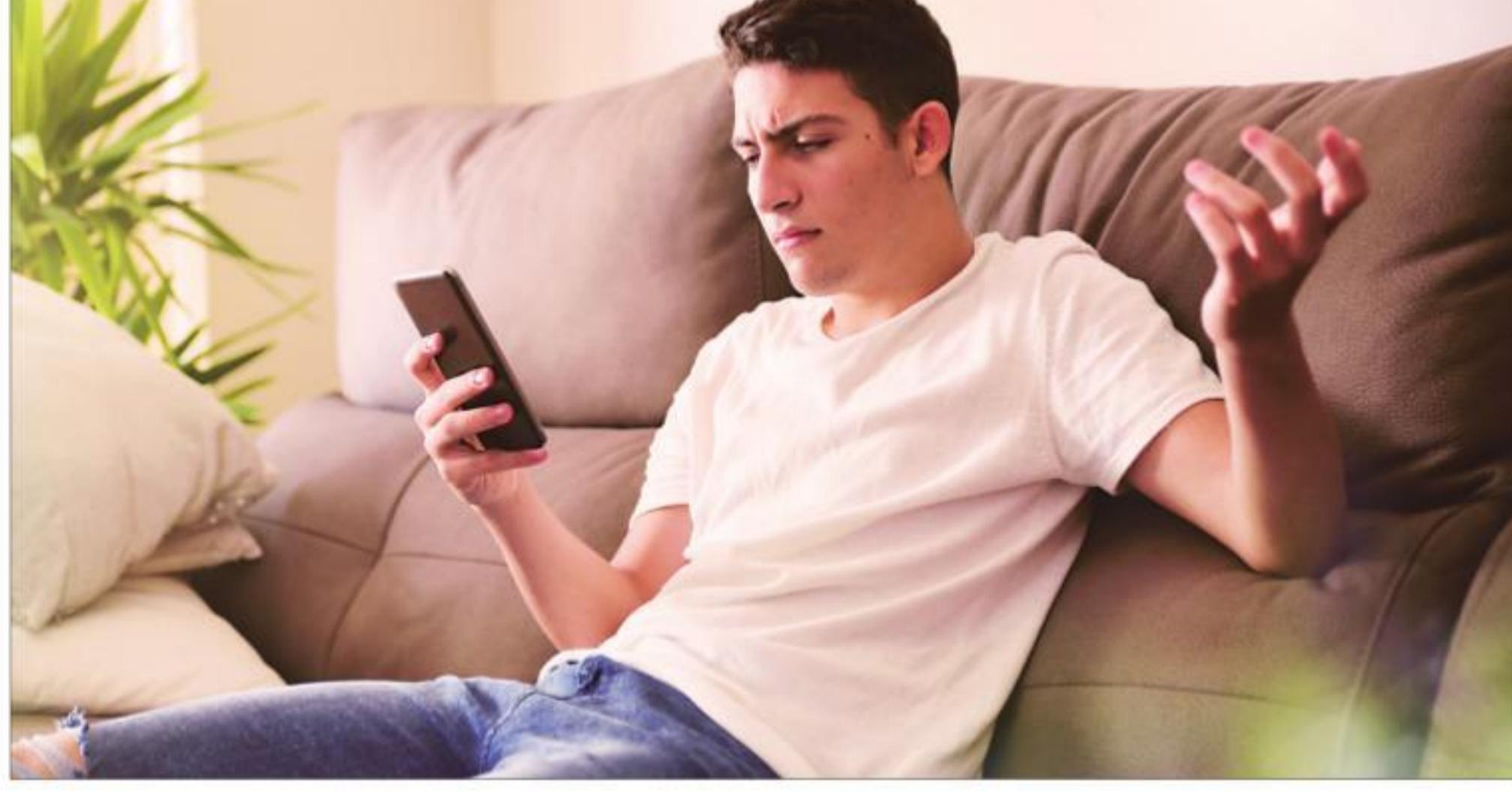
**Isn't it also dangerous if we learn to mistrust anything that we see?**

Yes. Some people in technology believe that the real risk of deepfakes is people learning to disbelieve everything — even what is real.

**How does Robertson feel about making YouTube videos that he now believes polarised and misled people?**

On some level, he regrets what he did, or at the very least wants to distance himself from that. But he's essentially now using the tactics that he deployed to make right-wing videos to make left-wing videos. He's doing the same thing on one political side that he used to do on the other.

NYT



# Leisure

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

FAIZAL KHAN

**S**REYASHI SEN is eagerly looking forward to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions to shoot her new feature film, the true story of a Goan man living on the streets of Mumbai who went on to launch a sensational music career in France. An Indian-origin Singaporean producer, Sen (who was born in Kolkata) believes in stories that span borders.

Similarly, Sandrine Brauer is holding on to a script about a French woman looking for her new lover (whom she met online in India) until the situation improves for film production. An award-winning film producer in France, Brauer shares Sen's philosophy of human stories transcending geographical boundaries.

Besides being well-known film producers, Sen and Brauer also represent a new wave of change taking place in the global film industry, that of ushering in equal opportunities and gender diversity. Both believe in the idea of men and women working together without discrimination and are supporters of the MeToo movement, which exposed rampant sexual abuse two years ago.

"There is an immediate connection between violence against women and lack of opportunities," says Brauer, who co-founded the hugely influential Collective 50/50 of film and television professionals in 2018. "We want to change the system and improve the way male and female professionals work together in the audio-visual industry," she adds.

Launched at the 2018 Cannes film festival with a walk on its famous red carpet by 82 international film personalities, including Nandita Das and Cate Blanchett (82 denoted the number of women directors selected in the Cannes competition since its first edition in 1946 against 1,688 men), Collective 50/50 marked its entry in India last week with the signing of an agreement with the embassy of France to promote gender diversity in the audio-visual sector.

"India is the first country where Collective 50/50 has signed an agreement with the French embassy," says Brauer, who was joined by Sen and *The Lunchbox* co-producer Guneet Monga (co-founder of cinema collective Indian Women Rising) at a signing ceremony in New Delhi last week, which was also attended by visiting French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. "We hope to sign agreements in more countries in the future," adds Brauer.

In the middle of the pre-production of her new feature film *Slow Joe*, Sen is determined to "tell more women's stories". "I am looking for stories of women, stories with a lot of diversity," says Sen, a former senior official of UN Women in Singapore. One of her documentary projects is about a girl from the Chhara tribe in Gujarat fighting her community's 'criminal tribe' tag by building a school for its children.

Another documentary project by Sen is about a tribal community in Solapur, Maharashtra, where women farm workers get rid of their womb to increase their hours in the fields. "Everywhere in the world, women have similar tales to tell," adds Sen, a Jadavpur University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences-Mumbai alumna, who hails from the family of the legendary Bengali director Bimal Roy.

*Slow Joe*, which will be shot in Goa, Mumbai and Paris and Lyon in France, boasts of an international cast and crew, including Jackie Shroff who plays the lead role and *Narcos* web series' cin-



(Left) Kolkata-born Singaporean producer Sreyashi Sen; and (right) a scene from the short film *Solitude*, which was produced by Sen during the pandemic

LAUNCHED AT THE 2018 CANNES FILM FEST, COLLECTIVE 50/50 AIMS TO PROMOTE GENDER DIVERSITY IN THE AUDIO-VISUAL SECTOR



(Left) A still from the 2018 film *Manto*, which was co-produced by French filmmaker Sandrine Brauer (right) who co-founded Collective 50/50



Producer Guneet Monga, who is the co-founder of cinema collective Indian Women Rising

## Storytellers for change

An Indian-origin producer and her French counterpart are spearheading an international campaign for equal opportunities in the global film industry

ematographer Mauricio Vidal. The biopic—in English, French and Konkani and to be directed by Soumik Sen (of *Gulaab Gang* fame)—will focus on the Goan vagabond, known by the name of Joe, and the chance discovery of his singing talent by a French musician on a visit to Goa. Sixty-four-year-old Joe then travelled to France and his newly-formed band, Slow Joe and the Ginger Accident, opened a famous music festival in Rennes. When he died nine years later in France, Joe was a popular musician in Lyon, revered in a mural at the mayor's office.

The gender diversity platform shared by Sen, Brauer and Monga—as part of the agreement signed between Collective 50/50 and the French embassy in India—owes its origins to a global initiative called Generation Equality Forum, which was launched in Mexico last month. The forum, co-created by UN Women with governments of France and Mexico to strengthen commitment to equal opportunities in the creative industry, will culminate in Paris in June this year.

Faizal Khan is a freelancer

BETWEEN SIPS  
Magandeep Singh

## Deja food

Thanks to Covid's second wave, we are back to square one: looking up new places to order food from

THIS TIME LAST year, we had just entered the pandemic and F&B outlets were in a state of shock. They didn't know what was happening and how long it would continue to happen. Finally, as time passed, they all learned to pivot, shifting from in-house dining to home delivering and

some even forsaking the entire sit-in model and going the cloud kitchen way. By August, we were ordering food home as it was something we had always done.

Fast forward a year and—thanks in large parts to the Maha Kumbh and the election rallies, but also in small ways to our own collective callousness with wearing masks in public places and general social distancing—once again, the dine-in scene stands curtailed and we are back to square one: looking up new places to order from.

But before I go there, I must proudly show off my Chennai trip where the highlight was organising a lovely dinner paired with Martell Cognac at OTR at Crowne Plaza. Other noteworthy meals were had at Pumpkin Tales with sneaky side orders from their authentic Chinese eatery Zhoyu. So guys, if you are in Chennai, make it a must-stop for lunch and/or dinner. With travel curtailed, this is as close to a south-east Asian hawker centre you will ever get.

As for breakfast, just head to Bread and Chocolate, an offshoot of the Auroville institution (but with a more extensive spread), which was so good



that I happily and willingly cancelled my regular *idli-dosa* jaunts in the city for their western fare, which comprised some rich almond and cream croissants and a hearty *shakshuka*.

Back in the capital, here is how I will try and stay ahead of the (food ordering, but also Covid-19) curve this time by



## SHORT FILM FEST

Kochi Metro (Malayalam) Short Film Fest is an annual film festival held in Kochi, Kerala, devoted to short films made in Malayalam language. The short film pool consists of animation films, student films, experimental films as well as documentary films

## Art that intervenes

An art contest to campaign for a radical shift in fighting sexual violence gets a heart-warming response from the youth

FAIZAL KHAN

A SCHOOL GIRL is floating in the air against a giant eye in the sky pierced from the top by a set of hands reaching out to help. The digital painting representing these striking images by a young artist reflects the lack of will of society and lethargic crime fighting by the system against the mounting cases of sexual violence against women in India.

The painting is among the more than 100 entries to Art for Freedom, an online national art contest to help change the way society treats survivors of rape. In many ways, the artwork also represents the crying need to modernise investigation and evidence collection by police, the absence of which is often cited as the major reason for the country's abysmal record of rape conviction.

"Today, we live in a modern society where everything is advanced, and we need everything new and high-tech to support our life," says Bhaswati Konwar, a third-year leather design student of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi, who created the digital work that was one of the 25 nominees for the Art for Freedom prize.

Organised by American consultancy firm Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs and Ogilvy India in partnership with UN Women India, UN Foundation's Girl Up campaign, NIFT Delhi and Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM), Pune, the art contest is also aimed at emphasising the need for collecting DNA evidence to secure 100% conviction rate in rape cases.

"A majority of the acquittals in rape cases are because of lack of evidence. Since rape is by its very nature a private crime, evidence, more so DNA evidence, becomes extremely important for proof," says senior Supreme Court advocate Pinky Anand. "In 2016, a study found that 83% of men (accused in rape cases) are acquitted in Delhi," she adds. According to a National Crime Record Bureau report for 2019 released last year, a woman is raped every 16 minutes in India.

Use of DNA evidence in rape cases has been a slow process in the country. "While there's been an improvement in testing volumes over the years, the pace of DNA forensics adoption remains slow," says Tim Schellberg, founder and president of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs, which has been consulted by several countries on legislation and policies to establish or expand criminal offender DNA databases.

"The reasons range from low awareness to lack of training for police personnel and medical examiners on collection and preservation of samples. Testing infrastructure is still inadequate considering the size of India's population and sheer number of violent crimes every day," he adds.

India is moving towards creating a National DNA Bank to modernise crime fighting, but a legislation mooted in 2017 is still pending. The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill 2019 has been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee following fears of misuse over caste and religion. "DNA profiling has become a very important evidence in the detection of crimes like rape



*Eye and Hands*, a digital painting by NIFT-Delhi student Bhaswati Konwar was among the 25 nominees at the Art for Freedom contest

and murder. The government of India has introduced a Bill in Parliament for enacting the DNA Act. This will streamline the entire process of DNA analysis," says JM Vyas, vice-chancellor, National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

"Some big cases like Nirbhaya have been credited with great forensic work. However, such examples are far and wide. We have seen only a handful of high-profile cases making good use of DNA evidence and that too in big cities where police are better trained and equipped," explains Schellberg.

The Art for Freedom campaign is part of the #DNAFightsRape—Save the Evidence citizen awareness initiative launched on November 25, 2019, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, in partnership with Delhi Police, AIIMS and UN Women India. "The aim has been to educate people on their role in saving crucial DNA evidence in sexual offence and rape cases to strengthen India's criminal justice system," says Ameeta Vasudeva, national head PR and influence, Ogilvy India, who created the #DNAFightsRape—Save the Evidence and Art for Freedom campaigns.

The world of art is stepping up to spread the message. Changing the mindset of society to stop blaming and shaming rape survivors and instead helping them fight for justice has been driven home in the Art for Freedom contest. "We as a society need to shift their stance on the mindset," says artist Hanif Kureshi. "Creativity is a powerful tool to change that narrative," adds Kureshi, a jury member of the contest that concluded on April 15.

The youth are responding to the call for change. "When she is seen kissing her boyfriend/When she's just enjoying ice cream on a hot day/When she's fixing her sari as the wind blows/Leave her alone... But when the monsters have their way with her/When she's being beaten and bruised all over/When they ignore her screams and pleas and yelling out 'NO!'/Don't leave her alone" reads *Alone*, a poem by SIBM, Pune student Prerna Ramesh that took the third prize at the competition.

Faizal Khan is a freelancer

ordering from these delivery services: **Pitaara Delivery Kitchen:** From the man who whipped up the fare at Cafe Lota and then Cafe Monsoon comes this new firebrand of Indian home delivery with dishes spanning the length and breadth of our nation. A touch gentrified, but still true to the flavours and fairly light in preparation overall, chef Udit Maheshwari's food is definitely worth passing around the family table.

**Beyond Design Bistro:** It's a smorgasbord of western continental and south-east Asian fare and, before I ordered it, it was a big red flag for me. Can a space do justice to both styles of food, especially when they can be so different? Well, the menu read like a choice pick of the top hits from both continents, so needless to add, I over-ordered. I did feel odd about switching courses from European to Asian in one meal, but overall, I have to hand it to them, they did fair justice to all the dishes, no matter their provenance. It's priced on the higher end of the common-spend range, but the presentation and products merit that premium.

**Etsu:** These guys send tasting menus—either European or Asian—so once again,

a potential scare, but maybe the above experience had reinstalled my faith. But I ended up sticking to an Asian menu and it was good, overall satisfying with sumptuous and cognisant flavours even if adapted for local palates. The chilli oil chicken dimsums deserve a special mention.

**Fresh & Organic:** This is an aggregator site and it stocks the usual array of groceries from reputable brands, but of special interest to me were its in-house teas, especially the Kahwa, which came both in powder form and the ground (whole) format. With the latter, frankly, I was more keen to do an infused gin, but somehow I have refrained insofar. That aside, the tea was definitely worth trying and much better than the other teas sold on the site.

**Delicut:** This is a brand that's packing sous-vide meats in preparation styles ranging from Buffalo wings and Yakitori skewers to Teriyaki pork belly and lamb burger patties. It was all very well-prepared and packed. Their USP, I guess, would be low-effort, high-quality and yet fresh fare. Definitely worth a try.

The writer is a sommelier



## Deja food

Thanks to Covid's second wave, we are back to square one: looking up new places to order food from

THIS TIME LAST year, we had just entered the pandemic and F&B outlets were in a state of shock. They didn't know what was happening and how long it would continue to happen. Finally, as time passed, they all learned to pivot, shifting from in-house dining to home delivering and

# Idea Exchange

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

RS SHARMA, CHAIRMAN OF EMPOWERED GROUP ON VACCINE ADMINISTRATION; CEO, NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

## Co-Win an extremely scalable platform...tech backbone is in place, we can handle (vaccine) load that comes

Sharma talks about using learnings from Aadhaar to ensure speed, inclusivity in vaccination, says vaccine wastage is a management issue, notes that supply, capacity, demand will determine vaccine coverage, and explains risks in home vaccination. The session was moderated by Senior Correspondent Prabha Raghavan

**RS SHARMA:** ... There are four components of the Co-WIN platform. One is the citizen-facing application, which is for booking appointments and registrations. The other component is at the point of vaccination, where there is verification of your identity, then you get vaccinated and the event is recorded. That's the vaccination module. The third module is what enables hospitals to publish their schedule of vaccination and the fourth module is for issuance of digital certificates after the vaccination. We have built these components as public utilities... Initially we have joined them together through APIs (application programming interfaces). These APIs have all been made public so that tomorrow at an appropriate time, we can open them up for development of third-party applications for scheduling an appointment, etc. That is what we have done.

**PRABHA RAGHAVAN:** As chairman of the Empowered Group on Vaccine Administration (Co-WIN), what specific modifications did you make to meet the country's vaccination objective?

I was given this responsibility on January 8-9—the honourable Prime Minister launched the vaccination programme on January 16—and, at that point in time, what I inherited, so to say, was an application. We were covering healthcare and frontline workers from January 16 to February 1. We had collected the list of all the frontline and healthcare workers from the states and, (through the application), we were essentially slotting these workers for vaccination at particular health facilities. We were sending them messages saying that you can come to this facility on this date to get yourself vaccinated. But what I observed was that, because the data itself was not very clean—like on many occasions the phone numbers were not correct—many people were not getting the messages. Also, at times, even if the message reached them, they could not come on a particular day because of the nature of their job, which required them to travel. So we realised that the supply-driven approach resulted in low efficiency of vaccination centres. Let's say a centre had planned for 100 vaccinations, but only 20 people turned up, so there is underutilisation of manpower. We decided that this approach is not going to work, especially when it is applied to the general public. The first change that we made was to make our approach demand-driven. That was one fundamental change.

Earlier, we were also saying that the second dose should be given at the same centre to ensure that the person gets the same vaccine. But, suppose some body is in Delhi and has to make a trip to Trivandrum to visit his family. Now, we cannot ask him to travel to Delhi only to get his second dose. So, the second change that we made was to give more flexibility in booking the second appointment at any centre. The only thing we said was that you will be able to view (on the Co-WIN platform) only those centres which are delivering the same vaccine which was given to you the first time.

Then, we created open APIs. It's a future-proof application. Say tomorrow the hospitals decide to have their own vaccine appointment system, and it is felt that there is no need for a centralised appointment system, then that will be possible. The hospitals can then create their own systems and just plug into this (Co-WIN). So having an open API is the third part. It is an extremely important policy because it ensures innovation on top of the existing system. We want to connect with various players in this digital space...

And lastly, scalability is very important. We designed the system for a scale of 10,000 concurrent users (per second). Then, the other aspect was making it easy for people to register. For that, we let four people register from the same mobile. It made the system more inclusive.

**PRABHA RAGHAVAN:** Are there any learnings from the process so far that you want to take forward or improve upon in the future?

Certainly. The vaccination certificate can probably become one of your health records... With consent, we can issue unique health IDs to the person (getting vaccinated), and he has ownership of the record. Going forward, this can become



### WHY RS SHARMA

**S**harma has been playing a key role in India's response to the Covid-19 pandemic as chairman of the Empowered Group on Vaccine Administration. The former TRAI chief was also part of the leadership team that built and launched Aadhaar



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

one of the digital health applications.

Another thing is about aligning with global standards. The World Health Organization is actually creating a standard for digital certification of vaccination and we are aligning with them. As soon as they come up with their standards, from day one we will be aligned with it. So our certificate will be interoperable and anywhere in the world you can digitally verify it.

The other learning that we applied were from the Aadhaar days to ensure speed, inclusivity, interoperability, open APIs, open standards, and open source. All these principles have been incorporated to design the vaccination application.

**Completely disagree with claim that Co-WIN delayed vaccinations. It has no role to play in delaying or accelerating the vaccination programme**

**PRABHA RAGHAVAN:** How has the public response to vaccination evolved in the past month?

While more than 80 million registrations and appointments are taking place on the system, we are seeing that a majority of the people

are just going to centres and getting themselves vaccinated... Now, we are promoting (getting registrations and appointments in advance) from the perspective of crowd management and people not getting disappointed... say, a centre has the capacity to vaccinate 100 people and 200 people land up there... Therefore, the appointment system, in our view, is a better system from every angle, but that's not happening. However, we have a walk-in system and it does not compromise on any attribute... People should not think of it as some kind of shortcut.

**ANIL SASI:** How are we bringing down vaccine wastage? It has come down from 13% to 6% now. Also, how much

of a challenge is the second shot?

Vaccine wastage is really something which we should eliminate as much as possible. Now, let me give you some idea as to why vaccine wastage takes place. So, let's say a centre has a capacity for 100 vaccinations and about 81 people arrive at the centre, including both with appointments and walk-ins. A vial consists of 10 vaccines. Now after 80 people get vaccinated, a new vial will have to be opened for the 81st person. Now you can either ask the person to return, or the healthcare worker thinks that let me give this one shot and then others may also trickle in. But what if you give the 81st dose and then no one turns up. So, nine vaccine shots get wasted. Nine out of 81 is essentially about 11% wastage. This is unacceptable, right?

So, what can be done? One option is to have larger centres... For example, if a centre has capacity for 1,000 vaccinations and 991 take place, then only nine shots will be wasted, which is less than 1%. The issue of wastage is a management kind of issue, not so much a technology issue. And management is common sense.

Then, there is the second shot challenge. In the case of Covishield, the window is of six to eight weeks... Now, why should I restrict a person's choice to only one particular day in the window by giving him an appointment. So, we stopped that (giving appointment for second dose). We are saying, alright, you got your first dose, there's a window of six to eight weeks in which you should get the second dose and you can make appointments later. And then say after five weeks, we start sending messages... If the person has already made an appointment somewhere, we are fine... If he has not made an appointment, we send a message to him to make one. We send three to four SMSes to him. We are actually nudging him again and again to ensure that he gets vaccinated. But that's all we can do. We can't force them... We will also have a few

glitches in a few days. By January 19 or 20, the software had become stable. Also, the problem was not with the software; the problem was with data. For example, we had collected the names of frontline and healthcare workers in Excel sheets. Now those names were there with the phone number, etc. As the Excel sheet did not have any validation, there were phone numbers that had nine digits or started with 00 (wrong phone numbers)... So, because of the data, we could not send messages to those people... So, there were more problems with the data than with the software that we were using... I completely disagree with the hypothesis that Co-WIN delayed the vaccination programme. It has no role to play in

delaying or accelerating the vaccination programme. It is only an enabling platform which records the vaccinations and facilitates the vaccination programme. Speed is not really in the hands of the software; it is a function of multiple factors.

**TARASUJ BARNAGARWALA:** You have spoken about the role of technology in building health infrastructure. India relied on a new software to run an adult mass vaccination programme. In January and February, we saw huge delays in administering vaccination due to multiple glitches. Do you think using the new software was a big risk that we took?

On Co-WIN glitches, I can concede that... when we started working on that, there were already some applications

which were there and we did not have time to re-engineer or overhaul that application. So, in the initial days when the software started, we did have some glitches (like OTPs not getting delivered). However, we actually plugged these glitches in a few days. By January 19 or 20, the software had become stable. Also, the problem was not with the software; the problem was with data. For example, we had collected the names of frontline and healthcare workers in Excel sheets. Now those names were there with the phone number, etc. As the Excel sheet did not have any validation, there were phone numbers that had nine digits or started with 00 (wrong phone numbers)... So, because of the data, we could not send messages to those people... So, there were more problems with the data than with the software that we were using... I completely disagree with the hypothesis that Co-WIN delayed the vaccination programme. It has no role to play in

delaying or accelerating the vaccination programme. It is only an enabling platform which records the vaccinations and facilitates the vaccination programme. Speed is not really in the hands of the software; it is a function of multiple factors.

**SUNNY VERMA:** Have you done any assessment internally or otherwise on how long it would take for the entire population of the country to get vaccinated?

I am not really in charge of these aspects. I think it will be interesting to look at dashboard.cowin.gov.in. It gives a real-time snapshot of the vaccination done, day, gender, centre, state, district, etc. It's a good overview of the vaccination programme and one can drill down to district or whatever level one wants. It also reports AEFI (Adverse event following immunisation), which is basically adverse effect numbers. It's a comprehensive information system.

But with regard to the actual estimates—how much time it will take (to vaccinate the entire population)—there are three variables which actually work in deciding these numbers. The first variable is the vaccine supply. The second variable is capacity to vaccinate, and the third variable is the demand—how

**Appointment system is a better system, but that's not happening. Walk-in system does not compromise on any attribute... (But) must not see it as a shortcut**

It also has to serve India's diversity. So, we are also giving certificates in local languages. So, from a tech standpoint, it's a fairly robust product.

**RAJ KAMAL JHA:** Given the surge, many more vaccines will have to enter the system. How prepared is the Co-WIN platform to handle that?

Absolutely. Suppose tomorrow we have Sputnik V, and day after tomorrow, we have some other vaccine. We don't have to change anything in the software. We just add another input. They are all data points and you just plug that in... The data points for a vaccine are batch number, the vaccine name and of course the recommended gap (between shots) etc. These are the data points which you plug into the software and it starts dispensing... It's fairly scalable and we

are very sure that we will be able to implement any policy which the government may decide. It will be compliant... I am very clear that it is the policy which directs technology and not the other way around. We are following that principle.

**KAUSHIK DAS GUPTA:** In future, Covid vaccine will be available in the open market. Is the Co-WIN app suited to take care of such an eventuality?

Absolutely... Typically people think that this is something which has been built to serve only the government, it is regulated stuff... Currently, vaccines are in emergency use authorisation. They are not available in the market and they cannot be priced and sold in the open market. But tomorrow, suppose that happens (availability of vaccines in open market). Now, the application that we have built has components. One is reservation, which deals with appointment and scheduling. Now, in an open market situation, that is irrelevant. You don't require that. Similarly, vaccination happening in an open market situation, you are not required to record that much stuff... However, you may still require a certificate... to say that a person has been vaccinated with a particular vaccine. Now, the way in which we have designed these things is that all these components can work independently in some sense. You can discard the first component of appointment... and directly connect with the certification model... So the certification components (of the Co-WIN app) can be useful for issuing certificates that are digitally verifiable.

**SHUBHAJIT ROY:** What have we learnt from Covid vaccination programmes from across the world?

Many of these learnings will be replicable and applicable here, but many of them may not be. For example, in the US, when vaccination takes place, they issue certificates on a piece of paper. Now, in the US, it may not cause much of a problem because it has that kind of literacy levels and awareness is much higher. In India, literacy is low and people are not that aware. We need to have a solution which is appropriate for our diverse environment. If technology can make the vaccination programme more efficient, then I think we must leverage technology... Frankly, I am not aware of such a digital backbone (like India's) in any other country. We are quite busy in our endeavour to ensure that our application is stable.

We have the infrastructure at the backend as well as safety and security policies in place. We are also going to release the Co-WIN implementation strategy... The tech backbone is absolutely scalable, safe, secure. It has

all the attributes of a software which is easy and inclusive... We have learned in our 10 years of experience with Aadhaar, UPI (Unified Payments Interface) and other kinds of frameworks that for any technology to succeed in our country, it has to have the following attributes: data collection must be minimum—we are not even collecting residential addresses, we are just collecting age, name and gender; and it has to be easy and inclusive. This inclusion has been ensured through Aarogya Setu... Any smartphone can be used for it (registration) and you can also do it through the portal. And we will be opening it up for other third-party apps also.

We have designed it on open APIs. In US, vaccine certificates are being issued on paper. In India, literacy is low. We need solutions for our environment. No country has digital backbone like us

The government has enabled vaccination at workplaces. Wherever you take the vaccination, you must ensure a couple of things. There has to be adequate space so that the vaccination centre doesn't become a point of infection. Most important is to have a doctor... So that in case of any adverse reaction, you can immediately take care of it. In case there is an adverse reaction and the vaccination is being done at home, there can be serious issues. So I think that is one of the reasons why we are restricting it to places where you have easy accessibility or at least you can take care of the adverse reactions in time.

# Footloose

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021



## ENTRY POINT

Alaska was occupied by various indigenous peoples for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. The state is considered the entry point for the settlement of North America by way of the Bering land bridge.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY  
COLIN ARISMAN

**M**Y CAMERA LENS is pressed against the window of the small float-plane as it flies below a thick ceiling of clouds. The mist clings to the hillsides of a temperate rainforest that descend steeply to the rocky coastline of south-east Alaska.

The plane banks, and a tiny village comes into view. A scattering of houses are built on stilts on the water's edge. We circle and I see fishing boats tied up next to a large dock and a floating post office. The pilot throttles down and the pontoons skim across the glassy water inside the bay. We taxi to the public dock and I step out in front of the Point Baker general store.

Life along the Alaska coast is economically and culturally dependent on fishing. Each summer, millions of salmon — after maturing in the ocean — begin their journey back to the rivers in which they were spawned. Fishermen, along with whales, eagles, and bears, share in the abundance.

For many in Alaska, salmon represent the wild, untamed landscape that makes their home so special.

Alaska has over 6,000 miles of coastline, more than four times that of any other state. There are a multitude of tiny fishing villages scattered along the edge of the Pacific Ocean, and many are only accessible by boat or plane. A number of these remote communities are indigenous villages, where fishing has been a cornerstone of life for thousands of years.

I grew up fishing in the rivers and lakes of Vermont. My fascination with fish led me to study the history of early industrialisation in New England and to gain an understanding of the toll that pollution, dams and overfishing had on East Coast waterways.

Atlantic salmon were once abundant in the north-east, but their numbers have significantly decreased.

My hunger grew to witness a river teeming with wild salmon and a culture still interdependent with the bounty of the ocean. After college, I began traveling to Alaska annually to fly fish and pursue work as a photojournalist and documentary filmmaker.

On the dock in Point Baker, I load my bag onto the boat of my friend Joe Sebastian, a local fisherman. Joe fires up the diesel engine and we pull out of the harbour.

Joe, originally from the Midwest, moved to Point Baker in 1978 with the hopes of becoming an independent fisherman. When he arrived, he bought a commercial fishing permit for \$20 and a small wooden skiff with a six-horsepower outboard motor for about \$1,000.

"The world was a lot less complicated back then," he says.

Joe began to fish, learning the ins and outs of salmon trolling from the old-timers who had called Alaska home since before it became a state. Trolling is a highly selective, low-impact method of fishing that involves dragging lines through the water and catching individual salmon that choose to bite the hooks. Not to be confused with trawling, which entails the use of giant drag nets, trolling is slower and lower volume than other methods of salmon fishing. It also maintains the highest quality of fish.

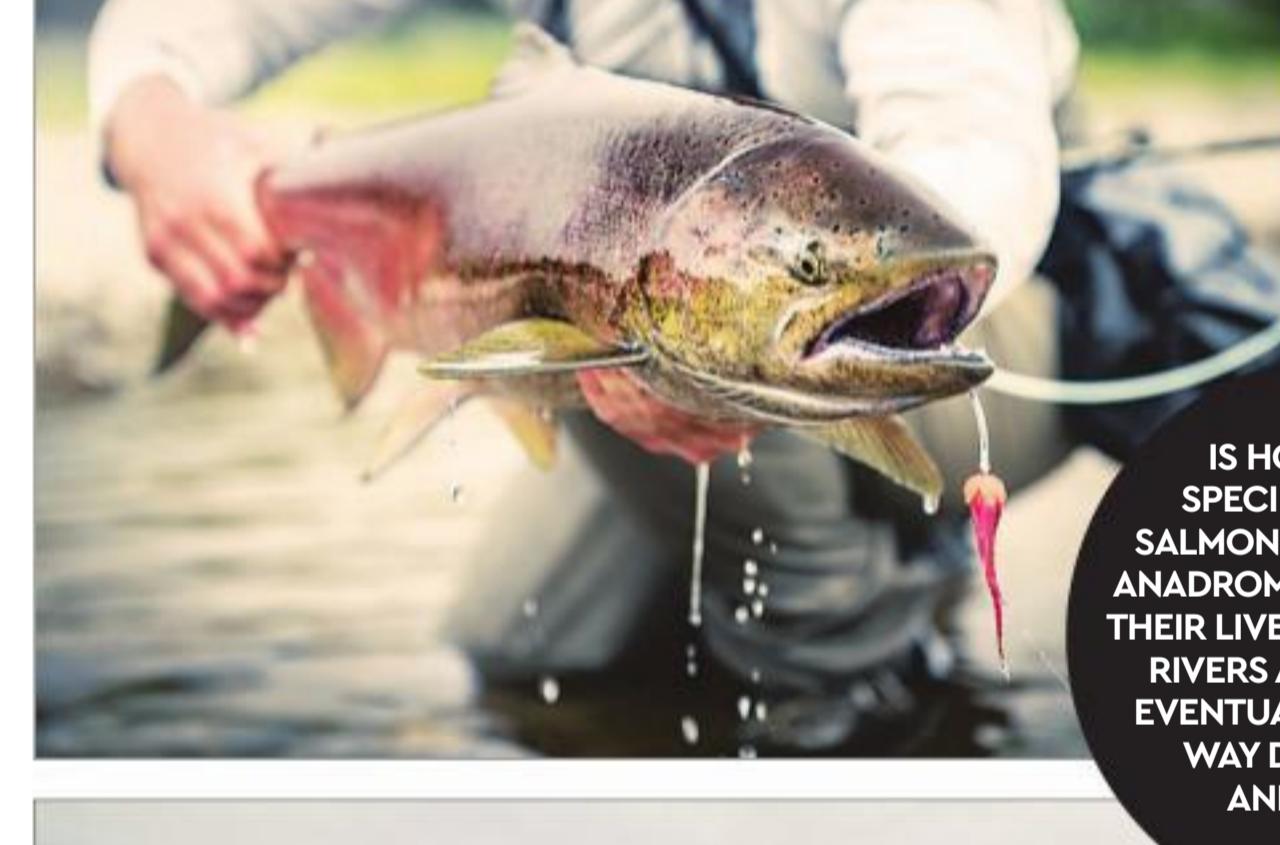
After a decade of fishing in Alaska, Joe and his wife, Joan, bought a 42-foot wooden fishing boat. They raised their children in Point Baker in the winter, and on their boat, the Alte E, in the summer.

"Honestly, it wasn't always a great time — seasickness, cramped quarters and clothes that smelled like fish," their daughter Elsa, now 30, says, reflecting on her childhood. Still, she became a fisherman anyway. "Spending summers on the ocean becomes who you are," she says. "I love the way that fishing makes me fundamentally part of an ecosystem."

Alaska is home to five species of Pacific salmon. These fish are anadromous; they begin their lives in freshwater rivers and lakes and eventually make their way down

# On the water in Alaska, where salmon fishing dreams live on

Each summer, salmon begin their journey back to the rivers where they were spawned. Alaskan fishermen, along with whales, eagles and bears, share in the abundance



ALASKA IS HOME TO FIVE SPECIES OF PACIFIC SALMON. THESE FISH ARE ANADROMOUS; THEY BEGIN THEIR LIVES IN FRESHWATER RIVERS AND LAKES AND EVENTUALLY MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN RIVERS AND INTO THE OCEAN



(Clockwise from left) A fisherman prepares his boat for the Bristol Bay sockeye season in Dillingham, Alaska; a Chinook salmon; a fisherman casts into the current on the Goodnews River; Klawock, an Alaska native community, has been home to the Tlingit people for thousands of years; and a floatplane on its weekly route between villages in south-east Alaska

salmon returning to Bristol Bay have been caught each year, without an effect on their overall abundance, according to Daniel Schindler, a biologist at the University of Washington, in Seattle.

Lured by this legendary fishery, a few friends fly in to Dillingham to join me on a 10-day fly-fishing excursion deep in the backcountry, on the fringes of the Tongass National Wildlife Refuge. We load a floatplane with food, an inflatable raft, fishing rods and camping gear. We fly low over the tundra, crossing river after river full of salmon. From a few hundred feet above, we can see the red sockeye in dense schools in the slow eddies of the rivers.

We land on an alpine lake at the headwaters of the Goodnews River, inflate our raft and float downstream. We begin casting, and the action is non-stop.

For three friends who grew up in New England, the trip is the manifestation of a dream we've held our whole lives. As children we stared into deep pools of rivers in New England, imagining them pulsing with monster fish.

Here in Alaska, that dream is still alive.

NYT

rivers and into the ocean. Depending on the species, salmon may spend between about one and seven years in the ocean before beginning their journey home to the freshwater where they were born.

The ability of salmon to find their way home is one of nature's greatest

miracles. Among other navigational aids, salmon can detect a single drop of water from its home stream mixed in 250 gallons of saltwater.

Once salmon enter their native watershed, some spawn immediately and others travel a thousand miles or more

upriver. Soon after reproducing, they die and decompose.

Over the last 50 years, anadromous fish populations have declined significantly in California, Oregon and Washington. Alaska remains the United States' last great salmon stronghold.

Salmon are extremely sensitive to water quality and depend on cold, clean, oxygenated water to survive — and Alaska is not immune to the same threats that have decimated salmon farther south. Logging and mining degrade some salmon habitat in Alaska, and climate change is compounding these impacts.

Many Alaskans are still concerned about the threat of the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, the permit for which

was denied by the Army Corps of Engineers in November. This region of south-western Alaska supports the world's largest sockeye salmon run. Since the

1960s, more than half of the sockeye

## Clean your patio for the season

Sprucing up for spring includes giving lawn furniture the cleaning it deserves

HANNAH SELINGER

THE WEATHER IS turning the corner, and that means one thing: it's patio season. Before you resurrect the outdoor space of your dreams, though, give your patio furniture the spring cleaning it deserves. Here's how to get your furniture ready.

### Assess the damage

Before diving in, give your furniture a visual inspection. For wood furniture, you may find that the wood has bowed, cracked or discoloured during the cooler seasons. Look for signs of rust on metal furniture, for any cane unravelling on your wicker, and tears or animal damage on fabrics. A visual inspection, said

Josh Bateman, owner of Prince Garden-

ing in Pittsburgh, can help to establish a cleaning "game plan."

### Remove debris

In addition to dirt, your furniture may have organic matter in hard-to-reach places. Cobwebs, insects and leaves are likely to accumulate on furniture that has been sitting around unused. Regardless of your furniture's material, "the first step is to take a soft-bristled brush or cloth and wipe down any dust, dirt, or leaves," Bateman said.

Dawn Hollier, owner of Sparkleyard Outdoor Maids in Los Angeles, said, "A good bench brush and pretty much any rag you have lying around the house will get you far."

For furniture with more to eliminate,

BEFORE DIVING IN, GIVE YOUR FURNITURE A VISUAL INSPECTION. THIS CAN HELP TO ESTABLISH A CLEANING GAME PLAN



consider a garden hose with a targeted spray nozzle, which will quickly wash away anything too large or sticky for a sponge.

### Make necessary repairs

After surveying your furniture, determine what kind of repairs it needs. For small cracks in wooden chairs or tables, use wood putty to fill in gaps, said Jenna Shaughnessy, founder of the home décor and DIY site JennaKataAtHome.com.

"Loose joints can easily be fixed with wood glue," she said. "If the furniture was previously painted, I like to give it a quick sanding and apply a fresh coat of exterior-grade paint to freshen it up."

Faded plastic furniture, she said, can be brought back to life with spray paint made especially for plastics.

Loose caning can be a persistent problem with wicker. "If a customer has invested in higher-quality woven furniture from a specialty retailer, they can sometimes order additional material that can then be woven into their existing area and secured," said Brad Schweig, vice-president for operations at Sunny-

land Outdoor Living in Dallas.

### Protect from the elements

The final step in getting your furniture ready for the season is to protect it. Teak can be oiled yearly with tung oil to prevent the gray patina, but oil should be applied after the furniture is fully clean and dry. The patina, Schweig said, helps protect the wood. If you prefer to maintain the original teak colour, he said, clean the teak and apply sealant, which must be stripped off before the next cleaning.

Wicker furniture in the sun, Hollier said, "should be conditioned monthly with a UV protectant." Dry cushions and covers can be sprayed with a fabric protectant. For metal furniture, add a rust protectant. For ongoing care, Bateman recommended bringing outdoor furniture inside when the weather turns "to prevent further distress and fading." He also said to be vigilant.

Addressing rust and mould early is crucial to the longevity of patio furniture.

NYT

# Mind & Games

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

## Coal is set to roar back, and so are its climate risks

To slow down climate change, new coal projects need to end. A global forecast shows demand rising sharply

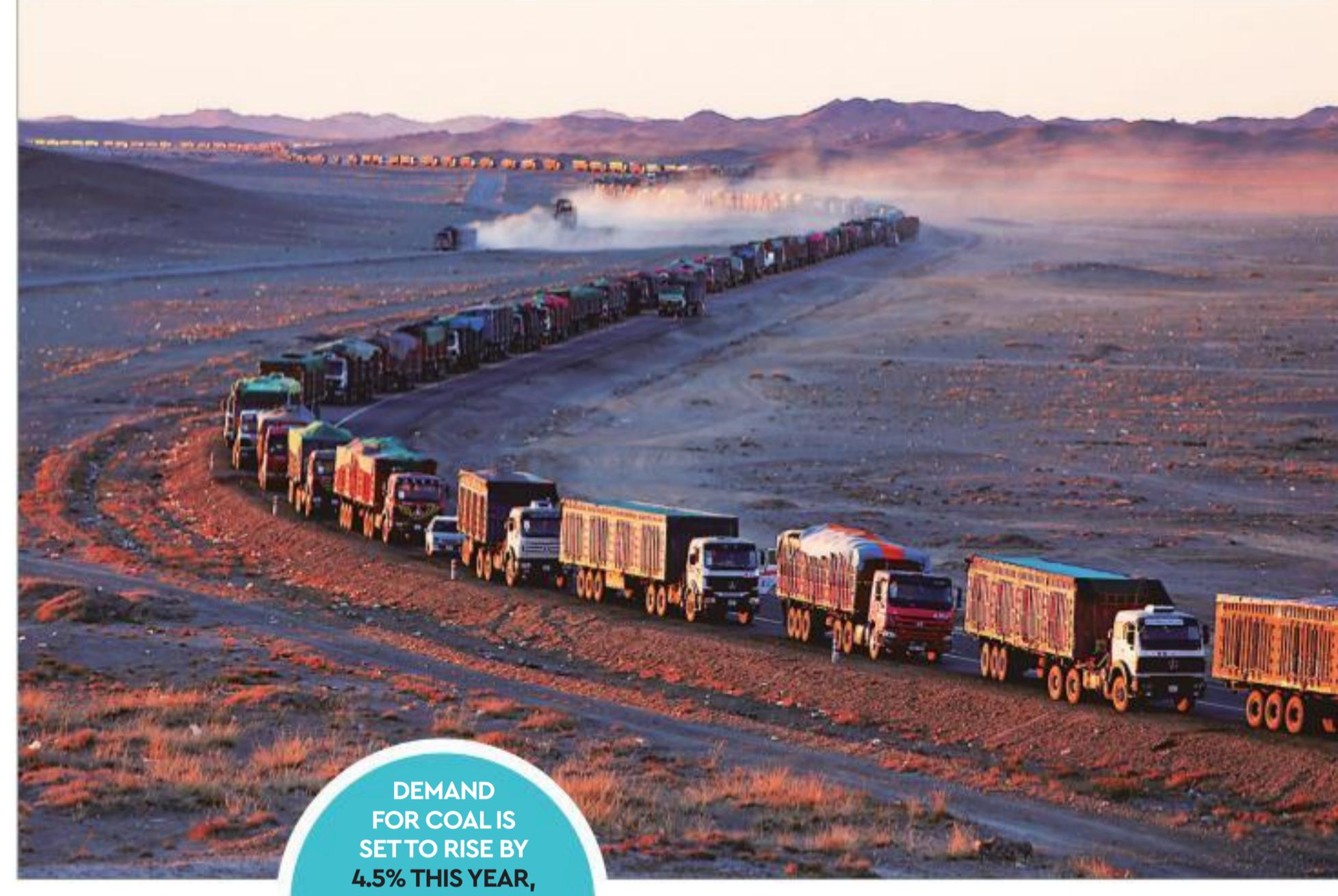
SOMINI SENGUPTA

**T**HE PANDEMIC ABRUPTLY slowed the global march of coal. But demand for the world's dirtiest fuel is forecast to soar this year, gravely undermining the chances of staving off the worst effects of global warming. Burning coal is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions, and, after a pandemic-year retreat, demand for coal is set to rise by 4.5% this year, mainly to meet soaring electricity demand, according to data published recently by the International Energy Agency. "This is a dire warning that the economic recovery from the Covid crisis is currently anything but sustainable for our climate," Fatih Birol, the head of the agency, said in a statement.

Coal is at the crux of critical political decisions that government leaders need to make this year if they are to transition to a green economy. Scientists say greenhouse gas emissions need to be halved by 2030 in order for the world to have a fighting chance at limiting dangerous levels of warming. In short, this is a historic juncture for coal.

For 150 years, more and more of its sooty deposits have been extracted from under the ground, first to power the economies of Europe and North America, then Asia and Africa. Today, coal is still the largest source of electricity, though its share is steadily shrinking as other sources of power come online, from nuclear to wind. Global spending on coal projects dropped to its lowest level in a decade in 2019. And, over the last 20 years, more coal-fired powerplants have been retired or shelved than commissioned. The big holdouts are China, India and parts of south-east Asia, but, even there, coal's once-swift growth is nowhere as swift as it was just a few years ago, according to a recent analysis.

In some countries where new coal-fired power plants were only recently being built by the gigawatts, plans for new ones have been shelved, as in South



DEMAND FOR COAL IS SET TO RISE BY 4.5% THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

Africa, or reconsidered, as in Bangladesh, or facing funding troubles, as in Vietnam. In some countries, like India, existing coal plants are running way below capacity and losing money. In others, like the United States, they are being decommissioned faster than ever.

Nonetheless, demand is still strong. "Coal is not dead," said Melissa C Lott, research director for the Center for Global Energy Research at Columbia University. "We have made a lot of progress, but we have not made that curve."

Coal is the lightning rod of climate diplomacy this year, as countries scramble to rebuild their economies after the coronavirus pandemic while at the same time, stave off the risks of a warming planet. The Biden administration has leaned on its allies Japan and Korea to stop financing coal use abroad. And it has repeatedly called out China for its soaring coal use. China is by far the largest consumer of coal, and is still building coal-fired power plants at home and abroad.

China's president Xi Jinping took a swipe at that criticism recently by pointing

to the historical responsibility of western industrialised nations to do more to slow down warming. The United States accounts for the largest share of emissions in history; China accounts for the largest share of emissions today.

"The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be upheld," Xi said at his own global summit in the city of Boao.

### 'Growing opposition against coal'

Since the start of the industrial era, coal has been the main fuel to light up homes, power factories and, in some places, to cook and heat rooms, too. For over a century, Europe and the United States consumed most of the world's coal. Today, China and India account for two-thirds of coal consumption.

Other energy sources have joined the mix as electricity demand has soared: nuclear, wind, and, most recently, hydrogen. Coal made room for new entrants but refused to retreat.

Today, several forces are rising against coal. People are clamouring against deadly levels of air pollution,

caused by its combustion. Wind and solar energy, once far costlier than coal, are becoming competitive, while some countries are facing a glut of coal-fired plants already built.

So, even in countries where coal use is growing, the pace of growth is slowing.

In South Africa, after years of lawsuits, plans to build a coal-fired power station in Limpopo Province were cancelled last November.

In at least three countries, Chinese-funded projects are in trouble or dead. In Kenya, a proposed coal plant has languished for years because of litigation. In Egypt, a planned coal plant is indefinitely postponed. In Bangladesh, Chinese-backed projects are among 15 planned coal plants that the government in Dhaka is reviewing, with an eye to cancelling them altogether.

Pakistan, saddled by debts, announced a vague moratorium on new coal projects. Vietnam, which is still expanding its coal fleet, scaled back plans for new plants. The Philippines, under pressure from citizens' groups, hit the pause button on new projects.

"Broadly speaking, there's growing opposition against coal and a lot more

A file photo of thousands of heavy-duty trucks loaded with coal lined up in the Gobi desert, Mongolia

REUTERS



Want your kid to learn something new? Sign yourself up, too

■ One of the roles that new parents soon find themselves in is that of teacher. Suddenly, in the eyes of a child, you're a math whiz, an authority on shoelace tying.

■ But there comes that inevitable moment when you decide your child might enjoy learning something that you actually do not know how to do. And so you enroll them in an after-school art or coding class; sign them up for a weekend soccer or dance programme.

■ As it turns out, there are any number of activities where children can not only be ideal learning partners, but can actually exceed the abilities of adults. "Children pay more attention to what they see than what they are told," said Deborah Stipek, a professor of education at Stanford University. Parents, she said, "need to establish a learning culture in their home — not just issue commands."

■ One of the potential virtues of learning something new along with your child is that you are, at some point, likely to struggle. And that itself has benefits, suggested Julia Leonard, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania who focuses on children's learning.

■ In a series of experiments, Leonard and colleagues found that the more time adults spent successfully working through a problem (like getting a toy out of a box or solving a simple puzzle), the longer young children in their presence were willing to spend on the task.

TOM VANDERBILT/NYT

scrutiny right now," said Daine Loh, a south-east Asia power sector energy specialist at Fitch Solutions, an industry analysis firm. "It's a trend... moving away from coal. It's very gradual."

Money is part of the problem. Development banks are shying away from coal. Japan and Korea, two major financiers of coal, have tightened restrictions on new coal projects. Japan is still building coal plants at home, rare among industrialised countries, though Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said in October that his country would aspire to draw down its emissions to net-zero by 2050.

There are some big exceptions. Indonesia and Australia continue to mine their abundant coal deposits. Perhaps most oddly, Britain, which is hosting the next international climate talks, is opening a new coal mine.

And then there are the world's biggest coal consumers, China and India.

Coal's future in China is at the centre of a robust debate in the country, with prominent policy advisers pressing for a near-moratorium on new coal plants and state-owned companies insisting that China needs to burn more coal for years to come.

India's coal fleet is growing as well, bankrolled by state-owned lenders. There is not much of a signal from the government that it wants to reduce its reliance on coal, even as it seeks to expand solar energy.

But even India's coal fleet isn't growing as fast as it was just a few years ago. On paper, India plans to add some 60 gigawatts of coal power capacity by 2026, but given how many existing plants are operating at barely half capacity, it's unclear how many new ones will ultimately be built. A handful of state politicians have publicly opposed new coal-fired power plants in their states.

How much more coal India needs to burn, said Ritu Mathur, an economist at The Energy & Resources Institute in New Delhi, depends on how fast its electricity demand grows, and it could grow very fast if India pushes electric vehicles. "To say we can do away with coal, or that renewables can meet all our demand," Mathur said, "is not the story."

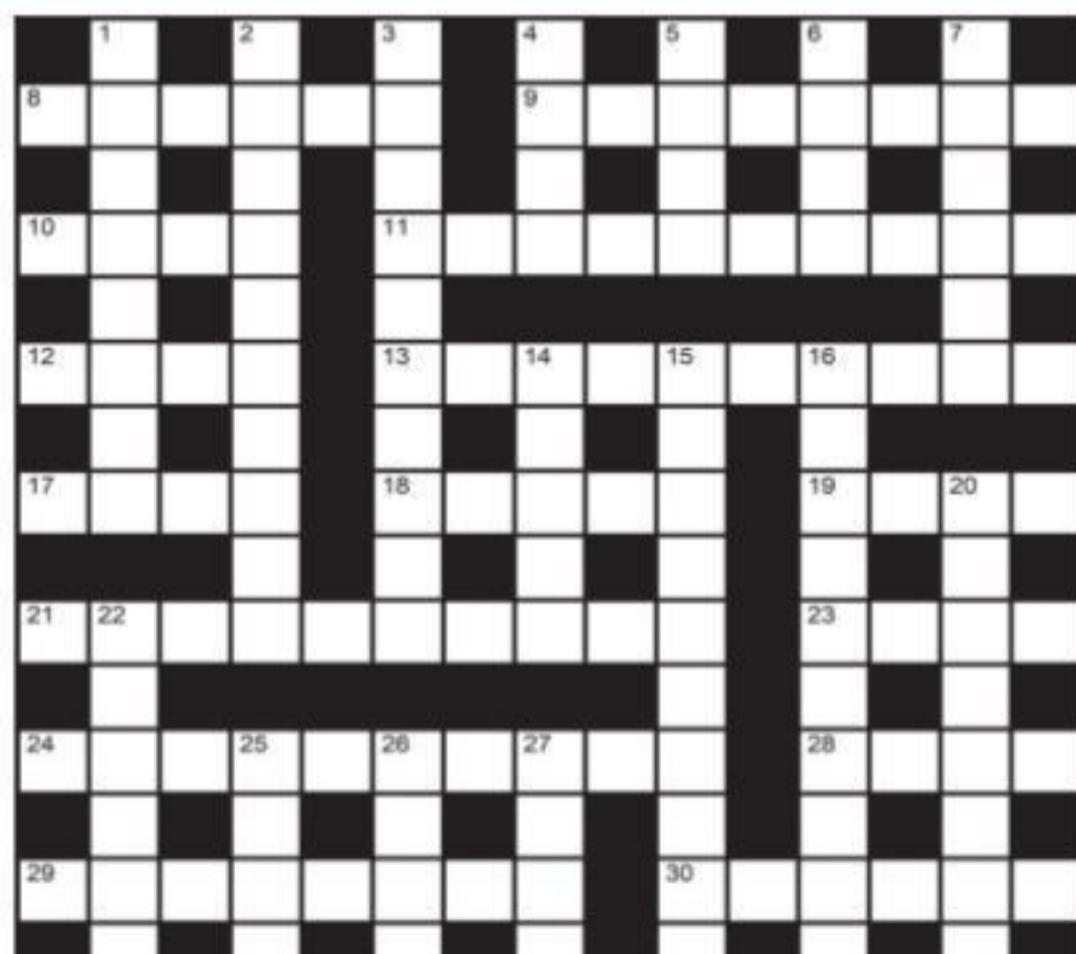
Julfikar Ali Manik and Hiroko Tabuchi contributed reporting  
NYT

## CROSSWORD

## KAKURO

## BRIDGE BOUTS L SUBRAMANIAN

## LEXICON



## ACROSS

- 8 Japanese robe (6)
- 9 Unequivocal or unambiguous (8)
- 10 A short section or illustration that is often used for advertising (4)
- 11 Come to nothing; be wasted? (3,2,5)
- 12 National Thermal Power Corp. (4)
- 13 Constellation near the north celestial pole (10)
- 17 Norse god of thunder (4)
- 18 Mountain nymph - "O, dear" changed? (5)
- 19 Decays or decomposes (4)
- 21 Co-founder of Happiest Minds Technologies (5,5)
- 23 Above or done with (4)
- 24 Music wherein sound dies away (10)

- 28 "A" in LAN (4)
- 29 Major cellular service provider (8)
- 30 Shouted at the top of one's voice (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Send off for a purpose (8)
- 2 Monaco resort (5,5)
- 3 Meet or encounter (4,6)
- 4 Pay close attention to (4)
- 5 In \_\_\_ air: outdoors? (4)
- 6 Irish writer O'Flaherty (4)
- 7 Tokyo Stock Exchange index (6)
- 14 In short, the one who takes a dictation? (5)
- 15 Former Chief Executive Officer of beverage giant Pepsico (5,5)
- 16 As regards oneself? (10)



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.

## BIZ QUIZ

- Which state is to involve 'Arthiyas' in the direct payment process for farmers?
- Sputnik V, the Covid-19 vaccine, which was approved by the Indian Experts panel, was launched by which country?
- Which country has launched a hotline to report online defamatory comments made by 'historical nihilists'?

## ANSWERS

1. Punjab, 2. Russia

3. China

## 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: RDZ equals MAY

Aw splle limwirz,  
awtmtbdsamw, lycidsamw,  
dwy rmsabdsamw dhl blb-  
hzspaw-. Gauu luawsamw

## THREE IN ONE

Really do you come across a part-score deal which throws up interesting points on bidding, play, and defence.

Dlr: North	S KT 5 3	N	S
Vul: None	H KT 2	1C	2NT
	D AJ 5		
	C J 8 4	pass	

SA 9 2	N
H Q 9 8 7 5 3	S
D Q T 9 2	
C -	

You lead the H7; to the two, jack, and declarer's ace. Declarer plays a club to dummy's jack which wins the trick. A second club to declarer's queen is allowed to win, and partner wins the ace when declarer plays the club king next from his hand. Meanwhile, you pitch three hearts from your hand! East shifts to the D3, to your king, and dummy's ace. A spade to declarer's queen loses to your ace and you play the ten of diamonds next. Dummy plays the jack and partner wins with the king. Partner cashes the D8 and returns his last diamond which you win with the nine. You play back a spade, dummy finessing the ten. East wins and looks declarer in dummy by returning the third spade. You come to a heart trick in the end to beat the contract by two tricks to score 5 IMPs. The complete hands are:

S KT 5 3	H KT 2	D AJ 5	C J 8 4
SA 9 2	H Q 9 8 7 5 3	D Q T 9 2	C A T 6 3 2
S Q 7 6	H A 6 4	D 7 4	C K Q T 9 5

**Discussion:** North's 1C opening was terrible. With 4-3-3-3 flat distribution and a nine-loser hand, the sensible thing to do, you will agree with me, is to pass.

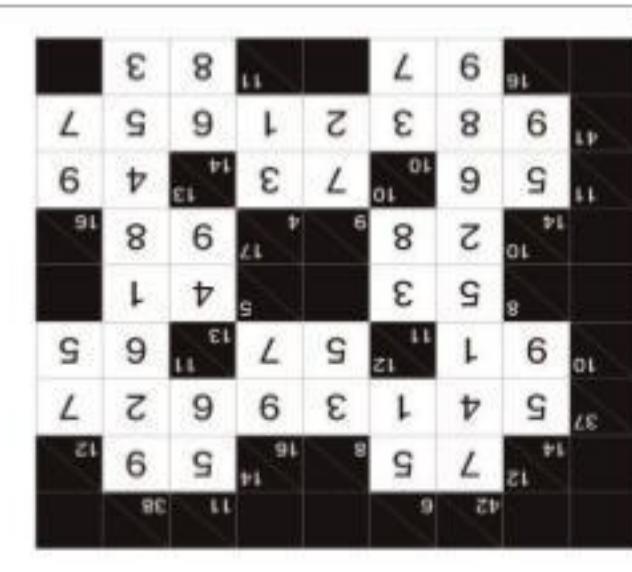
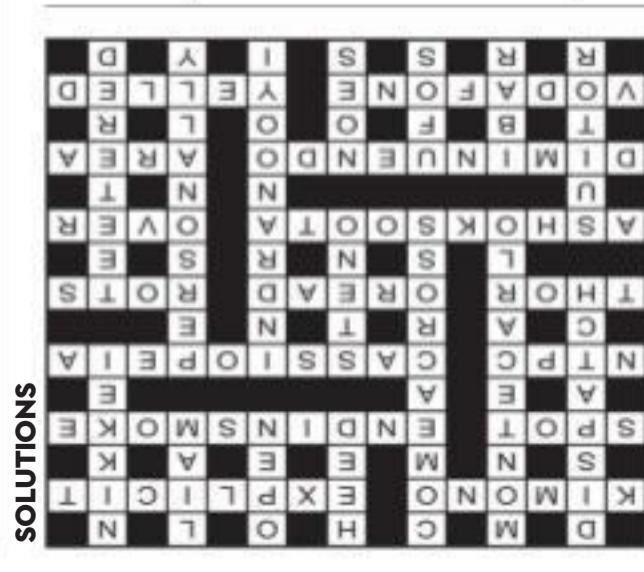
You will agree it was excellent defence by west, discarding hearts from trick two onwards once he came to know that the suit was sold on lead. East, on his part, did well to hold up the club ace twice. Winning the third club, it was natural for him to shift to a small diamond and the defence punished him from thereon, for his bad play. We shall see how declarer should have played, in our next column.

## PLANTIBODY

■ n. An antibody produced by a genetically modified plant.

Tobacco, a plant responsible for the death of millions, is also the subject of experiments to produce antibodies, or "plantibodies", against diseases including, ironically, cancer. The stakes are high, with the antibody drug market expected to be worth some pounds 5bn by 2004.

—Bill Tuckey, "Phreak of Nature," The Independent, January 19, 2002



## From the Front Page

## 20 die in Delhi hospital as oxygen crisis deepens

Hospital officials added that over 80% of the patients in the hospital were on oxygen support and 35 were in the ICU. At Ganga Ram hospital, authorities struggled to avoid a repeat of the earlier day's tragedy. The hospital requires a minimum of 11,000 cubic metres of oxygen daily but was left with just 200 cubic metres when a tanker with 1.5 tonnes of oxygen arrived at 11.35 am, officials said.

"The hospital is approaching all authorities and nodal officers but no help is coming. Hundreds of calls made, nobody taking the calls," hospital chairperson DS Rana said. In a pincer effect, the shortage of oxygen and the explosion in the number of cases in Delhi have together stretched healthcare infrastructure to its absolute limits, leaving hospitals big and small struggling and coming up with band aid solutions limited supplies to see them through for the next few hours before another SOS call. Outside the hospitals, scenes of despair played out with queues of ambulances, frantic relatives and patients gasping for breath as they waited for help and hospitals, overwhelmed and helpless, tried to deal with the multiple emergencies at their doorstep. The story was repeated in hospital after hospital.

## SII defends pricing of vaccine in India

"The current situation is extremely dire, the virus is constantly mutating while the public remains at risk. Identifying the uncertainty, we have to

ensure sustainability as we must be able to invest in scaling up and expanding our capacity to fight the pandemic and save lives." SII went on to add that only a limited portion of SII's volume will be sold to private hospitals at ₹600 per dose. "The price of the vaccine is still lower than a lot of other medical treatments and essentials required to treat Covid-19 and other life threatening diseases," it added.

## Will 'hang' anyone hindering oxygen supply: Delhi HC

The court was hearing submissions by the counsel for Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, Jaipur Golden Hospital, Batra Hospital and Saroj Super Speciality Hospital here over shortage of oxygen for treating seriously ill patients. "We will hang

that man. We will not spare anyone," the court said while telling the Delhi government to give one instance of any official at the central, state or local administration obstructing the pickup of oxygen supplies. The court told the Delhi government to inform the Centre also about such officials of the local administration so that it could take action against them. It also asked the Centre when the 480 metric tonne (MT) of oxygen per day allocated for Delhi would see the light of the day. "You (Centre) had assured us (on April 21) that 480 MT per day will reach Delhi. Tell us when will it come? The 480 MT per day is still to see the light of the day." The query came after the Delhi government said it was getting only 380 MT oxygen per day over the past few days and it received only around 300 MT on Friday.

## ICICI Bank net profit up 261% y-o-y

Sandeep Batra, executive director, ICICI Bank, said, "The growth in business banking continued to be robust, leveraging the bank's distribution network and digital platforms such as InstaBIZ and Trade Online."

The credit card spends in Q4-2021 increased substantially over Q3FY21 driven by spends across electronics, wellness and jewellery categories, he added. Speaking on the impact of the current wave of Covid-19, Batra said, "There has been a bit of a slowdown in the current quarter, but these are still early days as yet." The net interest margin (NIM) of the lender declined 3 basis points (bps)-o-yat 3.84%, but increased 17 bps sequentially. The asset quality of the lender deteriorated a bit during

the March quarter, after the standstill on declaring non-performing assets was lifted by the apex court. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of the

lender increased 58 bps to 4.96%, compared to 4.38% in the previous quarter. Similarly, net NPAs ratio increased 51 bps to 1.14% from 0.63% in the

December quarter. During the quarter, the gross NPAs additions, excluding borrowers in the pro forma NPAs as of December 31, 2020, were ₹5,523 crore, he said.

## CANARA ROBECO

## Canara Robeco Mutual Fund

Investment Manager : Canara Robeco Asset Management Co. Ltd.  
Construction House, 4th Floor, 5, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400 001.  
Tel.: 6658 5000 Fax: 6658 5012/13 www.canararobeco.com CIN No.: U65990MH1993PLC071003

## NOTICE NO. 06

## Declaration of dividend under Income Distribution cum Capital Withdrawal ("IDCW") option in Canara Robeco Mutual Fund Schemes

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Canara Robeco Mutual Fund has declared dividend in the following schemes, subject to availability of distributable surplus:

Scheme Name	Investment Option	Dividend (₹ per unit)	Face Value (₹ per unit)	NAV Per Unit as on 23.04.2021 (₹)
Canara Robeco Conservative Hybrid Fund	Regular Plan- Monthly IDCW (Payout/Reinvestment) Option	0.10	10.00	13.9559
	Direct Plan - Monthly IDCW (Payout/Reinvestment) Option	0.10	10.00	15.7226
Canara Robeco Short Duration Fund	Regular Plan- Monthly IDCW (Payout/Reinvestment) Option	0.06	10.00	15.3934
	Direct Plan - Monthly IDCW (Payout/Reinvestment) Option	0.06	10.00	16.9331
Canara Robeco Equity Hybrid Fund	Regular Plan- Monthly IDCW (Payout/Reinvestment) Option	0.71	10.00	83.8800
	Direct Plan - Monthly IDCW (Payout/Reinvestment) Option	0.60	10.00	96.3900

## Pursuant to payment of dividend, the NAV of the IDCW option of the schemes would fall to the extent of payout and statutory levy (if any).

Record Date for the purpose of distribution of dividend is 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 or the next business day if the record date happens to be a non-business day. All unit holders, under the abovementioned Plan/Option, whose names appear on the register of unit holders of the Scheme as on the record date, are eligible for the dividend.

The Dividend declared out of the Distributable Surplus of the abovementioned Schemes will be paid net of tax deducted at source (TDS) as applicable, to those unit holders whose names appear in the register of unit holders as on the Record Date.

Declaration of dividend is subject to availability of distributable surplus on the record date/ex-dividend date. In case the distributable surplus is less than the quantum of dividend on the record date/ex-dividend date, the entire available distributable surplus in the Scheme/plan will be declared as dividend.

SEBI circular no. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF3/CIR/P/2020/194 dated 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 on Review of Dividend option(s)/Plan(s) in case of Mutual Fund Schemes shall be applicable for calculation of distributable surplus.

In view of individual nature of tax consequences, each investor is advised to consult his/her own professional financial/tax advisor.

Unitholders are requested to visit [www.canararobeco.com](http://www.canararobeco.com) to claim their amounts remaining unclaimed or unpaid and follow the prescribed procedure therein.

For and on behalf of Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Ltd.  
(Investment manager for Canara Robeco Mutual Fund)

Date: 24-04-2021

Place: Mumbai

Authorised Signatory

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

## R SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

[Corporate Identity Number: L74899DL1993PLC053579]

Registered Office: GF-1-A, 6, Devika Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019

Corporate Office: C-40, Sector 59, NOIDA, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., India – 201 307

Tel : +91 120 4303500, Fax : +91 120 4082699

Website: [www.rsystems.com](http://www.rsystems.com) Email: [rsil@systems.com](mailto:rsil@systems.com)

## NOTICE OF TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that:

- In view of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has vide its Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020 and 02/2021 dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020 and January 13, 2021, respectively (Collectively referred as "MCA Circulars") permitted the holding of the Annual General Meeting through VC/ OAVM, without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue. In compliance with the MCA Circulars, the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules made thereunder (the "Act") and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations"), the Twenty Seventh Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of R SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. through video conferencing ("VC")/ other audio visual means ("OAVM")** to transact the businesses as detailed in the Notice of AGM alongwith explanatory statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- In compliance with the said MCA Circulars read with the SEBI Circulars dated May 12, 2020 and January 15, 2021, electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year ended on December 31, 2020 have been sent on April 24, 2021 to all the members whose email IDs are registered with the Company/ Registrar and Share Transfer Agent ("RTA") or Depository participant(s). The same is also available on the Company's website [www.rsystems.com](http://www.rsystems.com).
- The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary and Special Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic voting systems of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"). All the members are informed that:
  - The Ordinary and the Special Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means;
  - The remote e-voting shall commence on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.;
  - The remote e-voting shall end on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 05:00 P.M.;
  - the cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Wednesday, May 12, 2021;
  - Person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice of AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, May 12, 2021, can follow the process for generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of the AGM if their PAN is updated with their Depository Participants. However such members who have not updated their PAN with their Depository Participants, their login ID and Sequence No. will be sent separately by electronic or physical means for generation of password. If such a person is already registered with CDSL for e-voting, existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote;
  - Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) the members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; c) the facility for voting through electronic mode shall be made available at the AGM; and d) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositaries as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM;
  - The Notice of the AGM is available on the Company's website [www.rsystems.com](http://www.rsystems.com) and also on CDSL's website <https://www.evotingindia.com>;
  - In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com) under help section or please write an e-mail to [helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com) or contact Mr. Nitin Kunder (022-23058738) or Mr. Mehboob Lakhani (022-23058543) or Mr. Rakesh Dahi (022-23058542) or contact Mr. Bhasker Dubey, Company Secretary & Compliance Officer, C-40, Sector-59, Noida, U.P., 201 307, at the designated email ID [Investors@rsystems.com](mailto:Investors@rsystems.com) or at telephone No. +91 120 4303566 who will address the grievance connected with the facility for voting by electronic means.
  - Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to section 91 of the Act and Listing Regulations, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Saturday, May 15, 2021 to Wednesday, May 19, 2021 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

By Order of the Board  
For R Systems International Limited

Sd/-  
Bhasker Dubey

(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

Date : April 24, 2021

Place: NOIDA

the March quarter, after the standstill on declaring non-performing assets was lifted by the apex court. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) ratio of the

lender increased 58 bps to 4.96%, compared to 4.38% in the previous quarter. Similarly, net NPAs ratio increased 51 bps to 1.14% from 0.63% in the

quarter. During the quarter, the gross NPAs additions, excluding borrowers in the pro-forma NPAs as of December 31, 2020, were ₹5,523 crore, he said.

## HAP

## HATSUN AGRO PRODUCT LIMITED

CIN: L15499TN1986PLC012747

Regd. Office: Domaine, Door No.1/20A, Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Karapakkam, Chennai - 600 097.  
Tel: 091-044-24501622 | Fax: 091-044-24501422 | Email: [secretarial@hap.in](mailto:secretarial@hap.in) Website: [www.hap.in](http://www.hap.in)

## RESULT OF POSTAL BALLOT

It is hereby notified to the Shareholders of the Company and all other concerned entities / authorities that the Company conducted the process of Postal Ballot pursuant to provisions of Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, for passing of resolution as set out in the notice of postal ballot dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

The last date of receipt of postal ballot forms either through physical submission by shareholders of the Company in the self addressed postage pre-paid business reply envelope or through e-voting was upto the close of working hours on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021.

The Company had appointed Shri. N Ramanathan, Partner of M/s. S. Dhanapal & Associates, Practising Company Secretaries as scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot in a fair and transparent manner.

Shri. N Ramanathan has submitted his report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021 to the Chairman / Person authorised by the Chairman of the Company. In accordance with the Postal Ballot Notice, the results were declared on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at the Registered Office of the Company at Domaine, Door No.1/20A, Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Karapakkam, Chennai 600 097.

The summarized result of the Postal Ballot is as follows:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO.1	NO. OF EQUITY SHARES VOTED			
	PARTICULARS	E-VOTING (ELECTRONIC)	PHYSICAL BALLOT FORMS	TOTAL
Alteration of the Main Objects Clause of the Memorandum of Association	Net valid votes cast	18,50,95,456	1,358	18,50,96,814
	Votes cast in favour	18,50,92,474	1,358	18,50,93,832
	Votes Cast against	2,982	0	2,982

Accordingly, the above mentioned special resolution has been passed by the shareholders with requisite majority.

for HATSUN AGRO PRODUCT LIMITED  
Sd/-  
G Somasundaram  
Company Secretary

## ICICI

## PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

JARAKI KAREINI!

## ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited

Corporate Identity Number: U99999DL1993PLC054135

Registered Office: 12<

**Punjab & Sind Bank**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
HO Accounts & Audit Department  
24, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001  
Email: ho.accounts@pnbco.in Ph: 011-23765519,  
23765520, 23765521, 23765522

**RFP FOR STANDARD FIRE AND STANDARD PERILS POLICY AND BURGLARY INSURANCE POLICY**

Bank invites bids from eligible Insurance Companies for General insurance policy. For further details, refer tenders on bank website [www.psbindia.com](http://www.psbindia.com)

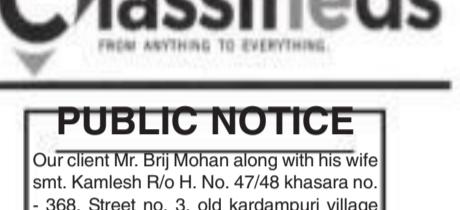
AGM GA

**SHREYANS INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
REGD. OFFICE: VILLAGE BHULAPUR, P.O. SAHABAN CHANDIGARH ROAD, LUDHIANA-141 123.  
Tel.: +91 161-2685270, 9876 109948  
Email: atg@shreyangroup.com, Website: [www.shreyangroup.com](http://www.shreyangroup.com)  
CIN: L17115PB1979PLC003994

**COMPANY NOTICE**  
Pursuant to regulation 47 read with regulation 29 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company shall be held on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021, inter alia to consider Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and recommend dividend, if any, for the Financial Year 2020-21.

This notice can be accessed on Company's web portal [www.shreyangroup.com](http://www.shreyangroup.com) and also on the portals of respective stock exchange(s), i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nsindia.com](http://www.nsindia.com).

For Shreyans Industries Limited  
Sd/- Ruchita Vij  
Place : Ludhiana Company Secretary  
Dated : 24-04-2021 FCS 9210



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Our client Mr. Brij Mohan along with his wife and Kamlesh, P.O. H. No. 102, Kharoli, Tharoli, Distt. - 386 394, have debarred/ disclaimed their Daughter namely Rashmi along with his husband Kamal Kant due to her Bad Behavior and misappropriation of clients from movable and immovable properties and have broken down all their relations and relation with them and also she has married without their consent. According to the law, Mr. Brij Mohan & his wife, Kamlesh will be responsible for any debts related to his Daughter Rashmi & her husband Kamal Kant and any of their actions henceforth.

Sd/- MANOJ MITTA Advocate  
Chamber - #623, Karkardoomah Court, Delhi-110032.

**Call : 0120-6651214**

For and on Behalf of the Board  
For Goodluck India Limited  
Sd/-  
Abhishek Agrawal  
Company Secretary  
ACS: 20983

Place: Ghaziabad Date: 24.04.2021

**Sportking INDIA LTD.**  
CIN NO.: L17122PB1989PLC053162,  
Regd. Off: Village Kanech, Near Sahnewal, GT Road, Ludhiana-141120.  
Ph. : 0161-2845456 - 60, Website : [www.sportking.co.in](http://www.sportking.co.in), E-mail : cs@sportking.co.in

**EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**  
(Rs. in Lakhs Except EPS)

PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2021 (Audited)
Total Income From Operations (Net)	41774.08	32425.24	132483.95
Net Profit (+)/ Loss(-) for the Period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	8549.50	135.84	13993.88
Net Profit (+)/ Loss(-) for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	6354.40	135.84	11798.78
Net Profit (+)/ Loss(-) for the Period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4433.20	124.19	8452.87
Total Comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive income (after tax))	4537.84	82.73	8557.51
Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs. 10/- each)	348.26	346.38	348.26
Reserve (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	-	-	35339.33
Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) Basic & Diluted	133.46	3.49	247.72

Note : The above Audited financial results for the quarter/ year ended 31st March 2021 reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 24th April 2021. The Statutory auditors had expressed an unmodified opinion on the aforesaid results. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for Quarter/Year Ended 31st March 2021 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for Quarter/Year Ended 31st March 2021 are available on BSE website i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website i.e. [www.sportking.co.in](http://www.sportking.co.in).

**FOR SPORTKING INDIA LIMITED**  
Sd/-  
Munish Avasthi  
Managing Director  
DIN: 00442425

Date : 24.04.2021

Place : Ludhiana

**FORM B**  
**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)  
**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF LANCO KONDAPALLI POWER LIMITED**

No.	PARTICULARS	DETAILS
1	Name of the corporate debtor	Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited
2	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	August 21, 1995
3	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies – Hyderabad under the Companies Act, 1956
4	Corporate Identity Number / Limited Liability Identification number of corporate debtor	U40101TG1995PLC021459
5	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	10/5 Jacobpura Opp. Vaikti Kanya School Gurgaon, HR 122001 IN
6	Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	10-02-2021 (Copy of order received on 12-02-2021)
7	Date of invitation of expression of interest	25-04-2021
8	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Detail can be sought by emailing at cirdawar2021@gmail.com
9	Norms of Ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Available on website of IBBI ( <a href="http://ibbi.gov.in">ibbi.gov.in</a> ) or Detail can be sought by emailing at cirdawar2021@gmail.com
10	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	11-05-2021
11	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	20-05-2021
12	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	25-05-2021
13	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	04-06-2021
14	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	25-05-2021
15	Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Detail can be sought by emailing at cirdawar2021@gmail.com
16	Last date for submission of resolution plans	24-06-2021
17	Manner of submitting resolution plans to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	By e mailing at cirdawar2021@gmail.com and post at the address of IRP
18	Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority	24-07-2021
19	Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Ajay Kumar Swach Insolvency Professional Registration No. IBBI/PA-002/IP-N0668/2018-19/1214
20	Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Ajay Kumar Swach Interim Resolution Professional Add: Flat no. 504, Rama Krishna Society, Sector-2, Faridabad-121004. Email ID : swachipr@gmail.com
21	Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Add: Flat no. 504, Rama Krishna Society, Sector-2, Faridabad-121004. Email ID : cirdawar2021@gmail.com
22	Further Details are available at or with	Detail can be sought by emailing at cirdawar2021@gmail.com
23	Date of publication of Form G	25-04-2021

Sd/-  
Ajay Kumar Swach  
Date : 25-04-2021  
Place : Faridabad

Dawar International Electronics Private Limited  
(IBBI/PA-002/IP-N0668/2018-19/1214  
Add: Flat no. 504, Rama Krishna Society, Sector - 2, Faridabad - 121 004.  
Email ID: swachipr@gmail.com; irpdawar2021@gmail.com

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench has ordered the commencement of liquidation of the Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited on April 16, 2021 which is uploaded on the website on April 23, 2021.

The liquidation order was uploaded on website of National Company Law Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench on April 23, 2021. Accordingly the date of submission of claims has been considered as 30 days from the receipt of the said liquidation order.

The stakeholders of Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof or before May 23, 2021 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item No.10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with the proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proof of claims shall attract penalties.

Sd/-  
Signature

Name of Liquidator : Pankaj Dhanuka

IBBI Registration No : IBBI/PA-001/IP-01205/2018-2019/11911

Date and place : April 25, 2021 and Kolkata

**DRAFT INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy  
(Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016

**Relevant particulars**

1.	Name of the corporate debtor	GEM BATTERIES PVT. LTD.
2.	Date of incorporation of Corporate Debtor	13/08/2003
3.	Authority under which Corporate Debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC - Delhi
4.	Corporate Identity Number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U31909DL2003PTC121756
5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of the Corporate Debtor	BT-II/11, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate Badarpur New Delhi-110044
6.	Insolvency commencement date in respect of Corporate Debtor	04-12-2020
7.	Date of invitation of expression of interest	25-04-2021
8.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Details may be obtained by e mailing at: ip.gemcpr@gmail.com
9.	Norms of Ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Details may be obtained by e mailing at ip.gemcpr@gmail.com
10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	05-05-2021
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	08-05-2021
12.	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	10-05-2021
13.	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	12-05-2021
14.	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	15-05-2021
15.	Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Electronic mail.
16.	Last date for submission of resolution plans	25-05-2021
17.	Manner of submitting resolution plans to the resolution professional	Electronic and Physical Form. Additional Details to be provided in the Request for Resolution Plan
18.	Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	31-05-2021
19.	Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Chandra Prakash (IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00660/2018-2019/1203
20.	Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Name: Chandra Prakash Address: 812, 8th Floor, Indra Prakash Building, Barakhamba Road, India-110001 E-mail: cppumba2409@gmail.com
21.	Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Address: 812, 8th Floor, Indra Prakash Building, Barakhamba Road, India-110001 E-mail: ip.gemcpr@gmail.com
22.	Further Details are available at or with	Details may be obtained by emailing at ip.gemcpr@gmail.com
23.	Date of publication of Form G	25-04-2021

Chandra Prakash  
(IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00660/2018-2019/1203)

Date: 25-04-2021

Address: 812, 8th Floor, Indra Prakash Building, Barakhamba Road, India-110001

For Gem Batteries Pvt Ltd

Sd/-  
Chandra Prakash

Address: 812, 8th Floor, Indra Prakash Building, Barakhamba Road, India-110001

E-mail: cppumba2409@gmail.com

Phone: 011-28751655 & 011-28751723.

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi has ordered the commencement of liquidation of the Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited on April 16, 2021 which is uploaded on the website on April 23, 2021.

The liquidation order was uploaded on website of National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi on April 23, 2021. Accordingly the date of submission of claims has been considered as 30 days from the receipt of the said liquidation order.

The stakeholders of Lanco Kondapalli Power Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof or before May 23, 2021 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item No.10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with the proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proof of claims shall attract penalties.

Sd/-  
Signature

Name of Liquidator : Pankaj Dhanuka

IBBI Registration No : IBBP/PA-001/IP-01205/2018-2019/11911

Date and place : April 25, 2021 and Kolkata

