

CM seeks RWAs' support to wipe out dengue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Marking week four of the ten-week anti-dengue drive, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday sought the support of Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) across the city to help fight the spread of vector-borne disease.

After inspecting his house for signs of stagnant clean water for ten minutes at 10 a.m. and draining accumulated water, Mr. Kejriwal took to social media to appeal to all RWAs of Delhi to come forward and make the residents aware of the measures to be taken to prevent dengue. He appealed to the RWAs to talk to people and increase participation by motivating them to join hands in preventing the spread of dengue.

SI absconding after shooting at girlfriend

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A police Sub-Inspector allegedly shot at his girlfriend in Alipur on Sunday evening.

A policeman passing through the area spotted a woman lying injured near Sai Mandir on GTK Road. He rushed her to a nearby hospital. On the way, the victim revealed that she has been shot at by SI Sandeep Dahiya, currently posted at Lahori Gate station, during a quarrel, said a police officer.

"A case under appropriate Section has been registered. The accused is absconding," added the officer.

3,292 COVID-19 cases, 42 deaths reported in the Capital



A health worker collecting swab samples of a traffic policeman in the Capital on Sunday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Active cases stand at 29,228; total cases touch 2,71,114 with 5,235 deaths and 2,36,651 recoveries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded 3,292 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday with 42 deaths and 3,739 recoveries in the past 24 hours, said a Delhi government health bulletin.

Nearly 51,416 tests were conducted during the period with a positivity rate of 4.40%. The death rate based

on the last 10 days data stands at 0.98%.

The number of active cases stands at 29,228. The total number of cases has touched 2,71,114 with 5,235 deaths and 2,36,651 recoveries.

There are 2,380 containment zones. Currently, there are 17,291 patients under home isolation.

Commenting on the in-

crease in the number of deaths, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that fatality rate in the Capital was less than 1% in the last 10 days. He added that one must not look at the figures for a single day.

"We do not look at the figures for a single day. The average fatality rate of the last 10 days has been 0.94%", Mr. Jain

said, commenting on the 46 deaths reported on Saturday.

Testing tripled

The Minister added that the number of cases had risen over the past few weeks as the number of tests being conducted has also gone up multifold. "We tripled the number of tests and those tested positive were isolated in

small containment zones. We knew that we would have to do it aggressively for two to four weeks and we are seeing positive results now as the cases are declining," Mr. Jain said. He said that the positivity rate for the last seven days has been 6.5% which was 8.5% two weeks ago and 9% three weeks ago. The cumulative positivity rate is 9.27%.

Timings DELHI	
MONDAY, SEP. 28	RISE 06:13 SET 18:11
RISE 16:34 SET 02:47	
TUESDAY, SEP. 29	
RISE 06:13 SET 18:09	
RISE 17:09 SET 03:44	
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 30	
RISE 06:14 SET 18:08	
RISE 17:41 SET 04:38	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	23
Safdarjang	36	23
Palam	36	24

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A pleasant morning and warm day. Night would turn comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Dry weather with mainly sunny sky. Moderate gusty winds during day.

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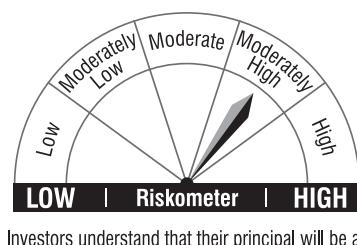
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**Airplanes in the sky**

Bengaluru-based The Arty Smarty Project was launched after the lockdown by Abhishek Saraf, Abhimanyu Saraf, and Nataliya Saxena. "We have a background in advertising and wanted to do a very creative business. Abhishek is a gaming enthusiast and my dad was a pilot in the Navy. All this inspired us to come up with DIY toy kits," says Nataliya. They have aerodynamic kits with three aircraft models. "The designs are inspired by Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, Kamov Ka-50 and Aeronca L3," she explains. The components are acrylic pieces that are laser cut. "Each set takes around two hours to be assembled. The card that comes with the product has a QR code, that takes you to a demonstration video," she says. Their craft kit has a clock and a lamp that can be painted by the customer. "People can select designs for the lamp from our website," she says. The team now works on making kits on different monuments from around the world. "We are starting with the Eiffel Tower. It will be available soon," she says.

The kit starts from ₹549 and is available in Amazon, Flipkart, and Snapdeal. Visit <https://artysmarty.in/> for details.

**Fly high**

A one-year-old start-up, ActiveDabba that focusses on aeromodelling and art and craft is based in Coimbatore. It is the brainchild of entrepreneurs Naveen Krishnamurthy, Vidya Ravichandran, Giriprabhu Seshadri, and Gokulnath

GP. The team had been conducting workshops on aerospace from 2018. "After completing a few successful ones, we wanted to share the knowledge with a larger crowd. This is how we came up with the DIY kit idea," says Naveen.

The design of the gliders and aircraft in the kits is done in-house. "Both Giriprabhu and Gokulnath are aeronautical engineers and I am an aeronautics enthusiast. While the three of us designed the aeronautical kits, Divya focussed on the art and craft ones" he explains.

The company now offers a total of 26 kits. The loose components have to be assembled as per the instructions on the manual. "It is made of balsa wood and plastic and is

laser cut. There is a perception that aeronautics is an expensive field and we are trying to break it by providing pocket-friendly kits," Naveen explains. The art and craft kits have origami, canvas painting, and pebble painting,

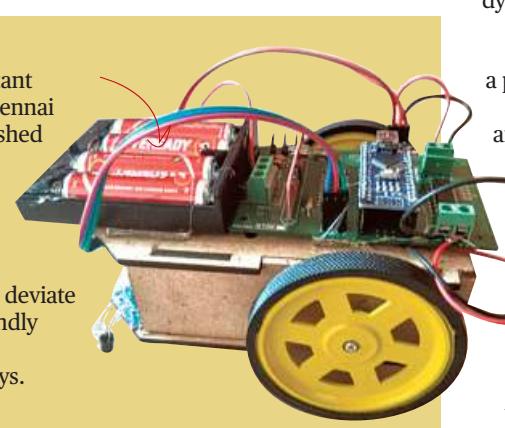
that help in improving hand-eye coordination and creativity in kids. The team is now working on making drones, satellite and pottery kits. "We hope to launch them soon," says Naveen.

ActiveDabba supplies their products across India. Prices start from ₹150. Call 7845802872 or visit <https://activedabba.com/> for details



SUSAN JOE PHILIP

In the past few months of lockdown, we tried our hand at many hobbies such as gardening, baking, and craft. They have kept us both engaged and entertained. Many entrepreneurs have used this opportunity to come up with interesting Do-It-Yourself (DIY) kits on varied fields. Here are a few.

**Learn with robots**

Balaji Thiru from Vilupuram has been working in the robotics industry for 11 years. He is an assistant professor at the Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai and is also the founder of the firm, Tamil Robotics Club that sells DIY robots for beginners. "I finished my Masters in Robotics and started selling the kits in 2016. My dream is to introduce robotics to every child in the State," he says. Balaji has conducted free workshops for children in rural areas in Chennai, Coimbatore, Vilupuram, and Madurai. "Robotics help a child in developing problem-solving skills and teaches them the basics of prototyping, designing, and programming. My products are simple to use and are designed to create curiosity in the mind of children."

Balaji has five robotic kits. While some of them can move, some others can identify obstacles and deviate from their path. "It took me two years to develop these models," he says. The kits are pocket-friendly and start from ₹100. "The control board is made in-house, and that helps us maintain the price.

Interested children can further programme the robots to identify faces and do other tasks," he says.

Visit <https://www.tamilrobotics.club/> or call 8056834037 or 8778262286 for details.

**Plant a seed**

Ebin Ephrem Elavathingal wanted his child to go to a school that teaches farming. "I realised that most organisations do not give the topic any importance. I decided to launch a project called World in Farm, that introduces children to the subject," he says. He tied up with Sakthivel K, an entrepreneur based in Madurai, and roped in seven farmers across Coimbatore, Pollachi, and Madurai for their initiative. "We planned to take school kids to the farms every weekend and teach them farming."

The duo drafted a syllabus that helps children understand the ecosystem, food chain, seed selection, preparing the soil, etc and conducted two sessions in Madurai. Soon the pandemic struck and they had to stop. "That is when we decided to come up with kits with all the necessary products to learn the basics of farming at home. We put out the word in our social media platforms and soon we started getting orders," he says.

Each kit contains carefully selected seeds, soil mixed with manure, a grow bag, organic pesticide solution, and a manual with instructions on how to take care of the plants. "We source the seeds from farmers and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University," he says.

The kit starts at ₹90. Call 8608871834 for orders.

**Splash of colours**

Coimbatore-based M Tharunikkka's Instagram page Splashverse is filled with vibrant colours. It features photographs of tie-dyed T-shirts, all made with the kits that she sells. "I am a Textile Engineering student and learnt the craft from college and through online research. It was fascinating and I tried it using natural dyes derived from red cabbage and beetroot for the first time during the lockdown. The purple shades came out well initially, but faded in the first wash," she says.

Soon she procured industrial quality dyes from Tirupur. "This worked and the colours did not bleed."

Her DIY kits contain fixation solutions, a plain white T-shirt or crop top according to choice, rubber bands, gloves, dyes, and an instruction manual. "The number of colours can be customised. I have also done videos explaining three different methods for different designs. The process is very simple, and can take around two hours," she says.

Tharunikkka's kits range from ₹500 to ₹650 and she ships her products across India. Visit [@splashverse_](https://www.instagram.com/splashverse_) on Instagram for details.



A hoop, a drape and a pair of happy feet

With its infectious energy and carefree zeal, Eshna Kutty's hoop dance in a sari goes viral

PRYADARSHINI PAITANDY

With over 210,000 viewers on Instagram and countless retweets on Twitter, Hula hooper Eshna Kutty's video is trending on social media.

"But my mother's concern is I am wearing a not-so-nice sari," laughs Eshna, over phone from Delhi.

This is the third in a series of videos where she is hooping in a

sari and a pair of sneakers. This particular video has her dancing to 'Genda Phool' from *Delhi 6*, in a chocolate brown cotton sari and armed with a metallic blue hoop. Her hair is a nonchalant mess as she does a set of casual moves and off body tricks.

"Initially, I was bummed because I was being an average hooper in the video. I was just having fun and not flaunting any skills. But now I think

that's the reason it's doing well," says Eshna, who continues to receive a barrage of messages from people who want to try the same and feel the way she does: liberated and happy.

The video, released on Wednesday night, went viral on Twitter a day later. "I wasn't on Twitter but I finally made an account on Friday," the 24-year-old adds.

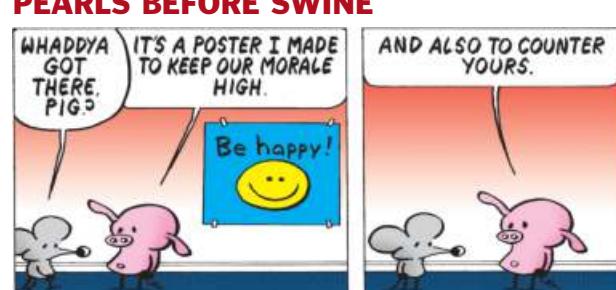
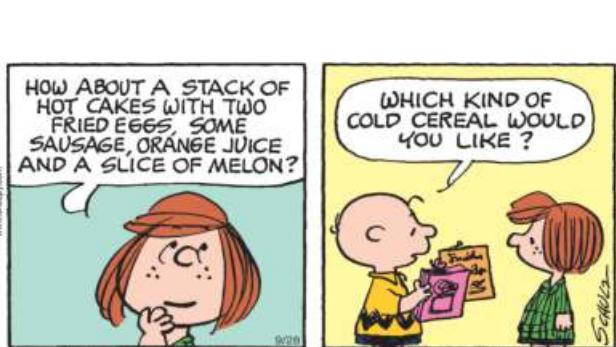
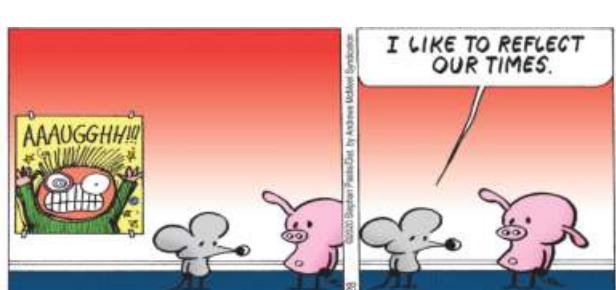
"The notion around saris have been that the wearer has to pin it up a certain way. But the goal here is to be comfortable and do what you want in it," says Eshna, adding that this concept of hooping in a sari and sneakers had been in her mind since April, when she noticed a surge in interest in this hobby.

She also conducts classes and workshops and most of her viewers are Americans and Europeans.

Trending under #sareeflow, the idea came about as a means to engage more Indian audience. "I thought if I add an Indian element, people will be intrigued by it," she says.

Eshna's Indian student hoopers are now taking this trend forward by posting their version of the sari-sneaker-hoop dance.

The numbers are growing by the day; the energy is, admittedly, infectious.

POOCH CAFE**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****TIGER****PEARLS BEFORE SWINE****PEANUTS****CALVIN AND HOBBES**