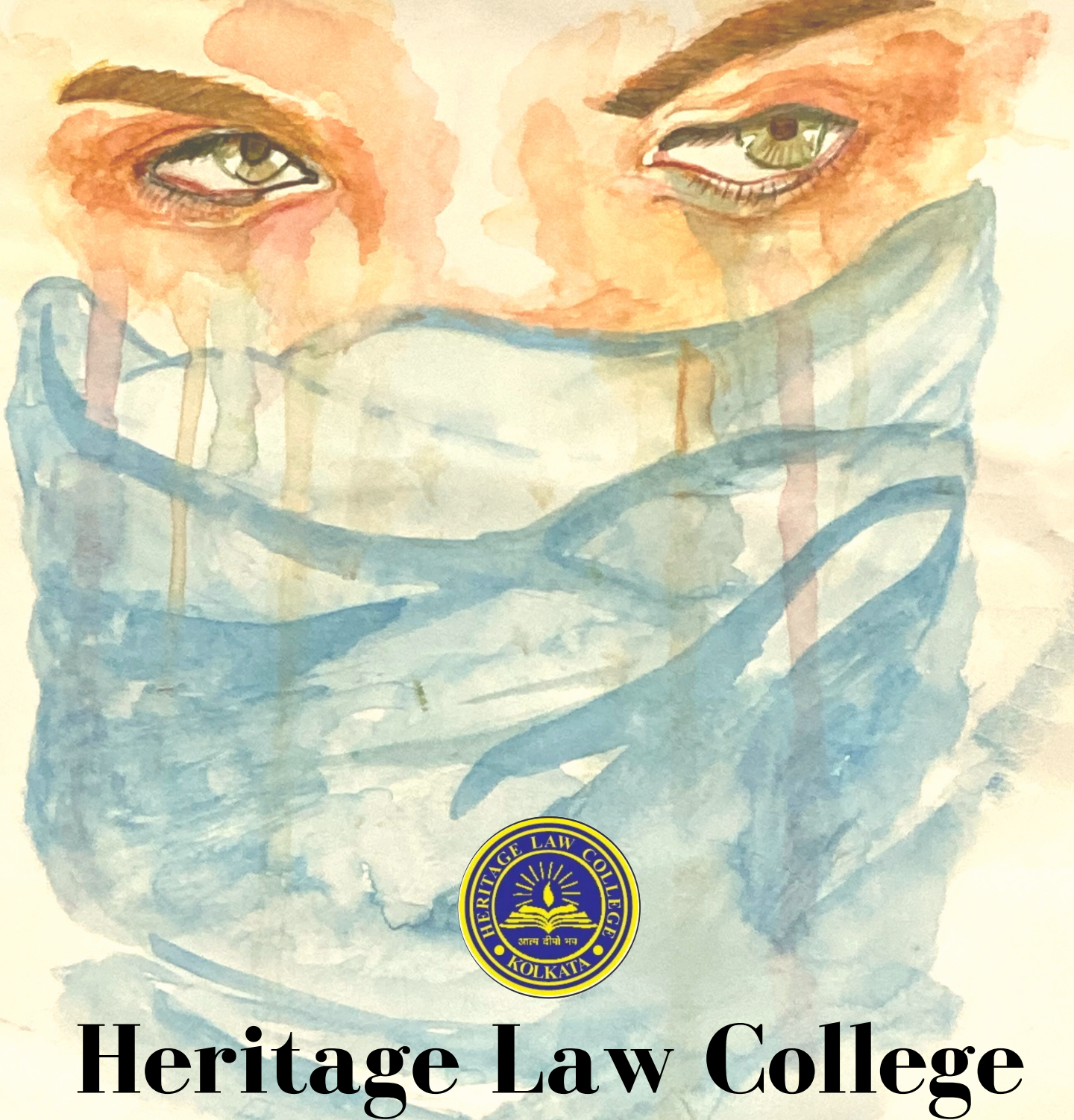


# DIA-LA(W)-GUE

e-magazine

Volume 1 | Pandemic Special Edition



## Heritage Law College

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# HERITAGE LAW COLLEGE

A collage of legal and educational icons. The icons include: a yellow silhouette of a lawyer in a robe; a red newspaper; a blue calculator; a yellow silhouette of a person at a podium with a speech bubble; a red scale of justice; a stack of blue books; a yellow car; a red silhouette of a court building; a yellow silhouette of a jury box with three people; a blue outline of a certificate or diploma; and a red handshake icon. The background is a solid light yellow.

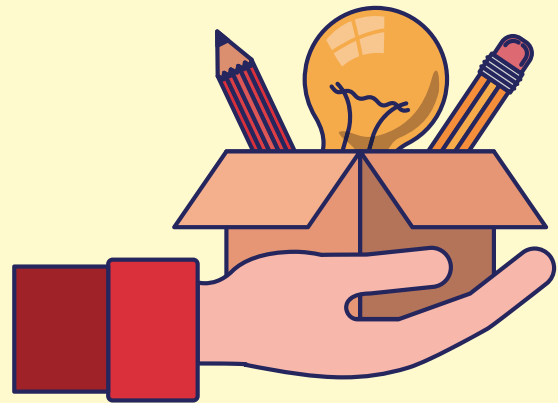
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DIA-LA(W)-GUE  
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AUGUST 2021

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

**The Corona virus** pandemic has cost an unprecedented crises in our lives. In the field of education, this emergency has led to the massive closure of face to face activities of educational institutions in more than 190 countries in order to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact. The Corona virus has transformed life as we know it. Schools are closed, we are confined to our homes and the future feels very uncertain. Today's mantra is 'stay home, stay safe' and we have to maintain social distancing to combat this pandemic. Even though school buildings are shuttered, learning continues through the virtual medium.

Writing can help us reflect on what's happening in our lives and form new ideas. So, during this period, a magazine or journal is a play ground for the mind and I believe that during this pandemic, a magazine provides students a space for private reflection which can help them process their thoughts, feelings and uncertainties during these difficult times.

I appeal to all the students and the faculty members to enhance their thought process to the society through a magazine/ journal for the betterment of future generations.



Prof. (Dr) S.S. Chatterji

Director, Heritage Law College



## FOREWORD

### **DIA-LA(W)-GUE**

**The last year** and a half has been a lesson as we painstakingly grappled with the onslaught of the deadly pandemic and at the same time learnt to adapt ourselves to the whims of a strange life in which survival became the only real challenge and we had no choice but to engage in earlier unheard of pursuits in the absence of our usual diversions. The very first edition of our E-Magazine, DIA-LA(W)-GUE, is a pandemic special issue. It is a resplendent montage of promethean pursuits, ruminations of the creative mind albeit idle, from our students and seeks to embody the spirit of this life changing catastrophe which has heralded startling realities in its wake and become a life changer for all. We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the Management of The Heritage Group of Institutions for their constant motivation and support, our respected Principal Prof Dr. S.S.Chatterji Sir, faculty members and staff of Heritage Law College. Our special thanks to Ms. Deblina Bhattacharya and Ms. Suhita Saha for their amiable assistance and finally kudos to all the students whose creative ideas have added momentum to this ingenious venture.

Ms. Sayantani Ukil

# Contents

Pandemic And Mental Health	Page 1
Online Versus Offline Exams	Page 10
Pandemic And Federalism	Page 16
Dispute Resolution In a Pandemic Situation	Page 18
Protection of Vulnerable	Page 22
Pandemic And Labor	Page 24
Does India Need a Pandemic Act	Page 29
Fake News and COVID – 19	Page 33
Health or Right to Privacy	Page 41
Pandemic and the GDP of The Nations	Page 43
Image Gallery	Page 43
Did You Know	Page 56







# PANDEMIC AND MENTAL HEALTH

*"Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves."*

**-Henry David Thoreau**

**Mental health** issues have always been a topic that's kept under the carpet. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, a global pandemic, government's stay-at-home restriction has forced us to shut down our social lives. All of a sudden, we are bored, lonely and stressed. This is a moment when we get to realize that mental health issues are more common than ever before.

The number of people with mental health issues are increasing and are so prominent that it is impossible to hide it under the carpet any longer. This is largely due to the strange situation that has been created by the pandemic.

First and foremost, we have no experience about the happenings of a pandemic and so we are unable to handle the situation properly. Secondly, isolation can cause a lot of anxiety. Social interactions are very important for human beings as we are essentially 'social animals'. Suddenly we have lost the freedom to go out of our houses, it feels like we are caged. The feeling of not getting to meet our loved ones have affected us a lot.

It's been almost a year since the outbreak of the pandemic and such prolonged isolation have caused widespread mental agony and depression.

In this lockdown, the number of deaths due to suicide have also increased. The reasons for such suicides are unemployment, fear of the disease, isolation, loneliness and anxiety.

To survive in these dark days and keep ourselves motivated we should engage in positive activities and try to spend our free time in a productive manner.

ANKITA MANNA

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**A pandemic** is defined as an epidemic i.e. a widespread infectious disease occurring worldwide and affecting a large number of people. Pandemics like the Spanish Flu (1918-19), Covid 19 (2019-Present) are often associated with the use of masks, sanitizers and the practice of Physical Distancing. The term "Physical Distancing" simply connotes avoiding close contact with others by maintaining a greater than usual physical space among people.

Physical Distancing is absolutely necessary because only by this we can limit the spread of the disease. Pandemics forbid physical association of people, public gatherings and gatherings in religious, political and educational institutions. This act of Physical Distancing during Pandemics disrupts mental health of people across the globe and the consequences are much severe than what it looks.

Human beings are often considered to live in close contact with one another as Albert Einstein rightly said, "Man is, at one and the same time, a solitary being and a social being." But, during pandemics and especially for this one complete lock down was implemented as physical distancing became the need of the hour to curtail the spread of the virus. This has created gaps between the people and their relations. This strange era is characterized by the feeling of uncertainty and mental stress.

In this situation, Physical Distancing further affects the mental condition of people. It has deeply affected the feeling of oneness in the society. Negative feelings such as loneliness, emotional isolation, loss of individual freedom and insecurity have resulted in psychiatric illnesses like anxiety, depression, sleep disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and even suicidal ideations




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**In the current situation** of corona virus pandemic strict measures to keep people apart were adopted to slow down the spread of the virus. Such social distancing can lead to long term mental health problems. Many quarantined people are suffering from long and short term mental health problems like stress, insomnia and emotional exhaustion. Elderly people who are in isolation are facing loneliness and their support systems have shrunk as they are unable to meet their friends and families. This loneliness not only affects their mental health but also their physical health.

As we are living in an age of unparalleled communication facilities many people are staying connected through phone calls, text messages or joining online communities. Also these facilities are helping to provide medical and psychological care from afar but still this modern technology cannot possibly substitute the human touch. Also people with existing mental health issues are finding the current situation particularly difficult, and it is important that they speak to healthcare professional about it.

It is of utmost importance that we come out of this pandemic without collateral damage of a large number of people suffering from mental health issues.

EKLABYA SARKAR



**Mental health** is an important part of overall health and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. It may also affect how we handle stress relating to others and make choice during an emergency. During Covid-19 pandemic many people have been suffering from depression, anxiety, fear, worry etc. Social distancing reduces close contact between people but it helps to prevent the spread of infection. While social distancing is important to keep everyone healthy, it can sometimes be stressful and impact our mental health. Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can sometimes cause fear and tension regarding our own health and the health of our loved ones, financial situation or job, changes in sleeping and eating pattern, increases the use of tobacco, alcohol or other substances. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make us the people that we care about. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situation and it depends on our background, social support, financial situation etc. Taking care of our friends and family can be a stress reliever. Helping others cope with their stress by providing social support can also make our community stronger. During times of increased social distancing people can still maintain social connection and care for others. Phone calls or video calls can help us and our loved ones feel socially connected, less lonely or isolated. Knowing the facts about Covid-19 and stopping the spread of rumors can help reduce stress and stigma. It is important to look after our mental health as well as physical health during this pandemic situation.

HARITRI ROY





**Throughout the world human beings** are being continually reminded about the physical effects of Covid-19 and the symptoms of corona virus but only a few people are talking about the mental or psychological health hazards that the pandemic have created in its wake.

A pandemic like Covid-19 not only affects people physically but also affects them psychologically. The rapid spread of the pandemic has led to massive mental health problems and has also seen an unprecedented spike in diseases connected to mental health.

There are many reasons like psychological factors which play an important role in adherence to public health measures and in how people cope with the threat of infection and consequent losses. The psychological reaction towards the pandemic include maladaptive behaviors and emotional stress and have made people prone to psychological problems.

In many occasions we have seen that the patients of Covid-19 are treated as criminals and also socially ostracized. In social media many inhuman people make fun of the patients .They don't even think about the patients' psychological conditions .

The family members of those people who have died from Covid-19 are not permitted to see or touch the dead body for the last time. This also creates adverse psychological effects on the family members. Apart from this a lot of people are now suffering from immense psychological stress due to the lock down and the prolonged practice of social distancing which have forced everyone to stay at home and get detached from normal social interactions.

Especially children and elder members are also facing various psychological problems like depression, anxiety, loneliness, etc.

The preservation of mental health through regular yoga and such like exercises, adoption of beneficial hobbies, endorsement of familial bonds is imperative in order to maintain a sound mind in a sound body in these stressful times.

**The rapid spread of the Corona virus** pandemic have resulted in the adoption of stringent measures to keep people apart . All non essential activities are banned by many states and people are asked to stay at home .There is no doubt that technology has developed a great deal but it does not provide any substitute for human touch. Experts are warning that losing social connections comes with psychological costs. For some people, lack of social connections is a curse. Such loneliness and isolation may lead to mental health problems like stress, insomnia, emotional exhaustion and substance abuse.

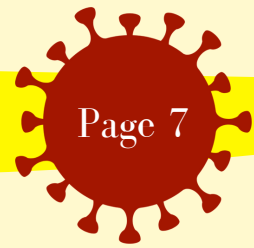
A feeling of loneliness is seen among senior citizens because of which they are more likely to become ill, experience cognitive decline and die earlier than those with active social lives. The entire situation has disturbed the mental equilibrium and well-being of many people, particularly those in low paid or insecure jobs.

A rapid response is necessary in terms of public health programming to mitigate these mental health impacts . Waiting to provide support after social distancing and isolation measures are relaxed or removed, could cause potentially devastating and lasting impact on mental health, especially among those who are already socially and economically vulnerable.

We have to deal with the effects of this by doing things that really help us to stay calm. We should stay connected to each other through phone calls, text messages or joining online communities in order to preserve our sanity and mental balance in these difficult times.

RITIKA KUMARI





The Corona Virus disease (COVID-19) is a disease caused by the novel Corona Virus which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It was initially reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019. In March 2020, the WHO declared Covid-19 to be a global pandemic.

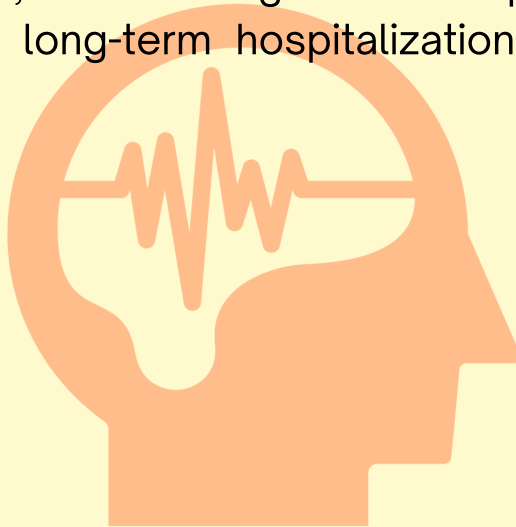
Currently, all of us are experiencing emotions, thoughts and situations we have never experienced before. The pandemic has shaken the entire world and created a global panic. The pandemic had significant and variable psychological impact in each country, depending on the extent of its spread.

In India, the first and foremost response to the pandemic has been fear and a sense of clear and imminent danger. Social distancing and lockdowns have also led to several changes in day-to-day activities, redistribution of home chores, extensive work from home and greater time spent with those living together. This ongoing pandemic is equally important to consider the impact of the various phases of the pandemic on children, elderly people and pregnant women. The worries of adults can be transmitted to children and make them anxious and fearful.

For persons with pre existing mental illness or epilepsy, reduced access to medication can lead to relapse of symptoms, as can the compounded stress.. Indeed Covid-19 has impacted the mental health of the entire community in one or another manner. This has created an unprecedented mental health challenge in the face of limited resources to counter the challenge.

At this point, it is also important to emphasize that we can attempt to handle this situation in a more constructive manner- by learning to stay calm, by getting engaged in daily activities, avoiding depressive or fear-inducing programmes on television or social media, connecting with others through telephone or digital means, cultivating or rediscovering old interests and hobbies

This also means that we need to think beyond conventional strategies. Frontline personnel need to be trained in simple and emerging evidence-based strategies of assessment and management. It is clear that there are many factors involved in addressing the importance of work for people with mental health problems, as well as identifying effective practices that encourage employment, re-employment and retention. Mental health professionals have a significant role in helping individuals define options, make choices, learn to negotiate with potentially disabling conditions, and avoid long-term hospitalization particularly in this pandemic situation.



ANUSHIKA BHARATI

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The outbreak of Covid-19 has incapacitated all the countries across the globe, shattering them both socially and economically. Various measures have been adopted to contain the virus which includes extended lockdowns and following norms of social distancing. Social distancing is one of the stringent measures that has been adopted in response to the pandemic. It is true that physical distancing is an essential method to mitigate the spread of the virus but we cannot ignore the fact that this method is having inadvertent consequences on the health of people– both mentally and psychologically.

Self-isolation has impacted people of all ages as it means disassociation with friends and relatives which is further aggravated by a feeling of uncertainty over the future. Social distancing has led to magnified emotions of depression and anxiety especially among the people belonging to the low income group. Also, rigorous social restrictions have adversely affected the mental, emotional, and psychological health of people.

The imposed restrictions might also affect older people who are now confined to the four walls of their house with hardly any social interactions.

Nevertheless, one must indulge in positive and pragmatic emotional experiences as well as constructive activities to preserve mental balance of the people in these testing times.

APARNA CHAKI







# ONLINE VERSUS OFFLINE CLASSES

*"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world".*

**-Nelson Mandela**

Recently, due to the pandemic situation, online classes have started to take place in a new normal setting. Most of the private and government schools and colleges have started taking online classes during the lockdown. Through online classes, students are able to continue their education and even clarify their doubts from their respected faculty members. However, there are many advantages as well as disadvantages of the online classes compared to the offline class.


During the online classes, students and faculty both have to go through various challenges. Some challenges which the teachers have to face include expertise in the usage of virtual mode. They need to be technologically updated. Internet connectivity should also be strong so that they can take continuous classes. Students attending online classes should also be technologically updated and have strong internet connectivity. Their intention also matters whether they want to attend the class or just skip the class. Students should always have a personal motive or goal for attending the class. Online classes are also effective in that we don't need to travel a lot. We can be comfortable in our home and continue our education.

There are even many disadvantages of online class which we don't face during the offline class. In offline classes students enjoy face to face interaction with their peer group as well as the faculty. Also, they don't require a strong internet connection and do not have to face any technological problem. Many students also face health issues by sitting next to a computer or laptop for a long period of time. In offline classes students and teachers don't need to look into any screen. During offline classes we there is no issue of technological error, the classes can go on smoothly. Most importantly, in online class, we don't get a proper environment wherein offline classes provide us with the necessary environment and a proper classroom setting. Thus, both online and offline classes have their advantages and disadvantages. But in this pandemic situation, offline classes have become a distant dream and we don't have any option other than online classes.



**The Corona Virus pandemic** changed the very concept of 'class' in every educational field. Earlier the notion of class was characterized by the direct interaction between the teachers and students. In this pandemic situation where physical distancing is one of the key objectives to break the chain of the spreading virus, the whole world tried to accept a totally new concept, of the online or virtual class. This tech-savvy education however attempted to maintain the continuity of education in every possible way but unfortunately the new system has its own kind of shortcomings. First, the teachers who were not so acquainted with smart phones and laptops found it very difficult to establish effective communication with students. Secondly, the students sometimes face network issues which may affect their level of concentration. Staring at the LCD screen for a prolonged period of time may result in physical discomfort. This whole concept of online education system has become a challenge to the lower middle class or lower class families who are unable to purchase smart phones to attend classes. Also, the physically and mentally challenged children for whom personal physical interactive sessions are basic prerequisites of education are also facing many problems. We can conclude that online classes accompanied by smart technologies can be the only possible alternative for education right now but nothing can substitute the direct interactive sessions with teacher and student in a class room environment which is provided by the offline classes.

RITWIMA KHAMROI



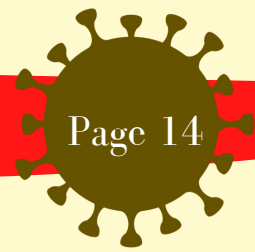


“Destiny of a Nation is shaped in its classrooms.”

**The classroom** is the first learning space outside the home. It is the space where the foundation of educational achievements is laid. Classrooms provide platforms to students to interact and communicate with each other and also with the teachers fostering a marriage of ideas. The future of every nation depends mostly on the future citizens of the nation who are the potential torch bearers.

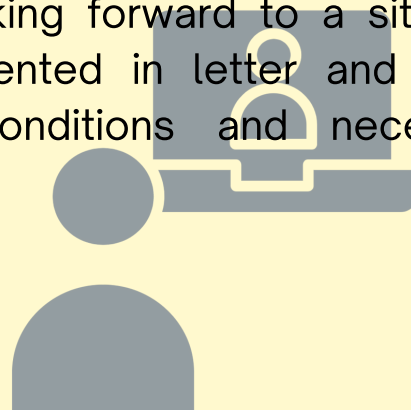
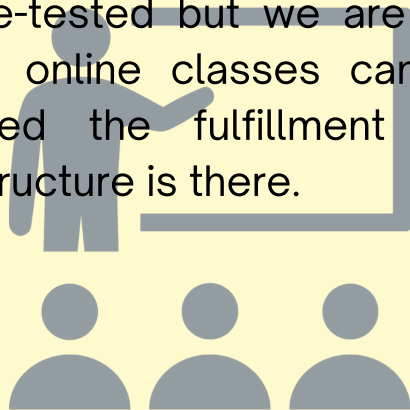
There are some advantages of classroom teaching that digital and online education will find hard to replace. Basically the classroom environment is essential to promote and stimulate collaborative learning which increases a student's self esteem, confidence and awareness about how other students learn and enables them to learn more easily and effectively. It helps the students with the opportunity to engage in live discussions enhancing their critical thinking and learning abilities. The students excel in social interactions with peers and establish a bond with the teachers. Moreover, the physical presence of a teacher keeps the students stimulated through various interactive sessions.

One of the differences between online and offline learning is location. With offline learning, participants are required to travel to schools and colleges, typically a lecture hall or a classroom. With online learning on the other hand the training can be conducted from practically anywhere in the world. Participants simply need to log-in to the internet from their home. Online learning is more flexible than classroom based-learning as students can learn through materials at their own endeavor. But there are many disadvantages of online classes. E-learning can cause social isolation. It requires strong self-motivation and time management skills. Developing the communication skills of the students is an area often neglected during online lessons. One of the biggest disadvantages of E-learning continues to be cheating through various methods as it lacks face to face communication. Online learning is inaccessible to



the computer- illiterate students. It requires computer and internet access which might not be accessible to many. In addition to that, the transition to online learning has the telling effect on the physical and mental health of students. Sitting continuously right in front of electronic gadgets may hamper their eyesight or they may experience stress, headache, spinal pain, etc. However, in a pandemic situation the advent of online classes have ensured that learning continues for its own sake.

Now, in this important juncture, both the modes of classes have their own advantages and disadvantages. Traditional classroom learning is time-tested but we are actually looking forward to a situation where online classes can be implemented in letter and spirit, provided the fulfillment of other conditions and necessary infrastructure is there.



SUBHANJANA ROY

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**There have been many debates** regarding the efficacy of online classes in this pandemic situation. One of the advantages of online classes is that they save time .

Online classes help students to concentrate more as there is no unwanted interaction among the students .On the other hand, the parents feel that the responsibility of education is now being shouldered by the parents more than anybody else in the name of online education.

There is no doubt that offline classes have always provided better learning facilities because of collaborative learning. Offline classes help students to interact with the teachers directly and thereby ensures access to advanced learning facilities. Offline classes are also free from technical issues and network issues Moreover, practical learning is only possible through offline classes. Thus in my opinion, on line classes can only act as an alternative for a brief span of time but they can never become a replacement of the age old teaching learning system that occurs in a class room situation.

UPAYAN CHAKRABORTY



# PANDEMIC AND FEDERALISM

*"The operation of the federal government will be most extensive and important in times of war and danger; those of state government, in times of peace and security."*

**-James Madison**

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**Federalism**, as noted by KC Wheare, traditionally signifies the independence of the Union and State governments of a country, in their own spheres. India's Constituent Assembly adopted a 'pick and choose' policy by carefully studying the Constitutions of other powerful federal nations like the US, Canada, Australia and Switzerland, to formulate a rule which suited uniquely to the Republic's need. As a result, India's Constituent Assembly became the first ever constituent body in the world to be signified as a 'cooperative federalism'. It is characterized by administrative cooperation between the Centre and the States, and a limited dependence of the States upon payments from the Centre. However, some recent circumstances have revealed a split in Centre-State cooperation. Despite, health being under the purview of the States, as commanded in Entry 6 of List II in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India the Centre had used the National Disaster Management Act to impose a nationwide lockdown from March 24. The guidelines issuance from the Centre without representation of the views from the states circumvents the legislative mandate of State consultations. The classifications of containment zones into 'red' and 'orange' had evoked sharp criticism from several States and demand for more autonomy in such classifications. The further declaration by the Centre, that corporations donating to PM-CARES may benefit CSR exemptions,



but those donating towards any Chief Minister's Relief Fund cannot, directly discourage donation to any Chief Minister Relief Fund and diverts crores of rupees from State revenues to PM-CARES, and makes the States dependent upon the Centre for funds. The Centre's sudden unilateral decision of two years suspension of MPLAD Scheme to divert the money to consolidated fund of India, further centralized revenue resources. All this has made it difficult for the States to bear the expenses as the first responders to the pandemic. A pandemic situation of this magnitude requires the Centre to view the States as equals, and strengthen their capabilities, instead of increasing their dependence upon itself and eventually give a new lease of life to federalism in India.

TRIDIBESH DASGUPTA

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN A PANDEMIC SITUATION

*"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity."*

**-Albert Einstein**

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**Dispute resolution** refers to a number of processes that can be used to resolve a conflict, dispute or claim. These processes are alternatives to having a court that is state or federal judge or jury decide the dispute in a trial or other institutions decide the resolution of the case or contract.

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown the entire world into insanity. The situation is unprecedented and requires every industry to adapt to new ways of working. It seeks to analyze the preparedness and response of the community to ensure that the resolution of disputes does not come to a standstill in view of the health risks, travel restrictions and social distancing measures owing to Covid-19.

In India, courts can refer disputes which are capable of being settled between parties to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) [ Code of Civil Procedure 1908, Sec 89]. The common forms of ADR recognized in India are Arbitration, Conciliation, Mediation and Judicial settlement or Lok Adalat.

Arbitration is one of the most commonly used ADR processes in India and all commercial contracts provide for this form of ADR in this pandemic situation. Through joint statement, the parties and Arbitrators have been advised to use their institutional rules and any case management techniques which may allow the dispute resolution proceedings to advance without undue delay while at the same time enforcing travel restrictions and social distancing. The

concerned parties have been advised to communicate through electronic mails and hearings have been shifted to virtual mode. The Supreme Court has asked parties to take up Pre-litigation Mediation to settle disputes.

To conclude, restricted access to courts and restrictions on other gatherings should not affect the process of dispute resolution. Now opportunities for new channels of resolution should be explored which allow innovations that will outlast the vestiges of Covid-19.



ARPITA ROY

## **ODR AS A MEANS OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

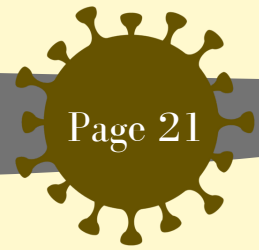
***India's dispute resolution mechanism needs to meet 21st century priorities.***

“If you like to know how it feels to be in hospitality during this corona virus pandemic? Remember when the Titanic was sinking and the band continued to play? Well, we're the band.”

Our courts have more than 33 million cases pending as per National Judicial Data Grid. More than half the cases are on petty matters. Attributes be given to the ratio of 18 judges per million population, judicial vacancies, procedural complexities, lack of alternatives, etc. And now, this Pandemic! Where are the 21st century alternatives? We have legally recognized Alternative Dispute Resolution through statutes like The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and the Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. But proliferate use of technology in dispute resolution mechanism in our country needs imperative attention.

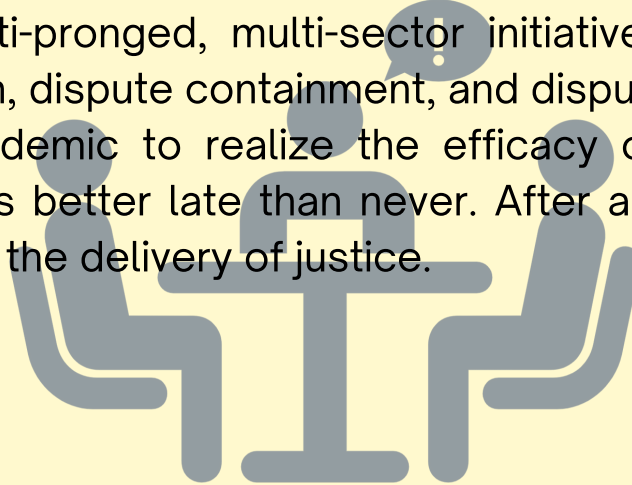
A mechanism of ODR or Online Dispute Resolution is a branch which facilitates resolution of disputes using Information and Communication Technology. It's a modern counterpart of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism. A joint reading and interpretation of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, Information technology Act, 2000, and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 confirms legality of ODR mechanism in legal framework in Indian statutes. Also, there are precedents set by the Supreme Court of India that supports use of technology for dispute resolution, encouraging ODR. The Supreme Court, in *State of Maharashtra v. Dr. Praful B. Desai*, established that video conferencing is an acceptable method of recording evidence for witness testimony. Such precedents can act effectively in persuading the use of ODR mechanism in the contemporary pandemic situation.





Recently, in a meeting hosted by Niti Aayog on advancement of Online Dispute Resolution in India, Justice DY Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India, talked about the need for technology to promote a sense of inclusive justice and an ODR platform, along with the need to create incentives for recourse to ODR by recognizing the role of private, voluntary ODR. The idea was to focus on prospects of online dispute resolution and the vision to effectively bring into use technology towards efficient and affordable access to justice in post-pandemic response. It was also discussed that ODR should have multi-pronged, multi-sector initiative that focuses on dispute resolution, dispute containment, and dispute avoidance.

It took us a pandemic to realize the efficacy of ODR in dispute resolution, but it's better late than never. After all, our only priority should always be the delivery of justice.



VAISHNAVI PREM SHARMA

# PROTECTION OF THE VULNERABLES

*"There is so much power in vulnerability, and I am proud to be the typecast"*

**-Julia Micheals**


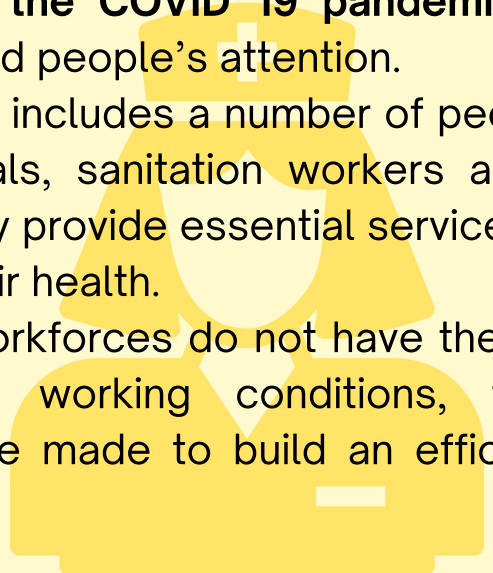
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## FRONTLINE WORKERS AND THE PANDEMIC

With the advent of the COVID 19 pandemic, the term frontline workers have captured people's attention.

It is a broad term and includes a number of people such as doctors, nurses, police officials, sanitation workers and others who must report to work as they provide essential services, even in the face of severe threats to their health.

Since all essential workforces do not have the same risk, exposure and have different working conditions, therefore a proper classification must be made to build an efficient infrastructure to protect them.



Some of the measures that can be taken to protect them are as follows:

### 1. Physical Measures

- Training the frontline workers to recognize the symptoms of the disease.
- Delivering protective equipment on a customized basis.
- Use of artificial intelligence to take over the functions wherever it can be applied, like, testing the samples of patients by automated machines instead of humans.
- Expanding health and life insurance coverage for the frontline workers.
- Providing governmental assistance.
- Dedicating beds in hospitals specifically for them when they contact the disease.
- Isolation facilities should be earmarked for them near their work place if required.
- Providing special sick leave and additional hazard pay.

### 2. Psychological Measures

- To motivate them in this adverse situation.
- Ensuring adequate communication with their families from the isolation centres.

### 3. Social Measures

- In case they contract the virus we should support them and their families
- We should appreciate their work rather than prejudicing and isolating them or forbidding them in housing complexes.

To conclude, I would like to state that we all have to change our attitude and thoughts towards them and a collective effort should be taken from all of us to overcome this pandemic.



# PANDEMIC AND LABOR

*"No work is insignificant. All Labor that uplifts humanity has dignity"*

**-Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"No race can prosper until it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem".

**Mr. Booker.T.Washington**

**The nationwide** lockdown and the subsequent disruption of life brought about by the pandemic to curb the spread of corona virus, has left a big hole in the pockets of the laborers. The internet has been full of images consisting of rich and middle class people clapping on their terrace whereas thousands of migrant laborers are trying to trudge back to their homes in gloomy faces. Their ability to survive such a long and arduous journey was itself a challenge. They also posed a health risk to themselves and to others along the way, especially those travelling from urban 'hot spot' Covid-19 clusters.

People look down upon domestic workers as the carriers of the disease when they are also equally vulnerable. Thus, the employers must educate the laborers regarding the pandemic such as differences between seasonal epidemics and worldwide pandemic disease outbreaks, which job activities may put them at risk for exposure to sources of infection, what options may be available for working remotely, or utilizing an employer's flexible leave policy when they are sick , social distancing strategies, and also good hygiene and appropriate disinfection.



Employers may modify the work environment or change work practices to provide additional protection to workers and clients, The laborers must also be made aware of the existing labor laws and their rights.

We should always think of the under privileged and how they can be assisted by the fortunate people like us in these trying times.

KHUSHI KALANI



**The world** is facing an unprecedented crisis. The world has not seen such a pandemic for a century. A global public health crisis requires a global response with far reaching consequences for our economy, social and political lives. The priority is to save lives

The worst affected are the vulnerable communities like migrant workers and daily wage workers. The economy of the country depends on them, but due to lockdown the migrant workers were forced to return towards their native states and daily wage workers are jobless. According to reports, now they are in dire straits and facing acute monetary crisis .

In these tough times, it is our collective responsibility to assist these hapless workers. The central and state governments along with non governmental agencies should come forward and take active part in rehabilitation process whereby these people can be protected during this pandemic situation.

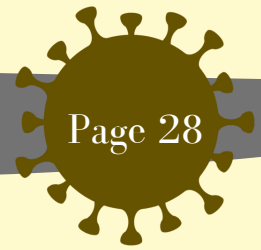
The least we can do is give our daily wage workers a paid leave and provide food and shelter who are migrating towards their home states. It's not easy to maintain the norms of this lockdown and help but we can try . It's the need of the hour to protect these communities as our country depends on them. If these communities are not protected, our economic and social lives will have a devastating consequence. It is our responsibility to be supportive and protect them from getting more affected by this pandemic.

PALAK KARWA



**The novel corona virus** (COVID-19) pandemic and ensuing lockdown have severely affected the labor market. Almost 90 percent of workers in India work in the informal economy--that part of the economy which thrives on daily work, and daily cash, with little provisions of employment protection. Labor Day is typically meant to highlight the protection of worker rights. This year, it came at a time when laborers are struggling to survive and their rights need protection more than ever.

Employers should ensure that their workers understand the difference between seasonal epidemics and worldwide pandemic disease outbreaks. They should also need to understand the job activities that may put them at risk for exposure to sources of infection and try to protect the health of their employees through effective medical insurance. The employers may consider providing sick leave so that workers may stay home if they are sick. Flexible leave policies help stem the spread of disease without jeopardizing their jobs. Following the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, employers should provide worker training on infection control, including the importance of avoiding close contact with others. Employers should provide adequate supplies and ready access to soap and running water, tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitizers and cleaning agents. Some worksites may need PPE (e.g., gloves, face shields, and respirators). Employers may modify the work environment and/or change work practices to provide additional protection to workers and clients. They may install physical barriers (e.g., clear plastic sneeze guards), conduct business in a different manner (e.g., use drive-through service windows, implement telework arrangements), improve ventilation (e.g., install high-efficiency air filters, increase ventilation rates), install additional hand sanitizer dispensers, provide facial tissues, and have workers use PPE.



India, like the rest of the world was not properly equipped to cope with the pandemic because of the adverse living conditions of the majority of our people and the absence of effective laws to control the life and existence of the millions in a pandemic situation.

SRIJA SAHA





# DOES INDIA NEED A PANDEMIC ACT?

*"Obey the laws and wear gauze, protect your jaws from septic paws."*

**-Ellen Marie Wiseman**

**The nationwide lockdown** has been central to the government's strategy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. With businesses closed, supply chain disrupted, timelines extended and contracts terminated, this exercise has caused the organized sector unprecedented economic loss. While the lockdown has helped contain community spread of the disease, a legal and legislative audit of this exercise has evaded scrutiny so far.

The lockdown has been carried out by State governments and district authorities on the direction of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act of 2005, which was intended "To provide for the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto". The invoking of the Disaster Management Act has allowed the Union Government to communicate seamlessly with the state. The State Governments and Authorities exercised powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 to issue further direction. However, serious questions remain whether the act was originally intended to or is sufficiently capable of addressing the threat of a pandemic. Also the use of the archaic Epidemic Diseases Act reveals the lack of requisite diligence and responsiveness of government authorities in providing novel and innovative policy solutions to address a 21st century problem. Another serious failing is that any violation of the orders passed would be prosecutable under section 188 of Indian Penal Code



which is a very ineffective and broad provision dealing with disobedience of an order issued by a public servant.

In contrast, the UK government enacted the Corona Virus Act 2020, which is a comprehensive legislation dealing with all issues connected with COVID-19. Similarly, Singapore has passed the Infectious Diseases Regulation Act 2020 to deal with the problems associated with this virus.

In India both Houses of Parliament functioned till March 23, 2020, when they were adjourned sine die. There were a number of interventions regarding COVID-19 by Opposition members throughout the session. However, the Union Government showed no inclination towards drafting or enacting a COVID-19- specific legislation that could address all the issues pre-emptively.

In the absence of a consolidated and proactive policy, there has been ad hoc and reactive rule making, as seen in the way migrant workers have been treated. This has also exposed the lack of co-ordination between the Union and State governments.

In past instances, the Union government has not shied away from promulgating ordinances. These circumstances call out for legislative leadership, to assist and empower States to overcome COVID-19 to revive their economic, educational and public health sector.

Hence, a COVID-19 Act 2020 is extremely necessary for India to deal with all issues connected with COVID-19 including emergency registration of healthcare professionals, facilities for criminal proceedings, powers to restrict gatherings and financial assistance to different industries.

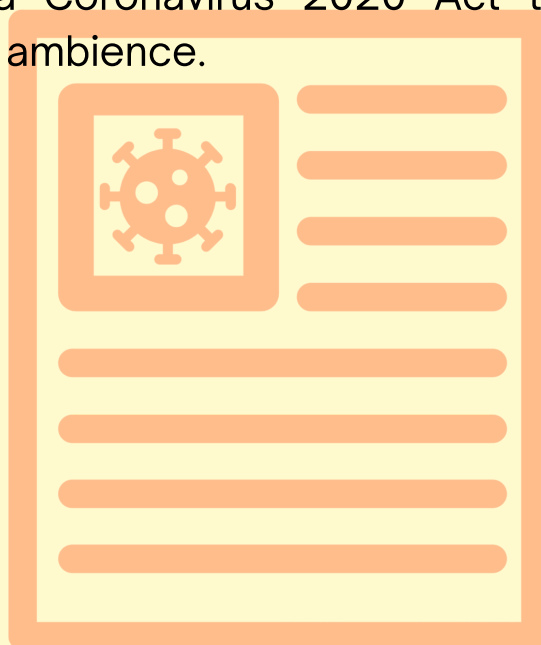
DIBYASREE MAJUMDAR

**Currently, we are dealing** with such a situation of which we never imagined even in our wildest dreams. The whole world is unitedly fighting against this COVID-19 pandemic. We had never thought of facing such a lethal situation where we all have to in complete lockdown for the quick recovery of the nation. The lockdown has been carried out by the State Governments and District Authorities on the directions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act of 2005, which was intended to provide for the effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The ‘National Disaster Management Authority’(NDMA) and ‘National Executive Committee’(NEA) issued orders directing the Union Ministries, State Governments and authorities to take effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and laid out guidelines illustrating which establishments would be closed and which services to be suspended during the lockdown period. However, a serious question remain where the Act was originally intended to or is sufficiently capable of addressing the threat of a pandemic. Also the Act reveals the lack of requisite diligence & responsiveness of Govt. authorities in providing novel and innovative policy solutions to address a 21st century problem.

In contrast, U.K enacted the Coronavirus Act, 2020 which is a comprehensive legislation dealing with all issues connected with all issues connected with COVID-19 including emergency registration of healthcare professionals, temporary closure of educational institutions, audio-visual facilities for criminal proceedings, powers to restrict gathering and financial assistance to industry. Similarly, Singapore has passed the Infectious Diseases Regulations 2020, which provides for issuance of stay orders which can send ‘at-risk individuals’ to a Govt. specified accommodation facility. Both U.K’s & Singapore’s laws set out unambiguous conditions and legally binding obligations. As such under Singaporean law, the violators may be penalised upto \$10,000 or face six months imprisonment or

both. In contrast, Sec.188 of the Indian Penal Code has a fine amount of Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 or imprisonment of one to six months. Even then, the proceedings under Sec 188 of IPC can only be initiated by private complaint and not through a FIR. As such offences arising out of these guidelines and orders have a weak basis in terms of criminal jurisdiction thereby weakening the objectives of the lockdown.

So, last but not the least, I would like to conclude by saying that YES, India needs a Coronavirus 2020 Act to fight against and conquer this deadly ambience.



MOURUSEE DAS BHOWMIK



# FAKE NEWS AND COVID-19

*"Beware of false knowledge ; it is more dangerous than ignorance."*

**-George Bernard Shaw**

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**We, live in an era of fake news.** The effectiveness of fake news lies in its ability to mimic real news. If one asks the advent of the fake news, then there is only one answer i.e. the beginning of news itself. In 2019, the over embellished beings of the modern century came across a new word that is Corona virus. The outbreak of the pandemic resulted in a colossal setback in all walks of human life. And in this world of stress and suffering, comes in the phenomenon called fake news to excite and fool the over anxious masses. It has been found that social media plays a key role in spreading fake news , especially during the Covid 19 period. When the pandemic broke out different kinds of fake news surrounding the origin of the virus engulfed the entire world. But the rate of dissemination was much rapid in India. One of the most circulated fake news which went viral on the social media was regarding the effectiveness of Gaumutrato combat the virus. Several fake videos of Tablighi members' rude conduct on many health workers sparked violent attacks. All these were arbitrarily manufactured fake news. Fake guidelines supposedly circulated by WHO also reached the people and managed to create even more confusion among the already over stressed netizens.





Earlier, some measures were adopted by office of the Mumbai Police Commissioner of India State in order to restrain the circulation of fake news in the state of Maharashtra. We cannot stop the generation of fake news but we can stop sharing it with others so that widespread circulation of such false news can be controlled. The Cyber crime branch should concentrate more in formulating strict measures to check the rapid spread of fake news. Our lives have suddenly come to a standstill because of the deadly virus. However, we should always remain conscious of our responsibility towards humanity and strive towards a better tomorrow.



MADHUSREE BANERJEE

**Fake news** is travelling much faster than the coronavirus in India. Even before the country reported its first case on 30 January, India's social media was rife with fake posts, wild rumours, conspiracy theories, doctored videos about the disease's origin, its subsequent spread and possible remedies.

fake messages began populating all major social media platforms, particularly Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, TikTok and so on. COVID-19 related fake news began climbing in the third week of March took a massive spike in early April, particularly after the Tablighi Jamaat incident in Delhi which is all know to us, where more than 4000 people were victims of this virus, and around 40000 people were quarantined. Fake news was directed to target this particular minority group depicting them as the vector of the virus, thereby complicating the collective fight against a rapidly spreading global pandemic.

An influential study by the Vaccine Confidence Project (VCP) found more than 240 million digital and social media messages globally on COVID-19 by mid-March, at an average of 3.08 million daily messages. 35% of all this fake messages are fake videos, 29% images and a similar percentage were doctored messages on range of issues such as fake diagnosis and treatment, falsified quotes by celebrities with their photos, false notifications and lockdown guidelines among other.

The growing fake news menace prompted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to flag the same in his recent address to the NAM summit, which took place in the month of May 2020. India is on the radar of most social media companies with a rapidly growing internet base with it's growing population. This fake news are becoming menace, and a usual business in India. WHO in South East Asia, India even clarified about the fake messages sent out in WhatsApp stating what WHO has released advisories and protocols for Lockdown in India. WHO clarified that they haven't issued such advisories and protocols.

The only thing which we can do from our part is that, if anyone sends us this fake messages believing it to be real, question them regarding the source of the message and if it's not known to that person, then to tell the person not on send such messages to the public at large. That might help to an extent to curb this growing menace.



MANISHA DAS

**Many would not have imagined fake news** becoming a major menace in the time of life-threatening pandemic. Yet, this has become business as usual in India.

Fake news is travelling much faster than the Corona virus in India. Even before the country reported its first case on 30 January, India's social media was rife with fake posts, wild rumors, conspiracy theories, doctored videos about the origin of the disease, its subsequent spread and possible remedies. Once the country started reporting more cases, a torrent of fake messages began descending upon all major social media platforms. According to a recent report by the fact checking website BOOM, COVID-19 related fake

\news which originated in the third week of March took a massive spike in early April, particularly after the Tablighi Jamaat incident in Delhi. Much of the fake news consisted of fake videos, images and a similar percentage doctored on a wide range of issues such as fake diagnosis and treatment, falsified quotes by celebrities with their photos, false notifications and lockdown guidelines among others. Worryingly, after the Tablighi incident, a substantial portion of fake news was directed to target a particular minority group depicting them as the vector of the virus, thereby complicating the collective fight against a rapidly spreading global pandemic.

India is not an exception to the virus of fake news. The world too is struggling with the deluge of misinformation about the evolving pandemic. The fake news surrounding the origin of the virus, its subsequent spread and threats it poses have nearly engulfed every nation, although with varied intensity. For instance, an influential study by the Vaccine Confidence Project (VCP) found more than 240 million digital and social media

messages globally on COVID-19 by mid-March, at an average of 3.08 million daily messages. A vast majority of these messages were found to be misleading in their intent.

Therefore the country should start imposing their existing security policies and also work towards the adoption of strong measures so that the generation and circulation of fake news surrounding the virus is promptly brought to an end during this life-threatening pandemic.



NIKHIL SHARMA



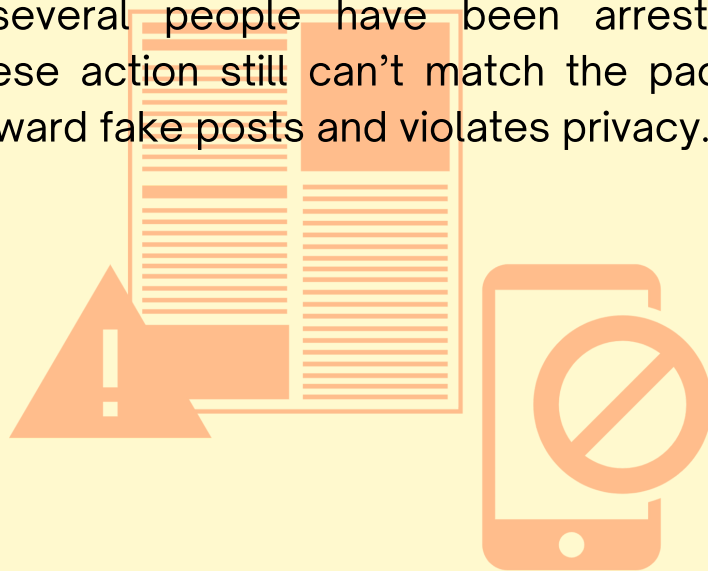
**Ever since the corona virus outbreak** was first appeared in Wuhan, China social media platforms have been flooded with post on the disease. Beginning February when awareness about the disease rose in India social media platforms it has seen numerous post on covid-19 ranging from information on the outbreak to false news about its origin and spread to offering untested treatment for the disease and also prescribing strange diets.

Now with the lockdown being enforced across the country such misleading post not only amplify the menace of fake news creating panic and frustration but also result in privacy violations as medical records of tested individuals are being willfully circulated online. In a few cases false medical reports have also been generated from random individuals and then people are suspecting them of having the disease and socially boycotting them. Such overflow of content make it difficult for the people to believe real news from the fake ones. The government used technology and social media along with broadcast media to update the people about the spread of the disease especially on the precautions to be taken along with the correct health and hygiene habits.

Despite the warnings and concern many viscous minds continue to create and spread fake post. A larger section forwards them across groups, often out of ignorance or the excitement of becoming a “news breaker”. Here, we need a much wider awareness involving all stakeholders to make every section of the society aware of the laws and regulations as well as the harmful effect of fake post. Social media operators should also take a much responsible role. In turn law enforcement agencies need to take action against fake content generators and transmitters and for that their capacity has to be widely expanded both in terms of numbers and quality.



To sum up India has laws and rules to deal with fake news. Efforts are being made to enhance the scope and make them more effective. The IT act and the rules around the act have an expansive role to factor in many situations or violation. In the current situation there is the additional advantage of the provisions of section 54 of the Disaster Management act 2005 which deals with false warning around a disaster leading to panic. The circular of the MHA also mentions the applicability of section 505 and 188 of the Indian penal code and Section 3 of the epidemic disease act 1897. Using these provisions several people have been arrested across States. However these action still can't match the pace at which people post and forward fake posts and violates privacy.



RISAD RAHMAN



# HEALTH OR RIGHT TO PRIVACY

*"The right to be let alone is indeed the beginning of all freedom."*

*[Public Utilities Commission v. Pollak, 343 U.S. 451, 467(1952)]*

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*Is Right to Privacy hampered during a pandemic?*

**At present, humankind is facing the biggest crisis of our generation.** In the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic several governments have already taken help of the new surveillance tools. By monitoring people's smart phones closely, using cameras with face recognition functions and by making it mandatory to check and report their body temperatures and medical conditions, the authorities can identify suspected carriers of corona virus. The government can also track their movements and identify anyone they come in contact with.

If the citizens are not careful, the epidemic might mark a dominant watershed in the history of surveillance and breach of privacy. It signifies a dangerous transformation from "over the skin" to "under the skin" surveillance. No doubt that such a strict surveillance can help in reducing the spread of the pandemic but the downside is that it would give legitimacy to a scary new surveillance system.

The present crisis can be the crucial point in the battle between health and privacy because when people are asked to choose between the two, they will usually choose health. But in my opinion, such choice in itself is absurd. We must enjoy both health and privacy and it is the obligation of the government to ensure both.

SUNNY KUMAR

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## RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND PANDEMIC

**The Right to Privacy is a fundamental right.** The Indian Constitution encompasses the right to privacy under Article 21 which is a requisite of right to life and personal liberty. However, the right to privacy does get violated during the unprecedented and chaotic pandemic situation in the country. In the case of COVID-19, a similar area of concern has emerged where the people's privacy has been compromised. The promotion of an application named as 'Aarogya Setu' by the Government of India, which is designed to trace the spread of COVID-19 by using Bluetooth, is questionable. This app alerts a registered user if he or she has come in close proximity, even unknowingly, with any other registered user who has tested COVID-19 positive. This in itself is causing a hindrance to the privacy of the people. It has many pitfalls which the people are unaware of. However, privacy can hardly be protected through encryption and as the app asks for personal details and location of a person which clearly portrays a threat to privacy. Also, there are no traces of transparency of the source code as it is not made accessible to the public in general. The app also clearly states the condition that the user acknowledges and agrees that the government will not be held liable for any unauthorized access of user's information or modifications. It is dangerous to use an app which mentions that the details of the user could be accessible by others. This in itself shows that, the right to privacy gets hampered during a pandemic. If the government fails to address this serious issue in a comprehensive manner, it may become alarming in the days to come.

TULIKA ROY





# PANDEMIC AND THE GDP OF THE NATIONS

**The recent adversity which is the COVID – 19** has not only affected the health of people, but it has also resulted in harmful effects on the economy of all the countries. The world's most affected economies due to corona virus belong to the European nations, the US, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that gross domestic product fell by 6.8% in the first quarter of 2020, a sharp drop for China since the country first began reporting its GDP in 1992.

The US economy also shrank in the first quarter, ending the longest expansion on record as lockdowns aimed at curbing the corona virus pandemic choked off economic activity.

According to the reports released by the World Bank, India's GDP is expected to contract by 3.2% in 2020-21. There will be a moderate recovery to 3.1% growth in 2021-22.

What does a contraction in GDP mean in real life? Incomes will drop and jobs will be lost. However, the impact of the contraction will vary across sectors, states, even social groups. This knowledge is indispensable for an effective policy intervention.

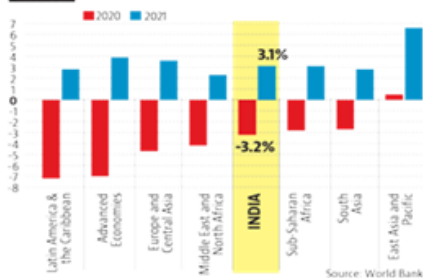
There is a major blind spot for policymakers in tracking consumption trends. India does not have a consumption expenditure survey after 2011-12. However, the government has not been releasing the quarterly data regularly. If the surveys show bad news, so be it. We are officially in a recession.

Thus the pandemic not only has posed to be a serious public health hazard but has also adversely affected the economic progression of the majority of the nations across the globe.

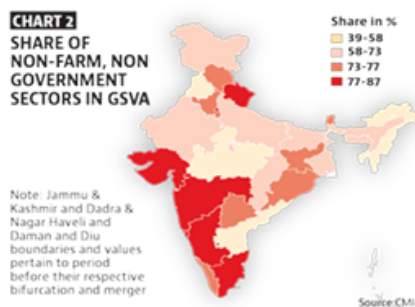


## MAPPING THE RECESSION

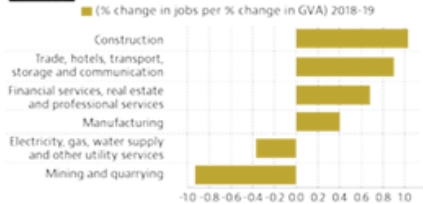
**CHART 1** PROJECTED GDP GROWTH



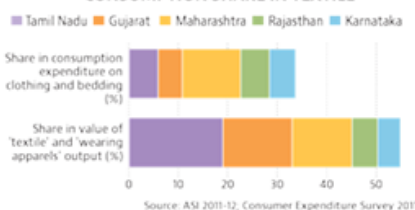
**CHART 2** SHARE OF NON-FARM, NON-GOVERNMENT SECTORS IN GSVA



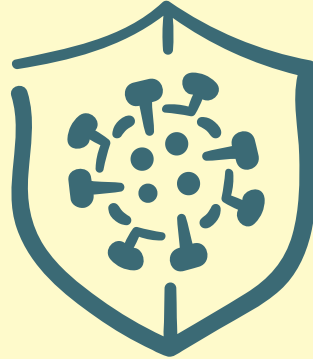
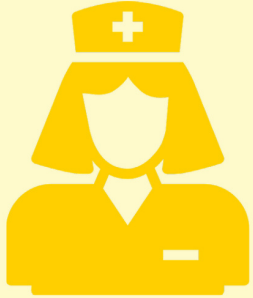
**CHART 3** EMPLOYMENT ELASTICITY OF OUTPUT\*



**CHART 4** MISMATCH IN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION SHARE IN TEXTILE



ALISHA KHAN



# Image Gallery



SUMANA SAHA



SHRISTY TIWARI



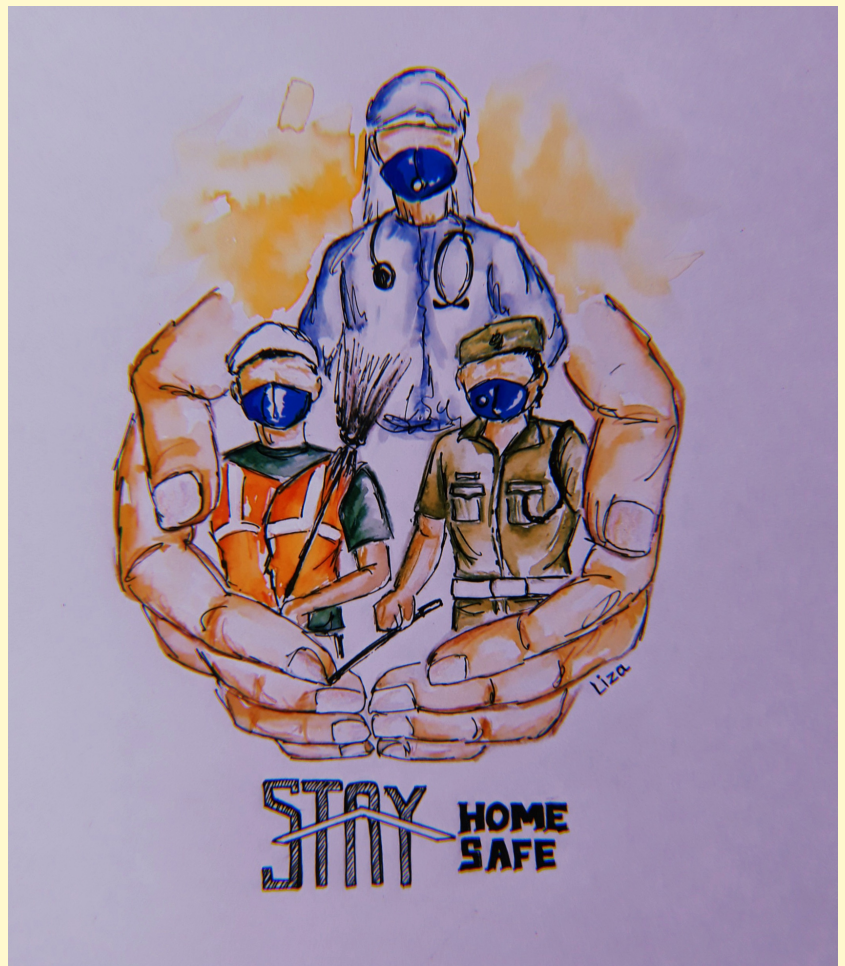


PRADYANNA BISWAS





SUBHANJANA ROY



LIZA CHATTERJEE





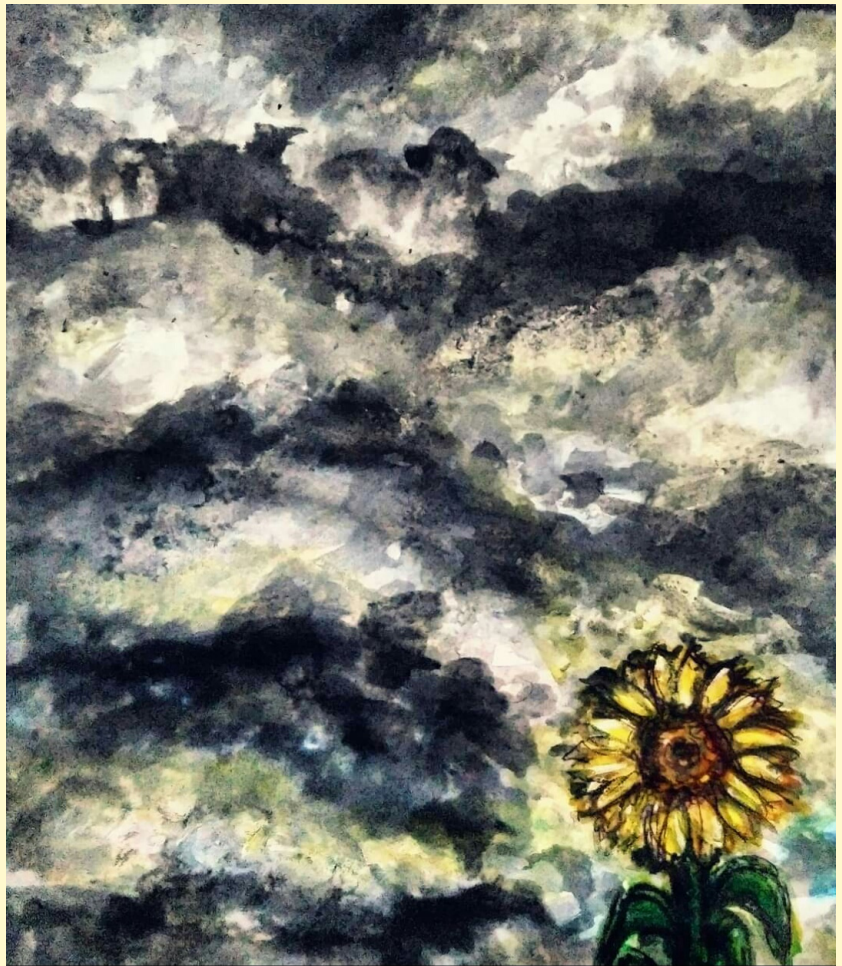
JAYASREE SAHA





SHREYA MONDAL, SEC-B, 4th SEM

SHREYA MONDAL



SHRISTY TIWARI





MEGHA MAZUMDAR





SRIJITA KOLEY



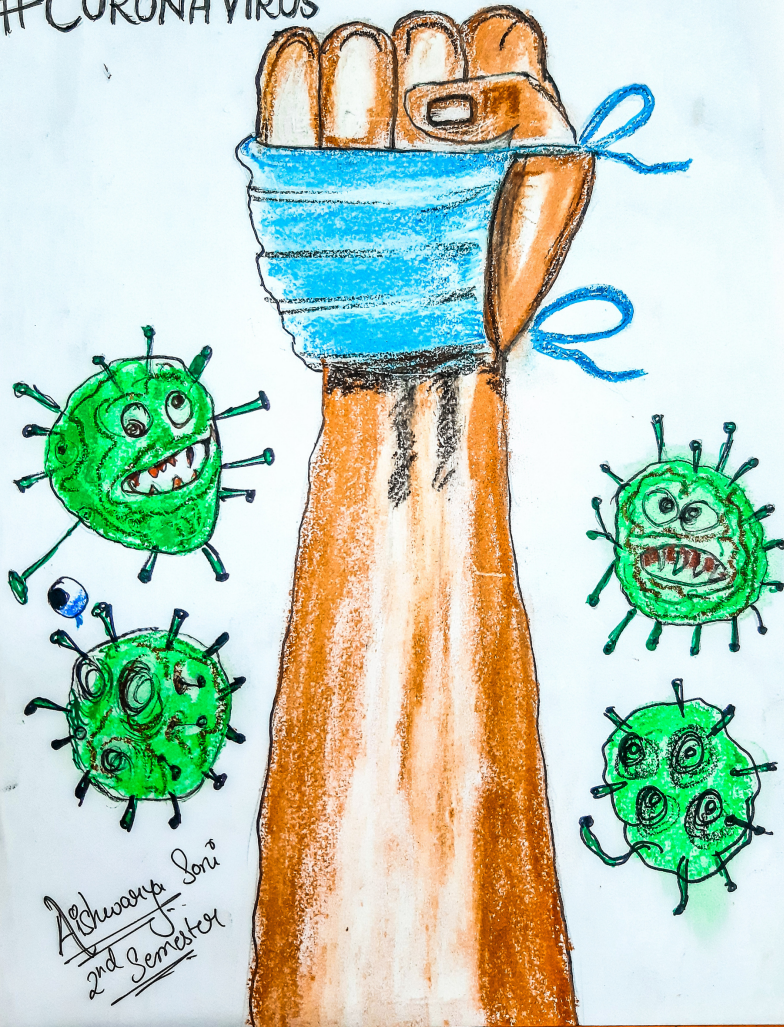
DEVANG DAS



MANISHA DAS

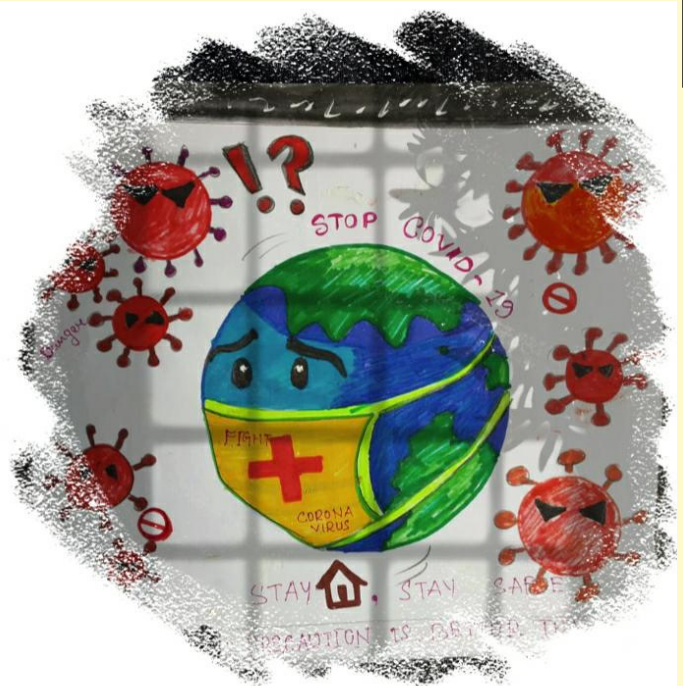


INDIA FIGHTS BACK !!  
#CORONAVIRUS

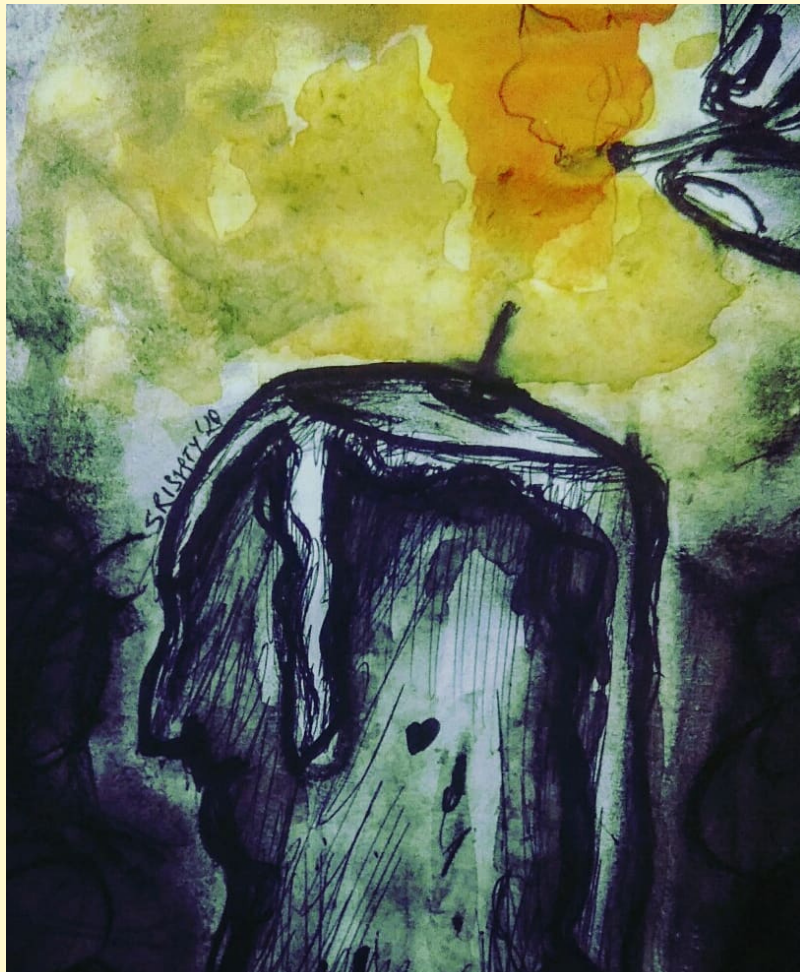


AISHWARIYA SONI

ARCHITA PAUL







SHRISTY TIWARI

### THE CAGED TRADERS

I wonder about the street vendors  
And what about the bus hawkers?  
Shall I call it twenty-twenty  
Or an ill-fated year?

Struck with fear and strife  
Burdened with a nomadic life  
Means of livelihood choked  
Under the pandemic's yoke

Plying their trade  
Searching for the familiar crowds  
The poor gets poorer  
Trapped in the viral shroud

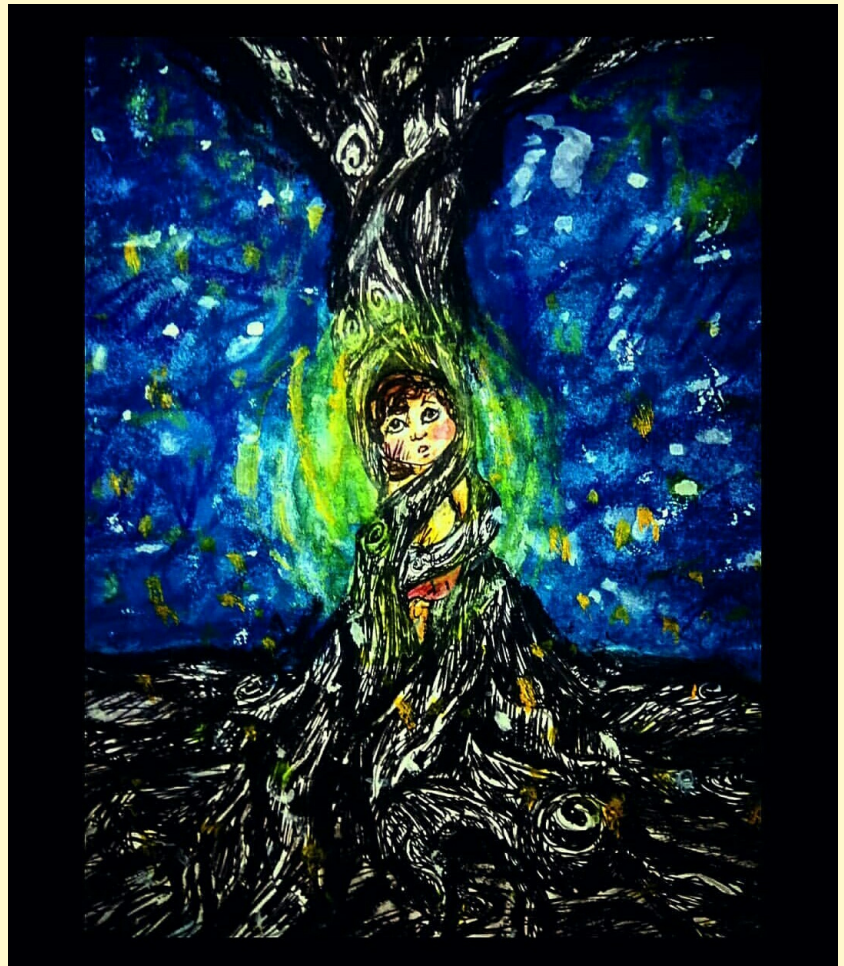
The City of Joy, refuge of wanderers  
Now devoid of mirth and laughter  
Grip of terror grips the nation  
Economy dies a slow death in isolation

SHAMIMA JASMIN





SNEHA BANERJEE



SHRISTY TIWARI

## DID YOU KNOW?

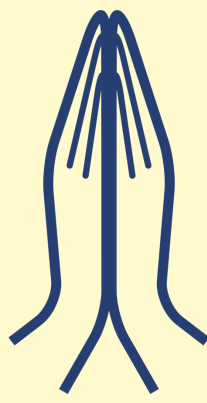
- The words “**quarantine**” and “**social distancing**” have now become a part of our everyday lives. Once capable of leaving the house at will, we now have to wear masks in order to protect ourselves. DO YOU KNOW? QUARANTINE ACTUALLY HAS ITS OWN FLAG

You read that right. The quarantine flag, also known as the “Yellow Jack” is the international signal flag LIMA. Used primarily to signal the arrival of ships that may carry a contagious disease or those under enforced quarantine, its bright yellow squares are hard to miss. After the port authorities inspect a ship and deem it “safe”, the checkered black and yellow flag are replaced by a solid yellow flag. Solid yellow indicates that the ship is clear to enter.

- **EVEN ASTRONAUTS GET QUARANTINED**

Back in 1969, the astronauts who were involved in the first manned lunar mission landed back on Earth expecting a hero’s welcome. After a recovery mission that took place in the Pacific Ocean, the three-man Apollo 11 team was taken back to NASA headquarters. However, due to fears that the moon’s surface was filled with potential pathogens, experts decided to leave all three astronauts in isolation for nearly a month. To make things worse, the astronauts were transported to different facilities during this quarantine. Could you imagine making history and then having NASA say, “thanks for the hard work. We’re actually going to need you to stay in isolation for over a month.”





**As the very first volume of our e-magazine Dia- La(w)- Gue, is all set to see the light of day, the world at large still suffers from the onslaught of the lethal virus which continues to claim lives and wreak havoc with the normal patterns of human existence even today.**

**Daily active cases continue to hover around 40,000 in India despite the widespread vaccination drive. The nation is on the brink of the terrible Third Wave which threatens to be even more murderous than the earlier ones. Thus, for human beings, the struggle to live is now at its maximal.**

**However we believe that strict adherence to the precautionary measures, would enable us to conquer the deadly virus and advance towards an aseptic universe.**

***Cheers to a healthy tomorrow!!***

