

Don't make UG, PG exams mandatory: State to Centre

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo on Thursday wrote to Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank urging the latter not to make UG and PG examinations in the State mandatory. The State Government had also earlier written to the Centre over the issue. Sahoo again wrote the letter mentioning that there was no response from the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the previous letter. Sahoo opined that it is neither possible nor advisable to conduct the examinations due to the COVID-19 situation. "The number of UG and PG final semester/year students in Odisha is about 2 lakhs. Most of them belong to the low and middle-income group and do not have a desktop or laptop or decent smartphone at home. Most of them also stay in rural areas not having a reliable internet connection. Therefore, conducting online examination for such a large number of students is simply not possible," he wrote.

Conducting physical examination would expose the students, the college staffs and their family members to the risk of Covid-19. As public transportation is now virtually nonexistent, it is not possible on the part of the students to come to their colleges. For hostellers, it would be a herculean task to accommodate themselves in hostels maintaining all the Covid-19 protocols, Sahoo said in the letter. As the hostel accommodation is limited, many students used to stay in private rented hostels/houses. As colleges are closed down since March 24, all of them have gone back to their native places. The house owners would now not allow them to stay in their houses/hostels considering the Covid-19 risk, he said. A number of colleges are presently being used by the district administrations for quarantine centres, Covid Care Homes, Covid Care Centres, etc. Students coming to these colleges for examinations would be exposed to the Covid-19 risk, he said. Conduct of examination in September 2020, as advised

by the UGC would get further delayed as the Covid situation is worsening in India. In that case, the academic calendar would go off the rail completely jeopardising the future career of students, he said. If the alternative evaluation system can be accepted for intermediate year/semester students, it should also be accepted for final semester/year students. Students not happy with the alternative evaluation system (the number will be very less) would anyway get a chance to appear in the physical examination to be conducted in November/December once the Covid-19 situation improves. Through the alternative evaluation system, the final semester/year result can be published by August 31 which would not derail the academic calendar at all, he said. Sahoo requested the HRD Minister to reconsider the matter and allow the State universities to adopt the alternative evaluation guidelines issued by the State Government instead of conducting examinations as per the revised MHRD/UGC guidelines.

FIR lodged against 'touch therapy' Baba



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Trouble has mounted for self-styled godman Baba Artatrana at Lumbini Vihar, Chandrasekharpur. People are being victimised with his superstitious act of curing disease by touch therapy and self-claimed supernatural power endowed with him which has no scientific evidence, the complainant said in the FIR. He also urged the police to ascertain the amount of property and money gained by the 'Baba' by cheating people.

The illegal activities are being carried out by Baba Artatrana at Lumbini Vihar, Chandrasekharpur. People are being victimised with his superstitious act of curing disease by touch therapy and self-claimed supernatural power endowed with him which has no scientific evidence, the complainant said in the FIR. He also urged the police to ascertain the amount of property and money gained by the 'Baba' by cheating people.

'Remedial classes needed for disadvantaged students'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a virtual discussion series on MISSION 3-5-8, a nationwide campaign on education, experts urged the State Government to focus on school infrastructure and use lockdown as an opportunity to start remedial classes to help weaker students learn faster and be like other students. Organised by the Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha, the Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha and the Atmashakti Trust, the discussion entitled "Policy, planning and approaches of school education during Covid-19" was joined by more than 100 CSO representatives across the State. The representatives decried the lack of required school infrastructure and the woes of online education that has left lakhs of rural children in the lurch. Participating in the discussion, national manager of ActionAid and advisor on RTE to Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Ghasiram Panda said, "Covid

As online classes not accessible to all, say civil society members

19 has made us comprehend once again that we are far behind in fulfilling the norms and standards for our schools as envisaged in RTE. It has been the major bottleneck in achieving the minimum level of learning. "Children, mostly from the poor-families, who study in Government-run schools, are the worst sufferers as their learning has taken a halt. Though the State Governments have offered several online classes, both teachers and students are facing challenges as there is an absence of physical classrooms and proper digital infrastructure. The disparity in access from smartphones, computer, electricity and internet connections also pose a challenge to mitigate the learning gap", the participants in the discussion lamented.

According to the information shared by School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash, more than 20 lakh children are attending the online classes so far, offered by the Government, which stands at only 33.33%. However, data from the secondary sources claim that only 6 lakh children have so far benefited from the programme. Online classes cannot ensure the education of all children, especially the marginalised children who do not have a smartphone or a laptop added with the costly affair of buying an internet pack, they opined. "Therefore, the State Government should immediately start remedial classes for the students so that the learning gap of the disadvantaged children can be bridged," the participants urged.

'14K cured of Covid sans treatment in city'

BHUBANESWAR: A serological survey conducted in Bhubaneswar by the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) has, in its interim report, stated that an average of 1.42 per cent of people in the State capital city have created antibody against coronavirus. This means that they have been infected with the virus without knowledge and got cured automatically without undergoing treatment. If the total population in Bhubaneswar is 10 lakh, around 14,200 residents have been recovered from Covid-19 so far, according to the interim report. They did neither develop Covid-19 symptoms nor undergo any test to detect infection. The ICMR, Bhubaneswar unit had conducted a serological survey to identify the prevalence of Covid-19 in the population as well as antibodies developed in them. Out of 951 samples collected for the test, 15 were found seropositive. However, the report contradicts to Covid-19 data shared by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). As per BMC report, total 1,343 infected persons detected in Bhubaneswar so far, of which 724 have recovered. On the contrary, the RMRC serological survey interim report showed that around 1,285 persons infected with the deadly virus have recovered in the city so far.

Assn plead for reopening of amusement parks in State

To ease people's mental stress during Covid pandemic



This regard and requested to consider opening up of the social infrastructure. While appreciating and acknowledging the e humongous efforts taken by the State Government to control the pandemic, the IAAPI has requested to unlock the lock-down in a phased manner with a controlled Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The IAAPI has pointed out that the mental health of the population is severely affected and the stress levels need to be lowered. It is essential to de-stress the population by active outdoor and indoor activities giving them holistic recreation. Amusement and theme parks would play a pivotal role in this regard as they are spread across large areas of open land surrounded with lots of plantations and landscaping. They have safer distance between the rides and attractions which would ensure maintaining social distancing. The IAAPI has prepared the SOP under guidance of professionals from medical fraternity. However, State officials are worried over opening the parks as Covid-19 is extending its tentacles in a vigorous way and positive cases are on the rise.

--City social worker death-- Report says suicide note written by him

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a significant development in the probe into the death of social worker Aditya Dash in the city, the forensic report regarding the examination of the 'suicide note' confirmed that it was written by him. "The handwriting of the note was similar to that of Aditya's earlier handwritings," said Railways ADG Pranabindu Acharya on Thursday. Police had seized a handwritten diary of Aditya, in which it was mentioned on a page that no one was responsible for his death. On the other hand, the GRP wrote to Facebook seek-



ing details about the last post from the deceased's account on July 6. Incidentally, his last Facebook post was regarding a quote over death. Aditya was found dead on the railway track near Lingaraj Temple Road station in the city on July 7. He had gotten married on June 9. He was running an old-age home at Sundarapara in the city and was involved in social service through an NGO 'People For Seva'. The postmortem report had revealed that he died due to grievous injuries on his head. Aditya's wife, family members and friends have already been questioned during the investigation by police.

Centre praises anti-Maoist op in Kandhamal

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Centre has praised the Odisha Police for its anti-Maoist operation in Kandhamal district in which four Leftwing extremists were killed earlier this month. In a letter to the State Chief Secretary and DGP, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla complimented the team of officers and police personnel for the successful operation in Kandhamal on July 5. He applauded the Odisha Police in conducting operation in a professional manner without any casualty of the security personnel. The works of the Odisha LWE intelligence unit and specialised anti-Maoist force (SOG) were also appreciated.

Capital-80 donates ₹1lakh to CMRF

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The "Capital-80", an association of old students of the Capital High School who passed matriculation in 1980, on Thursday donated Rs 1 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for utilisation in Covid fight. A team comprising association president Er Saroj Kumar Sahoo, general secretary Baikunthanth Tripathy, vice-president Shiba Prasad Das and Jnana Ranjan Das and members Bhagaban Mishra and



Shiba Prasad Patra handed over a check to Information and Public Relations Minister Raghunandan Das at his residential office here, informed vice-president Bobin Mohanty. The Minister praised the Capital-80 members for undertaking various social works.

Lockdown: Road mishaps down by 65%

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

There has been a steep fall in the number of road accidents and, consequently, a sharp decline of 65% in deaths due to road mishaps during the Covid-19 lockdowns between March 25 and May 31. According to a senior State Transport Authority (STA), during the lockdown period, 384 persons were killed and 722 injured in 836 road accidents compared as many as 1,087 deaths and 2,175 cases of injury in 2,107 accidents during the corresponding period of 2019. In April this year, the number of deaths due to road accidents was 118 against 485 in the same period in 2019, registering a decline of about 74%.

Total 231 road mishaps were reported in April 2020 against 877 in April last year. In May 2020, the number of deaths was 243 against 494 in May 2019, recording a decline of about 51%. Total 551 road accidents were reported in May this year against 953 in May last year. The lockdown also had its impact on motor vehicle revenue collection. The STA official said Rs 159.8 crore has been collected in the first quarter from April to June this year against Rs 384 crore in April-June 2019, about a 58% decline. However, in June it picked up with a collection of Rs 96 crore against Rs 112.7 crore in June 2019, a decrease of 14.8% in real terms.

SOCIAL CANVAS Covid woes: Betel farmers facing sale hurdles



MANAS JENA

Thousands of small betel farmers in coastal Odisha have been constantly facing the brunt of frequent natural calamities that damage their betel vines but while they don't get adequate and timely compensation against their loss, the Covid-19 pandemic has added to their misery. In the ongoing time of lockdown and shutdown, the sale of their crop in local market as well as

outside has been badly hit. These farmers also have reeling under issues of lack of institutional support under agriculture sector such as input subsidy, credit, MSP and a host of other facilities available for other crops. Rabindra Bhoi and Santosh Bhoi from Raghugarada village in Balipatana block of Khurda district are small betel farmers. They manage their livelihood by betel vine cultivation but these days they are continuously incurring loss due to frequent visits of cyclones, erratic rains and tornadoes. The lockdown and shutdown have almost damaged their livelihood in the absence of adequate and timely Government support to compensate their frequent losses. Both Dalit small farmers have no other means of livelihood. Similar problems are also faced by Tuku Behera and Basant Behera and hundreds of small Dalit farmers and sharecroppers in coastal districts,

who are in dire straits. Akshya Das, a betel farmer and farmer leader of Dhenkia in Jagatsinghpur district, told that about 7,000 betel farmers of Erasama block were not being compensated in spite of their losses and for last five months their condition had been worse due to the lockdown and shutdown owing to Covid 19. A large chunk of these farmers is Dalit and daily wage earners in betel gardens and many of the betel gardens are in common land yet to be recorded in the names though they have been in possession of the land since generations. In spite of long time protests by peasants, there is no survey and settlement to ensure the landless are allotted land in these areas. These farmers used to send betel leaf to Mumbai and Kolkata by trains with special arrangement. Late Loknath Choudhury, former CPI MP, had made a request to the

Govt yet to compensate their losses caused by frequent cyclones

Government of India for allocating special compartment to export betel to Mumbai. But unfortunately, these days, leaders are not much interested in issues of betel farmers and their plight seems to be no man's concern. Hundreds of betel farmers were displaced and lost their livelihood for land accusation by the Government in the name of industries in Jagatsingpur district and this process is still continuing without any industry. Rather, the traditional livelihood of people has been minimized which threw many

jobless. Sanjit Swain, a betel farmer organizer of Nuahata market in Kakatpur block of Puri district told that about 10,000 betel farmers in the block were silently suffering without any help from the Government. He also told that last time the meagre amount of compensation against heavy loss due to cyclone was not through proper survey by officials. Rather the beneficiaries were selectively chosen who were supporters of the ruling party, he alleged. These days due to the pandemic, the farmers have started destroying their crops and are under tremendous pressure to pay off loan. The harvesting period of betel is within two weeks and after harvesting it has to be sold immediately, otherwise it will perish soon due to lack of storage facility. The intermediary businessman and exporter are getting better price than the farmer in the absence of better storage and transport

facility though there is a good demand for export of betel outside the local market within India and South Asia. The coastal areas of Odisha have remained backward without much industrialisation and urbanisation and lack of communication links due to rivers and their small tributaries crisscrossing the area. Water logging and insufficient irrigation have continued as a major impediment relating to agriculture in coastal areas. Mostly the costal farmers are dependent on paddy, betel and fish cultivation, apart from seasonal vegetables. Still betel continues as a major cash crop here. Considering the gravity of the issue of the betel farmers, the State Government must come out to help them financially in restoration of shades of their betel vine and take steps for resolving the marketing problem during Covid-19, feel many. (manasbbs15@gmail.com)

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COVID-19 OUTBREAK

1,078 more test positive in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI For the second day in succession, Kerala diagnosed more than 1,000 persons afflicted with Covid-19.

the hospitals after they were found to be fully recovered. The Chief Minister said that the Council of Ministers which met on Thursday morning had asked the Governor to cancel the one-day session of the Legislative Assembly called for next week.

Virus claims 88 lives in TN while 6,472 test +ve

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Hopes of any kind of respite from the coronavirus pandemic remained elusive in Tamil Nadu as 88 persons succumbed to Covid-19 in the last 24 hours while 6,472 new persons tested positive on Thursday.

Major reshuffle in TMC organisational posts

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Within 48 hours of blowing the poll bugle Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday effected a major reshuffle in the ruling Trinamool Congress by infusing a mix of experience, youth, clean image and loyalty at the organisational level.

718 afflicted in J&K on Thurs

Jammu: The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Thursday reported 718 positive cases of coronavirus while nine more patients died taking the total tally of cases to 16,429.

Crucial time for Vijayan as NIA begins questioning ex-Secy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The National Investigating Agency, probing the gold smuggling through diplomatic route in Thiruvananthapuram airport, on Thursday started questioning M Sivsankar, the suspended principal secretary of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

GOLD SMUGGLING

officials at Thiruvananthapuram which lasted for more than nine hours. The NIA had interrogated Sarith, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair for many days before they took the decision to summon Sivsankar.

Bengal Police takes stern action against lockdown violators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

With apparent evidence that the Government meant business in implementing the "broken lockdown" the Bengal Police on Thursday ensured a complete closure of the State arresting about 650 people from various parts of Kolkata for breaking the lockdown protocols.

Pak Army shells areas along LoC in Baramulla

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Pakistan Army on Thursday activated several sectors along the line of control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir and targeted civilian pockets in Poonch and Naugam sector of Baramulla district.

Bihar Govt starts 'Sahkaari Se Tarkaari Vaarta' initiative

PNS ■ PATNA

In an unique initiative and perhaps the first of its kind in the country, the Bihar Government has started a direct connect with the vegetable growers and people involved in farming of vegetables only.

Centre not imported 10k tonnes of milk powder: Min

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Contesting Swambhimani Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raju Shetti's claim that the Centre was not increasing the procurement prices of milk product prices because of its decision to import milk powder, BJP's State Kisan Morcha president and former State Agriculture Minister Anil Bonde on Thursday denied that the Government had imported 10,000 tonnes of milk powder as was being alleged by Shetti.

Maha: 298 die, 9,895 +ve

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra recorded the highest-ever 298 coronavirus deaths on Thursday, even as many as 9,895 more people tested positive in various parts of the State.

Brief me about law & order in State: WB Guv to Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what has added more fuel to the fire burning the bridge between the Trinamool Congress Government and the Raj Bhavan, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to brief him about the "worrysome" law and order situation in the State.

Goyal bats for mix of virtual & classroom education

CHENNAI: Emphasising that technology and innovation will be the key to "democratising development and prosperity" in overcoming the economic and social challenges of a post-Covid-19 world, Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Railways, Mr. Piyush Goyal, called for a mix of "virtual education and classroom education" in tapping the current potential for online education.

Naidu nominates new RS members to House panels

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday nominated new members to various Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees, a day after administering the oath/affirmation to them.

Public Notice

Known to all that my client Sanjay Kumar Jha mortgage the Plot no. 18-A, Khirara no. 57D, Ultrachal Colony, Sihani, Loni, Ghaziabad with Satin Housing Finance Ltd. Sanjay Kumar Jha has lost original sale deed executed by Krishna Devi in favour of Mithlesh Thakur registered with SR-Ghaziabad on 23.08.2003. Police complaint dt. 21.07.2020 was lodged with U.P. Police. It is informed that any deal with said lost deed by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void.

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Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is being convened on Friday, the 31st day of July, 2020, to consider and approve, inter-alia, the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2020.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

Ch. No. 760, Dwaka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 Mr. 9899013918

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New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Open e-Tender Notice Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Trend Glazer

Priyanka imparts words of wisdom

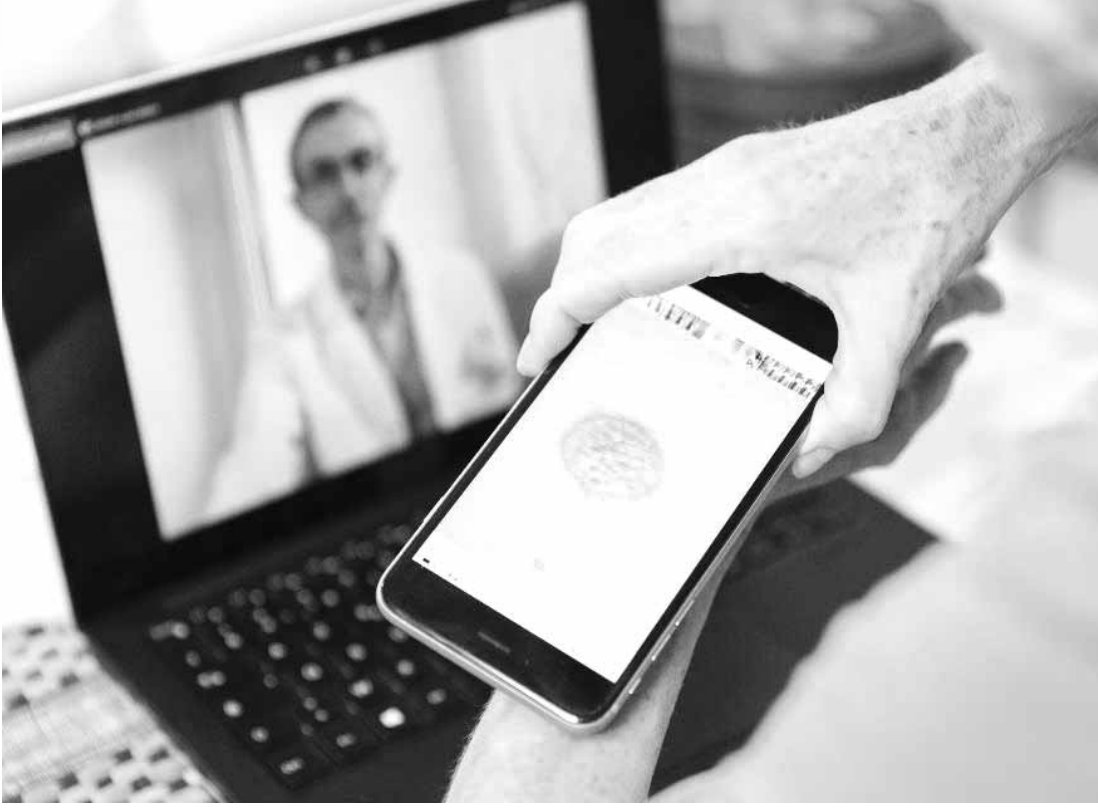
Actor **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS** shared a motivational post on Instagram for her fans.

"Don't let the challenges of today stop us from achieving our dreams of a better tomorrow. She captioned the post as, 'You got this!'," Priyanka wrote.

It seems several fans were waiting for such motivation to inspire them.

"Your journey has always inspired me. You are an idol for so many people," a user wrote.

Priyanka will soon complete 20 years in showbusiness. A few days ago, she shared a video in which she spoke about her plans of sharing "20 monumental moments" of her career in the coming days to celebrate 20 years in the entertainment business.



our business and we have always believed in them to offer only the best of services to consumers. As salons have slowly begun re-opening across the country, we have trained and upskilled our network with the strictest of hygiene and safety norms to be followed while interacting with the consumer. We have also introduced Express Hair Color Services, which not only support our salons to get back to business safely but also offer an innovative professional hair colour solution with sophisticated techniques to our consumers."

As per Sharma, the service only takes 60 minutes, which is as less time as it could take to colour the hair. It not only "minimises a customer's time at salon" but also "erases all signs of the bad hair days you may have faced in the last few months."

THE SAFE SALON INITIATIVE

Beauty brands like Matrix have also introduced programmes to ensure the safety of consumers, anxious about returning to a salon. Its 'Safe Salon' initiative begins with an increased sanitisation and fumigation of salons arranged by it. All partner salons are equipped with a comprehensive hygiene practice guide that includes the pre-booking of an appointment, temperature checks, sanitisation of surfaces, regular washing of hands by staff, contactless and digital payments, sterilisation of tools before and after a service, availability of sanitisers and clean masks and gloves worn by the staff.

VIRTUAL SKIN DIAGNOSES THE WAY OUT

To minimise contact, experts have recommended a virtual consultation session via smartphone with your beautician that should be mandated for every customer, prior to stepping in the salon. Through this practice, if the service isn't provided on the given day, an unnecessary visit could be avoided and in turn, crowding. Also, one can always get the technician to diagnose the issue through an online consultation.

Niraj Killa, owner of Head Turner's Hair Spa & Beauty Salon, Kolkata, says, "All our staff has taken part in the Salon Hygiene and Safety E-Learning module offered by the brand to ensure we can adapt to the newer requirements of the changing world. It's better if we now move towards more digital practices while customers consult us."

SAFETY TRAINING

Many salons have also used the lockdown period to upskill and train their network to be equipped with all the required protocols, to enable them to get back to business, following proper guidelines. Digital educational training has helped salon owners and their teams prepare a detailed hygiene checklist that they must adhere to while re-opening. The distribution of safety kits by many cosmetic brands include disposable masks, gloves, bed sheets, shower caps and bed gowns to make the facial service hygienic and safe.

TOUCHLESS BEAUTY

While beauticians are taking necessary steps to ensure safety at their parlours, many cosmetic companies are modifying their products to empower salons to be touch-free

Perhaps a visit to the salon for some self-grooming was the only thing one never felt lazy about in the pre-COVID era. However, over the past few months, with a pandemic at hand, the touch therapy involved was enough to scare many of us into depending on household hacks. But they have not been salon-perfect.

With salons getting back to business post an ease in lockdown restrictions, many have been waiting to return. However, risk-averse as we are, there is certainly a great feeling of anxiety. So salons too are responding to the changed mindset and bringing in a major transition in their set-ups and functioning to assure that their services are safe. New hygiene protocols have been developed to ensure safety of the customer as well as that of the technician's. New tools and accessories are being used for contact therapies. Here are a few ways how salons have gone for a makeover themselves before throwing the door open.

THE ZERO-TOUCH FACIAL

The don't-touch-me policy has become the new normal in public spaces and is here to stay. Which brings many to the question — how will salons do their usual chores without touching the customer? For instance, while combing the hair or a facial clean-up.

Experts suggest that a new safety protocol — zero-touch facial — can ensure that the beautician doesn't touch your skin with bare hands. Rather, the beautician needs to be enabled to deliver the same kind of service with the same efficiency by using certain professional tools and techniques. Many

brands are coming up with specially customised products like disposable applicators, gloves and a mask, which can ensure that skin problems are attended to in a hygienic manner. The sanitised tools also allow for advanced exfoliation and radiant skin.

Vaijayanti Bhalchandra, co-founder, CTO Head HR YLG Salons, YLG @ Home, talks about her use of new zero-touch products. She says, "The past few months have been extremely tough for the business and we have missed work. The Cheryl's cosmeceuticals have helped us adapt to the new normal with its zero-touch facial kit. Since gaining confidence of customers for facial treatments is a major necessity in these times, we also make sure the beautician maintains a certain distance from the customer while working and minimise talking at all times. It has been only a few weeks since we have re-opened and now, we are increasingly getting responses for clean-ups and exfoliation facials."

NEW WAY FOR HAIR COLOUR

DP Sharma, director, Professional Products Division at L'Oréal India, says, "Our network of salons is key to



What is up with car design?

Aesthetics are a very personal thing but what is with car designers and big wide grilles?



Can you spot the similarity?

When I look at some modern cars, I get reminded of sharks. If you, like me, are an amateur shark scientist and loved Discovery Channel's *Shark Week* shows, you would know that there are over a thousand species of them. When you think of sharks, you tend to think of the Great White, leaping into the air a seal tightly grasped inside its jaw. Isn't it? The fact is that the 'agape' look on so many car grilles that I see today, reminds me of the Whale, the largest fish in the world. An impressive one, of course, but thoroughly harmless with a massive mouth at the tip of its head, not below like predatory sharks, but at the tip.

When you see a picture of a whale shark feeding and then look at what Hyundai has been giving us of late — the new Elantra coming in 2021 — will be interesting to say the least. Even Maruti, the facelift on the Dzire, makes things bigger. The MG Hector and Kia's 'tiger nose' on the Seltos and Sonet as well. Heck, Honda might stick a chrome slab through its mouth like braces on teeth, but they also have big mouths. And of course, there are the Germans. BMW's signature 'kidney grilles' have gotten a bit out of hand. Have you seen the BMW 4-series concept? I actually don't mind it on the 7-series and X7 because of their huge size, so there is a bit of proportionality. And then



there is Audi, the carmaker that started the trend of wide-mouthed sedans and SUVs with their 2004 line-up redesign starting with the A4 and A6.

Of course, larger grilles allow for more area where designers can play around or stick a humongous logo, like MG and Mercedes-Benz do. Or like in the case of BMW, where the kidney grilles are a signature of the Bavarian carmaker. With three-dimensional light design killing off the other signature 'Corona' headlights, the grille is it. While I know that in India today, China-bashing is in vogue and I have personally also been guilty of that, here I really have to blame the Chinese. When they buy a product, they are not subtle about it. The Ralph Lauren logo on t-shirts grew bigger once that brand took off in China. Similarly, the brash Louis Vuitton logo, also thanks to that market. The tragedy of Montblanc putting their logo on everything from belts to wallets, yes, you guessed it, China. BMW once admitted this to me, during the 7-series refresh international drive in Algarve, that the bigger kidneys and the "12 per cent larger" nose logo was for the Chinese market. And

you know what? When that one market accounts for a third of your global sales, making those changes is perfectly logical for a carmaker.

There are friends of mine in automotive journalism who like the big kidney grilles on BMW. At the end of the day, we all have different aesthetic sensibilities. One lesson that I have learnt is that in India, we seek 'value' from a car rather than looks. The first-generation Santro, particularly early builds of that car were, for lack of any other word to describe it, ugly. The first generation WagonR seemed as if the design team was only given a ruler and a brief to avoid any sort of curve. These cars were not at all aesthetically pleasing. The Daewoo Matiz on the other hand, was quite cute. But you know the story, the Santro launched Hyundai allowing them to dazzle our eyes with the next-generation Elantra that you will see next year. Don't get me wrong, I love the product, but the next Elantra just like the facelift on the Verna looks like a Whale shark out of water.

Here is the funny thing, large grilles made sense when you had large naturally aspirated engines, big steel blocks with eight cylinders inside them. Those engines needed air and also a lot of cooling. But thanks to emissions norms, those engines are dying out in all but

some supercars. And BMW themselves have the F90 5-series which is by far and away the best looking car they make because it doesn't look like it went through rhinoplasty to get a boxer's nose. It is an aesthetically pleasing car. At a level this is a bit like planes, the Airbus A380 is a tremendous piece of engineering, but it isn't pretty. The Boeing 747 just has something about it, which is why it is called the 'Queen' of the skies and the A380, well, that is a whale (nothing against cetaceans by the way). When electric cars come along, what will happen to all these large grilles? Just look at Tesla's — a clean, proportionate design, no frills or huge kidney grilles. I mean, even BMW's electric warrior the i3 is not overdone on the nose front. So why on god's green earth did BMW give us the Concept 4-series?

Being passionate about cars and writing about them will necessarily make you ardent about car design. I do not like the way many cars look these days. I'm not saying that there are not some pretty cars out there but the attack of the large grilles is upon us. While I'm sure I will be pummelled into acceptance, as we all accepted the first-generation Santro, I'm not going down without a fight. Or in my case, without writing such columns.

For a better tomorrow

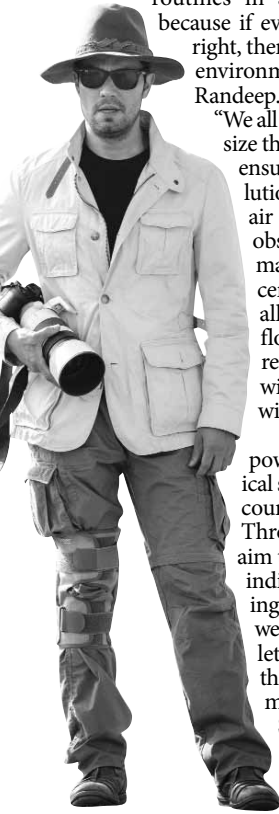
Actor **RANDEEP HOODA** says we all need to play our part to ensure a healthy planet because if everyone does small things right, then the overall impact on the environment will be huge

Actor Randeep Hooda hopes people will restart responsibly after the COVID-19 lockdown, and feels everyone has a part to play in making the planet healthy. Discovery India has brought him on board to urge India to exit the lockdown in a responsible manner with a unique campaign titled *Restart Responsibly*. The campaign video has Randeep taking daily routine, but important actions, including placing water for birds, riding a bicycle, taking care of his pet and much more while enlightening citizens about the impact that human action has had on environment.

"This campaign is close to my heart as we are not asking people to take a pledge without any specific outcomes. The campaign aims to inspire people to take thoughtful steps which can easily be added to their daily routines in a more thoughtful way because if everyone does small things right, then the overall impact on the environment will be huge," said Randeep.

"We all need to, and I can't emphasize this enough, play our part to ensure that we create less pollution to ensure better quality air and water. An important observation we all need to make is that humans are not centre of the universe, we are all a part of it, along with all flora and fauna. If we all just respect this fact and get on with life, I am sure tomorrow will be better," added he.

"We wanted to present a powerful platform to tell critical stories, elevate cultural discourse and do the right thing. Through this campaign, we aim to bring the importance of individual behaviour in shaping our environment. Often, we look at others for solutions, lets do our part — simple yet thoughtful steps — is our key message," said Vednarayan Sirdeshpande, Head of Marketing, South Asia, Discovery.



'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior' is a film that every Indian should watch. It is significant because it's the story of an unsung hero who played an important part in Indian history. I know Tanaji's bravery and his dedication to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will resonate. He was a warrior who must be celebrated even today.

—Ajay Devgn

AMITABH BACHCHAN has shared a message on religious harmony. He, who is undergoing COVID treatment in a hospital, took to Twitter to post the message.



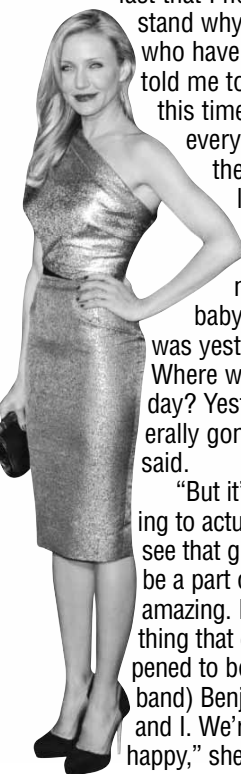
Big B shared two photographs of himself, one with folded hands and the other where he stretches his palms in prayer. "Mazhab toh yeh do hathe-liyaan batati hain, jude to 'puja' khule toh 'dua' kehlaati hain. (The two hands describe religion. Whenever they are folded it is called puja and when they are stretched it is called dua)," he wrote.

Motherhood is heaven: Cameron

Actor **CAMERON DIAZ** says daughter Raddix is the best thing that has ever happened to her.

"My daughter is growing so fast that I now understand why friends who have children told me to cherish this time. Literally every single day, there's just leaps and bounds... and she's not the same baby that she was yesterday. Where was yesterday? Yesterday is literally gone," Diaz said.

"But it's so gratifying to actually get to see that growth and to be a part of it. It's just amazing. It's the best thing that ever happened to both (husband) Benj (Madden) and I. We're just so happy," she added.



FROM CASK TO GLASS

ANGAD SINGH GANDHI talks about the evolution of single malt whisky, what makes it relevant and Glenfiddich's journey



People nowadays don't want to just clink glasses with their friends and family over an evening get together, rather they want to know more about the dram, the whisky notes, food pairings and so much more. Here is the history, evolution of single malt whisky, its relevance and Glenfiddich's journey in the making.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Popularly referred to as 'water of life', whisky has a long and adventurous story to tell. Whisky became an innate part of Scottish life and was even used for medicinal purposes during the long cold harsh Scottish winters, apart from being there in the everyday social life of Scotland.

Gradually with the rise of whisky production, five groups of single malts emerged from Scotland, including Highland, Lowland, Speyside, Islay and Campbeltown. The banks of the River Spey on the eastern side of the Highlands became home to around 50 distilleries with many of them offering guided tours and the chance, of course, to sample their produce. The malts of Speyside were loved for their elegance and complexity whilst the malts from the most beautiful Isle of Islay are described in terms of their peaty quality.

It was in the late eighteens, a single malt brand known today, was born from one man's dream, William Grant. In 1886 with the help of his nine children, Grant put the first brick in Glenfiddich distillery. Water, air and malted barley, a trinity expertly crafted to make a Glenfiddich whisky, created in a radical design of the time, the triangular bottle. Up until 1960s, the world was consuming blended whisky and cognac while single malt was a Scottish secret. In 1963, the single malt

whisky was taken outside Scotland.

The malt whisky was first called 'Pure malt' and then 'Straight malt'. Eventually the term 'Single malt' was coined which has stuck with us ever since then in our hearts (and glasses, of course).

HOW DID THE WHISKY GET ITS FLAVOUR?

Where a whisky is born, what it's matured in and how old it is, all affects the flavour of the final product. With age comes character and complexity. To qualify as a Scotch whisky, it must be aged in an Oak barrel in Scotland for minimum of three years.

Water also plays a significant role in the making of the whisky. The William Grant & Sons family have owned the lands around the Robbie Dhu spring for a very long time, safeguarding the water for all its whiskies including the The Balvenie, Monkey Shoulder and others. Whisky is made entirely from barley. Barley from our specialist maltsters is ground into rough flour and mixed with heated Robbie Dhu springwater.

The key is in the cask. With a lot of flavour coming from the cask, the quality of the whisky depends on the quality of the wood it's matured in. A single malt may see several casks. It's a common misconception that single malt whisky is the product of one cask. In fact, two thirds of the flavour in a single malt comes from casks it's matured in and is the product of a single distillery and may come from sev-



eral casks within the same distillery.

A lesser-known thing about single malts is the angel's share. Angel's share is that portion of whisky which evaporates during the maturation process. The name comes from a tongue-in-cheek belief that those

'greedy angels' must be blamed for the diminishing level of tightly sealed whisky barrels. The approximate rate of loss of whisky due to evaporation is two per cent per annum in Scotland and nine to 10 per cent in India because of the warm weather conditions.

This means one can age a single malt in Scotland for 50-60 years while in India they can be aged for only 10-12 years. Skills, craftsmanship, specialist knowledge and wisdom, all go into the making of a whisky.

BUILDING IT ON

Today, even in the twenty-first century, single malts continue to be a preferred spirit and are growing year-on-year. But the way the spirit is perceived and approached has changed radically. While the single malt drinker continues to be one who enjoys the finer things in life, they are no longer restricted to an older audience. Women are becoming an integral part of the category not just as consumers but also as distillers, enthusiasts, brand ambassadors and bartenders. The love for whisky is rising in younger people as well, they are replacing other spirits with whiskies. We see a growing curiosity and interest among the younger drinkers in knowing more about their spirit. This is due to the increased relevance being created by brands promoting cocktails and serves that make it intriguing and aspirational for the younger generation to opt for whiskies.

Innovation within the single malt category has been one of the key reasons for it to remain relevant through decades. Innovation across distilling, manufacturing, packaging and marketing have together played a crucial role. Experimental single malt variants have gained high prominence with the new age whisky drinkers that are willing to play with their single malts. Distillers too have kept up with this demand by introducing unique cask finishes such as beer, ice wine, tequila, mezcal and French cuvée casks, that add to the varied notes of the single malt.

The brands new experiments' which have been done keeping in mind India's rich culture, have brought to life a special India specific initiative that refined the rules of traditional single malt serve by exploring and handpicking unique and exotic Indian ingredients.

It is great to be on the lookout to create out-of-the-ordinary experiences that challenge people's perception and enthuse consumers to try something different.

SAVOURING THE DRINK

While, the art of truly enjoying your single malt is a beautiful experience, it differs for everyone. Experiential tastings and pairings have helped in continuous consumer awareness and interest in the single malt category. Consuming your single malt with food opens a world of aroma and flavour opportunities. The goal is to pair with ingredients and spices that enhance the flavour of the single malt rather than overpowering it. Single malts surprisingly work well with desserts and fine teas. The varied styles of enjoying your single malts today are endless, be it through food or unique serves, that have kept the spirit from being enjoyed by both whisky and non-whisky drinkers alike.

Neat or Not? It's entirely up to you! Going neat may be the 'purest' way to enjoy a single malt, but it's not the only way.

I strongly believe, "To each its own!" Therefore, whatever you like is the best one for you. However, the best dram is the one enjoyed with friends and family over lots of banter and fun.

(The writer is Glenfiddich India brand ambassador.)

R E C I P E S

CHICKEN KRAPOW

WHAT YOU NEED

- Chicken boneless: 130 gm
- Ginger (chopped): 4 gm
- Garlic (chopped): 5 gm
- Lemon grass : 3 gm
- Celery (chopped): 3 gm
- Onion (chopped): 8 gm
- Fresh red chillies: 3
- Boiled rice: 150 gm
- Salt: 3 gm
- Five spice powder: 2 gm
- Degi mirch powder: 3 gm
- Spichi stir fry sauce: 40 gm

- Basil leaves: 10 gm
- Refined oil: 10 ml
- Vinegar: 3 ml
- Chilli paste: 4 gm
- Cornflour: 5 gm
- Egg: 1

METHOD

- Marinate chicken in five spice powder, salt, sugar and degi mirch.
- Heat oil in wok.
- Add chopped garlic sautee, ginger, celery, lemon grass and onion.
- Then add chicken and

sautee.

- Add little water and allow chicken to cook.
- Add chilli paste and spichi sauce.
- Adjust seasoning.
- Adjust consistency with corn flour.
- Served topped on above boiled rice.

● Garnish with fresh basil leaves, fresh sliced red chillies and fried single egg.

Courtesy: Tanuj Nayyar, Executive Chef, Jaypee Residency Manor, Mussorie.



EGGLESS CARROT CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

For cake:

- Oil: 75 ml
- Milk: 50 ml

- Flour: 70 gm
- Brown sugar: 85 gm
- Baking soda: 2 gm
- Salt: 1 gm
- Cinnamon: 2 gm

- Carrots (grated): 90 gm
- Walnuts: 25 gm

For cream cheese filling:

- Cream cheese: 62 gm

- Vanilla essence: 7 gm
- Sugar: 22 gm
- Whipping cream: 20 gm
- Butter: 25 gm
- Lemon zest
- Lemon juice

METHOD

For cake:

- Mix together all ingredients except carrots and walnuts.
- Then add in the grated carrots and walnuts.
- Pour into the mould and bake at 160 degree celsius for 45 minutes.

For cream cheese filling:

- Cream together all the ingredients except whipping cream.
- Whip the cream separately and fold into the cream cheese mixture.
- Pipe into the centre of the cake.
- Serve chilled.

Courtesy: Kanak Soneja (Alumni Gurgaon), Academy of Pastry & Culinary Arts.



SWEET BANANA FRAPPE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Chilled coffee: 2 cups
- Chocolate ice cream: 1 cup
- Banana (ripened): 1
- Chocolate shavings (for garnishing)

METHOD

- Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Pour into a glass and garnish with chocolate shavings.

Courtesy: Sherri John, Coffee specialist and Head Judge at Araku Coffee.

SWEETCORN CORIANDER FRITTERS WITH A LEMON MAYO DIP

WHAT YOU NEED

- Cake flour: 300 ml
- Baking powder: ½ tsp
- Full-cream milk: 150 ml
- Eggs (large, lightly beaten): 2
- Frozen sweetcorn kernels (thawed and drained): 400 gm
- Spring onions (finely

sliced): 3

- Red chilli (seeded and finely chopped): 1
- Fresh coriander (chopped): 2 tbsp
- Cheddar cheese (finely grated): 1 cup
- Ground black pepper (Salt and fresh)
- Sunflower oil: 1 tbsp
- Mayonnaise: 150 ml
- Fresh parsley (chopped): 1 tsp
- Lemon juice



METHOD

- Sift the flour and baking powder into a large bowl. Make space in the centre and add the milk and eggs.
- Gradually, drawing in the flour from around the edges, beat together to form a smooth and thick batter.
- Add the sweetcorn, spring onions, chilli, coriander and cheese to the batter and season with salt and black

pepper. Mix well.

- Heat a large, heavy-based frying pan and brush with oil.
- Drop large spoons full of the batter into the pan, making about four fritters at a time.
- Cook over medium heat for two minutes or until golden and firm on the underside. Flip the fritters over and cook for further two minutes until golden brown. Remove the cooked fritters from the

pan, drain on paper towels and keep warm.

- Repeat until all the batter has been fried off.
- Mix the mayonnaise, chopped parsley and a little lemon juice, and adjust the seasoning to taste.

● Arrange the warm fritters on a platter and serve with the mayonnaise dressing plus extra lemon wedges (optional).

Courtesy: Le Creuset.

