+ LOCKDOWN GALLERY | TESTIMONIALS | SPOOF

gobar times

ISSUE NO: 224, May 1-15, 2020

A DOWN TO EARTH SUPPLEMENT FOR THE YOUNG AND CURIOUS



SECRET SUPERSTARS

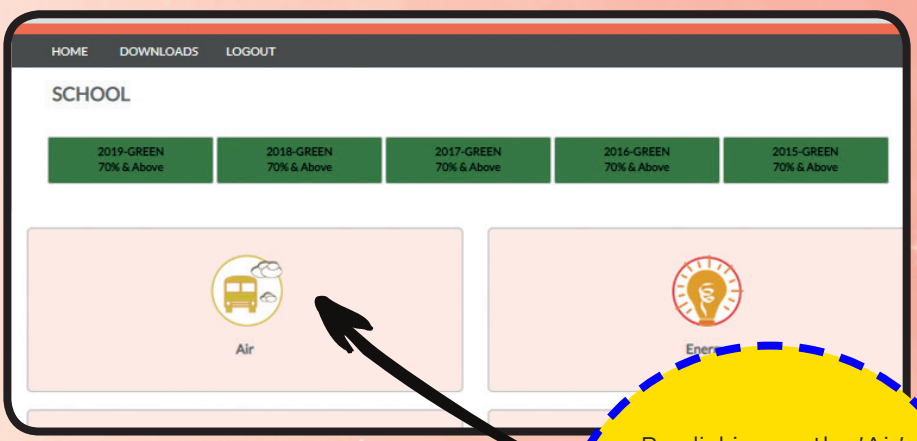
Fictional superheroes save the world from fictitious disasters. However, when calamity strikes in the real world, we need real superstars who dedicate their lives to the service of humanity

Congratulations to all schools that have submitted GSP Audit 2019 reports!

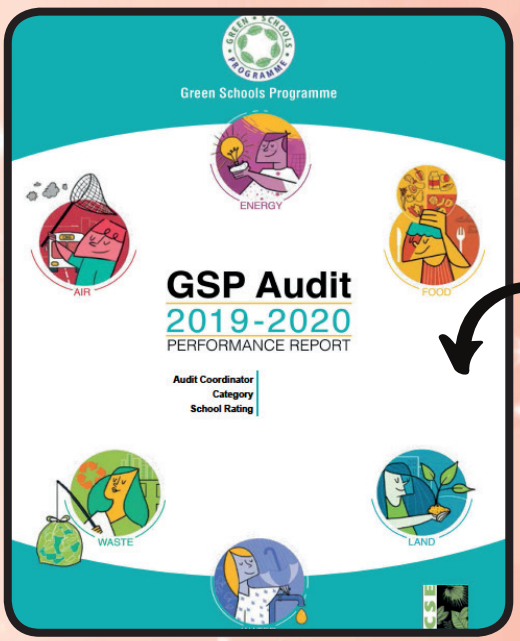
If your school is one of them, you can track its perfomance by checking the School Dashboard, which contains year-on-year data to help improve resource efficiency levels. You can also check the Performance Report section for customised suggestions on how to improve your school's performance.

To access performance-related data, visit
https://www.greenschoolsprogramme.org/audit/19/downloadLogin
and click on the 'Download Reports and Certificates' tab

To log in, enter your school's GSP Audit username and password



By clicking on the 'Air' section, you will get access to audit-related data shared by your school over the years. Data related to energy, food, land, water and waste can be accessed in a similar fashion.



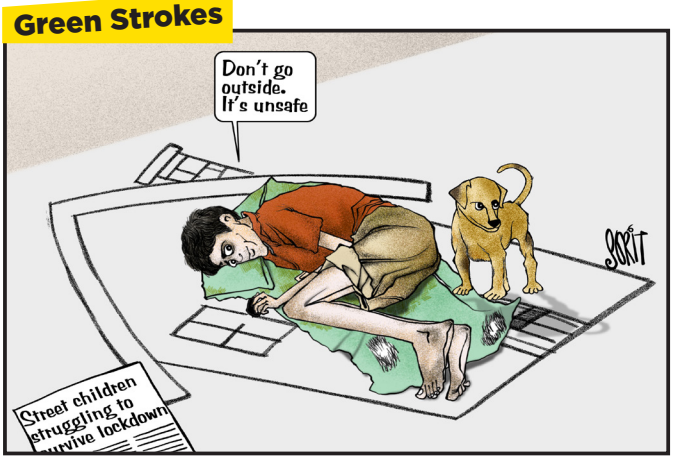
For performance report, click on DOWNLOADS section on the dashboard and select performance report tab

We thank you for your participation and support. We look forward to being a part of your sustained growth in the upcoming GSP Audit 2020.

If you have any query, please write to us at support@greenschoolsprogramme.org

gobar times

Green Strokes



Lessons from corona

It has roughly been four months since the first case of corona was detected in China and today, nearly half of the human population is languishing under lockdowns, according to media reports. Millions of people have been infected and thousands of deaths reported from almost every corner of the world.

Economies have been devastated making hundreds of thousands of people unemployed. And most importantly humans, the all powerful and smartest species on Earth, have no clue as to what should be done to make things better.

But then again, each calamity teaches us some good lessons and the coronavirus is not an exception. The corona pandemic is making us face facts, those that we have known but ignored so far.

For example, for the first time in perhaps a century, we have realised the importance of labour. Respect for labour has come via first-hand experience and we have learnt the value of the work done by household helps, *kudewaalas* and other sanitation workers.

Corona is bad new for us, the humans, but if you ask the animals, birds and fish, they would perhaps say that for the first time in centuries they are getting the chance to reclaim their space. While humans remain locked in their houses, birds and animals are roaming in the open. It's like a role reversal.

No vehicles has meant no air pollution. And hence, the skies are clear. Reduced economic activity has meant reduced trash and therefore, cleaner rivers and lakes. The pandemic has also introduced us to real-life super heroes—doctors, nurses, wardboys, vegetable vendors, local grocery shop owners and others. And the most important lesson we can learn from this experience is that life, the most precious gift of Nature, needs to be respected in all its forms—plants, animals, birds and insects.

Supplement Editor: Sorit Gupto **Creative Director:** Ajit Bajaj
Copy: Pallavi Ghosh, Aditya Misra **Design:** Vijayendra Pratap Singh, Surender Singh
Illustration: Vijayendra Pratap Singh **Cover Design:** Ritika Bohra
Production: Rakesh Shrivastava, Gundhar Das
Email: sorit@cseindia.org **Snail Mail:** 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi -110062

Inbox



Dear *GT*,

I enjoyed reading "Speaking to a flower" story in *GT*'s February 2020 edition. I found it fascinating that nearly 75 per cent of the world's crops is the result the hard work done by insect pollinators like bees and wasps. It reminded me how Nature is full of wonders and made me feel grateful for all the blessings we receive from it.

Kaushik Ghosh, Kolkata, West Bengal

We are waiting for your letters, responses and stories. Send them to Sorit Gupto, Editor, Gobar Times, 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062.

Email: sorit@cseindia.org

Scrapbook

Freeze frame by Vikas Choudhary



Birds only, please: In the deserted streets of New Delhi, crows and pigeons became a common sight during the 21-day lockdown

This space is for young and budding wildlife photographers who wish to share their work with us!

Send your best clicks to sorit@cseindia.org

Digits speak

The number of children not attending primary school has dropped over the past 30 years, according to a UNICEF report released on November 2019. Here is a quick look at the latest figures:

5.9 crore
children of primary school age were out of school as of 2018

39 per cent
of the world's primary school age children who are out of school live in areas affected by conflicts and natural disasters



3.2 crore
of the primary school age children who are out of school as of 2018 are girls

Source: For Every Child, Every Right: The Convention on the Rights of the Child at a crossroads, New York, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2019

Gullible creatures

Sea turtles are probably the dumbest and most gullible creatures of the sea. Why? Well, that's because they are likely to confuse plastic floating in the ocean for food and eat it, says a recent article published on the *Science News* magazine. However, in the poor creature's defense, they are not the ones filling our ocean with plastic. More than 80 lakh tonnes of plastic is dumped into the oceans every year. A lot of it comes from the world's rivers, which serve as direct conduits of trash from the world's cities to the marine environment. And who is responsible for the plastic in our rivers, lakes and creeks? It's us, humans. We produce about 30 crore tonnes—equivalent to the weight of the entire human population—of plastic waste every year. And if current trends continue, our oceans could contain more plastic than fish by 2050.



Scrapbook

Humans in, animals out

While most of humanity spent their days at home due to the corona pandemic, animals all around the world used the period of lockdown to reclaim city streets. From deer herds roaming in the streets of Haridwar (Uttarakhand) and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) to the small Indian civet, spotted at a zebra crossing in Kerala's Kozhikode city, the lockdown period saw several animals roaming around in the city. Few had come out in search of food, while others were simply taking a once-in-a-lifetime tour of the city. In Bihar, leopards, *nilgai* and tigers were spotted in different parts of the state during the lockdown.



I made a decision to protect the only place I call home: Earth.



Hilda Flavia Nakabuye
22-year-old climate activist from Uganda who has been protesting in Kampala since 2017 when she realised that climate change was behind her grandmother's inability to grow food

Reading in the times of corona

The International Children's Book Day is celebrated on April 2 every year. Observed on the birthday of the Danish author and poet Hans Christian Anderson's, the day is usually spent attending reading events and workshops, visiting libraries and of course, picking up our favourite book for reading. However, by the time the world stepped into the month of April in 2020, most of its population was confined within their homes. This is because social distancing and self-isolation norms were imposed by various countries to check the spread of the COVID-19 disease.



To help children cope better during their time of isolation, famous authors like Elisabetta Dami of Italy, Cressida Cowell of UK and Fatima Sharafeddine, who is currently living in Belgium's Brussels city, read out chapter from some their best works. At a time when reading out to gathering in a public place was not possible, these authors made the world wide web their stage using platforms like Instagram, YouTube and Twitter. The reading sessions were part of a global campaign called "Read the World" launched by the International Publishers Association (IPA), UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO). Restrictions imposed due to the pandemic left many feeling anxious. By connecting with the authors, the confined within their homes would not feel disconnected from the outside world, said the organisers.

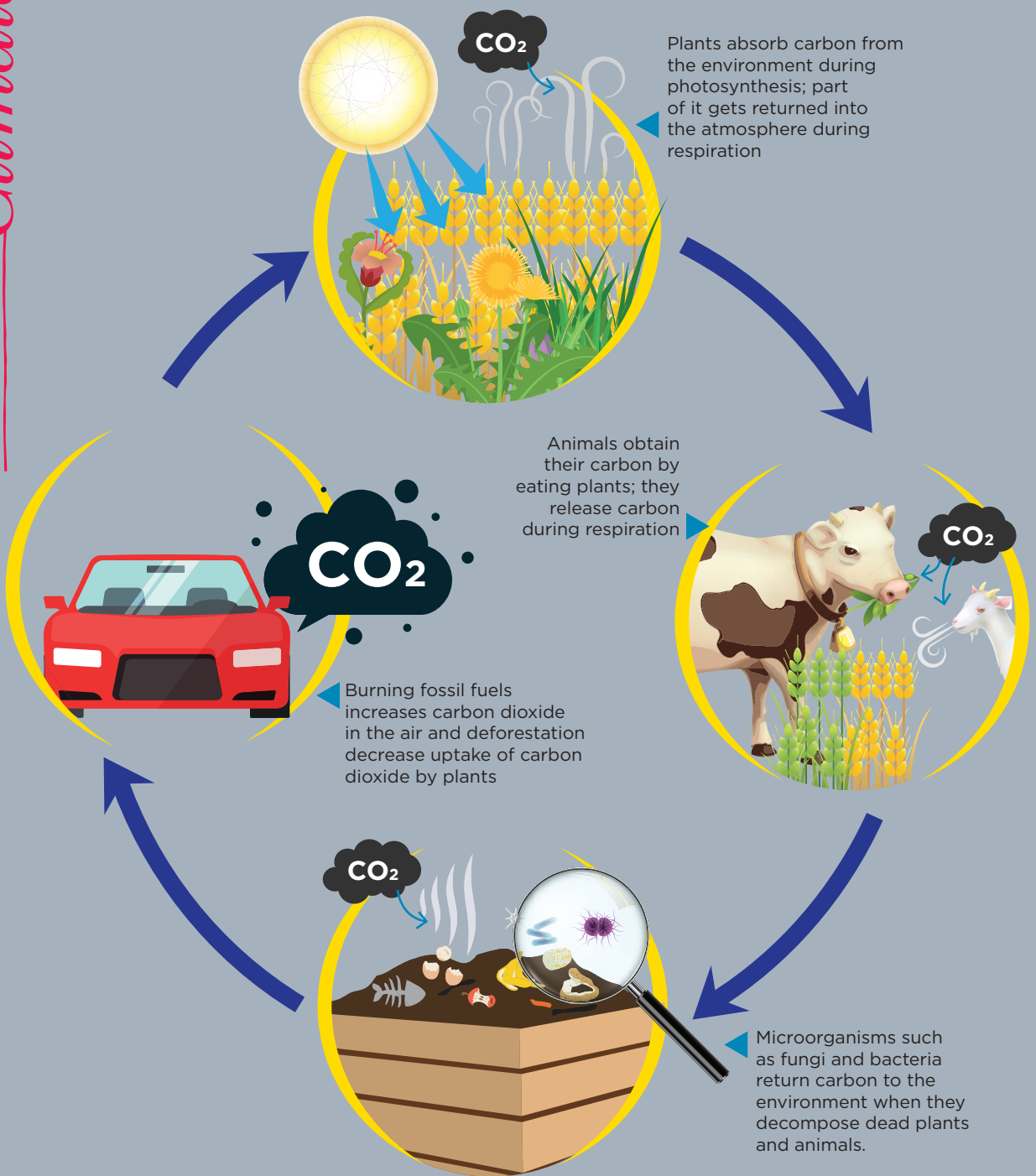
Compiled by Pallavi Ghosh

Climate diary

CARBON FIXERS

Bacteria provide food to the plants by breaking complex organic compounds into simpler forms. This decomposition, part of a larger process called carbon cycle, is crucial for maintaining a stable climate on Earth

Pallavi Ghosh



Compiled by GT team

Graphics: Vijayendra Pratap Singh/GT

Climate diary

A tiny-sized organism has recently been identified as a major warrior against the battle against environmental pollution and global warming. This warrior is a new species of soil bacteria called the *Paraburkholderia madseniana* and has been discovered by the researchers from the Cornell University of US. But how do they exactly help us in our fight? Let us find out.

The new *Paraburkholderia madseniana* species is named after Eugene L Madsen, the late professor of microbiology at Cornell University who was the first to isolate the strain from forest soil. Madsen's findings became the basis of a new project involving Dan Buckley, professor of microbial ecology and five other Cornell researchers. In a paper, the team of researchers led by Buckley have described in detail the properties of *Paraburkholderia madseniana sp. nov.*, a phenolic acid-degrading bacterium isolated from acidic forest soil.



The new bacteria species belonged to the genus *Paraburkholderia*, known for its ability to degrade volatile compounds, said the researchers. Apart from organic compounds, it can even break down cancer-causing chemicals that are released when coal, gas, oil and refuse are burnt. In some cases, the bacterium also had the capacity to form plant root nodules that trap atmospheric nitrogen in the soil, observed the researchers.

Madsen's research focused on biodegradation, a process by which microorganisms break down pollutants in contaminated soils, with a special focus on organic pollutants called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). However, Buckley's lab focused on the bacterium's role in the carbon cycle—the natural cycling of carbon through the Earth and the atmosphere.

"Microbes have been here since life began, almost 400 crore years. They created the system that we live in, and they sustain it," science website *phys.org* quoted Buckley as saying. "We may not see them, but they're running the show," he was quoted as saying.

In studying the new species, the researchers noticed that it is especially adept at breaking down aromatic hydrocarbons, which make up lignin, a major component of plant biomass and soil organic matter. The bacteria may help fight climate change by breaking down carbon and regulating carbon cycle, said the researchers.

Word stock

Nitrification is the process by which soil bacteria convert ammonia into nitrate or the form of nitrogen that can be used by plants and animals

Action

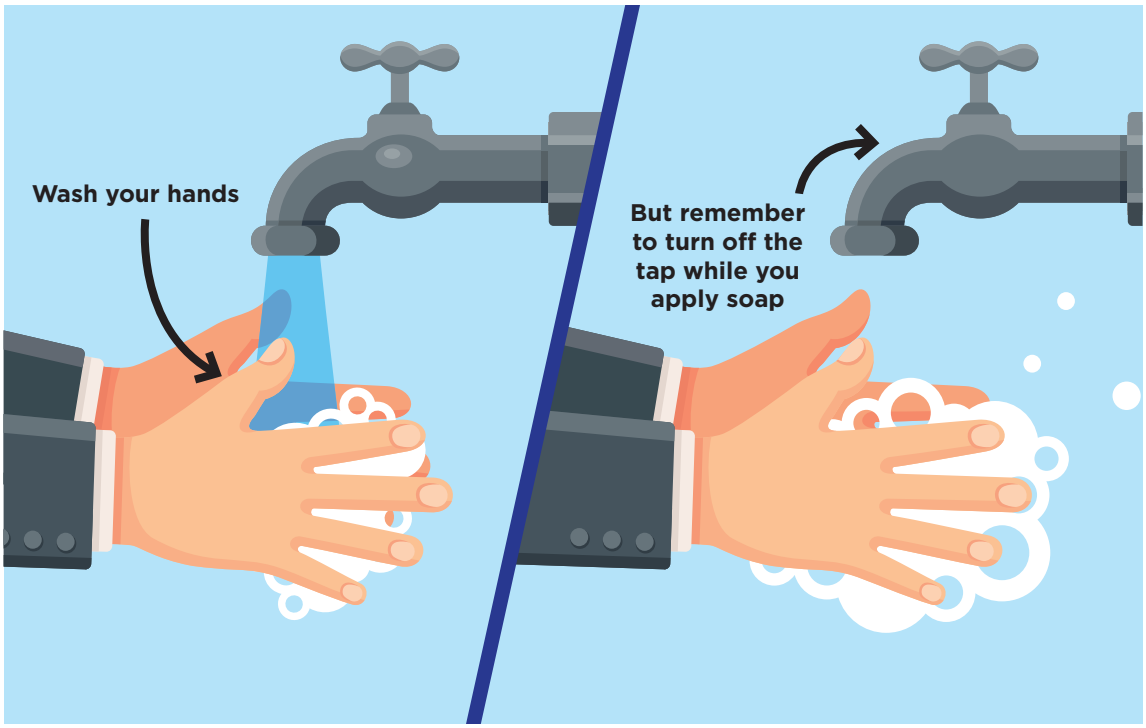
Mauvikasa is a Karnataka-based non profit that works on the issues of water conservation, education and livelihood development

Visit: ***https://www.manuvikasaindia.org/***

Weather news

There is a 40 per cent chance that 15 Indian states will register above normal maximum temperatures during April-June, according to the IMD

Green Schools



Let's be water-wise

While there is no escape from washing hands regularly, we can definitely be more mindful of the way we use water and avoid its wastage

Srishti Jha

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease spreading to more than 200 countries and territories, governments have ramped up their efforts to prevent the easy transmission of the deadly virus. And like everyone else, children also have a key role in this epic battle between humans and the virus. But what can one do while being confined at home? Well, if we look at it from a different perpsective, we will see that this virus and our collective fight against it have revealed the importance of little steps in our lives. How?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on hygiene practices, the simple act of hand washing using a soap and water, is one of the most effective tools to protect us from getting infected by the coronavirus. Practices such as washing hands before and after eating or using the toilet, maintaining one-arm distance when around others and covering our mouth with a tissue or handkerchief while sneezing or coughing have always been a part of our school and domestic lives for as long as we can remember. Perhaps, we failed to notice the importance of these little measures but now, they have attained fresh significance. Today, these are our first line of defense against the coronavirus, or any other virus for that matter.

The good news is that we have become more careful and conscious about maintaining hygiene levels not only in our households but also in public spaces. For example, we can no longer afford to be callous

Water footprint

Activity	Rate of consumption per day	Water used per day (approx)
Drinking	9-10 glasses	1.5 litres
Handwashing	4 times	8 litres
Flushing	2 times	20 litres
Bathing	2 times	240 litres
Cooking	3 times	6 litres
Washing vegetables, fruits and utensils	2-3 times	36 litres
Brushing	2 times	2 litres
Washing clothes	Once	80 litres
All of the above activities		**393.5 litres**

***NOTE: Data is based on dairy entries stating the daily average consumption of water by students of East Point School, New Delhi**

about spitting in public places or discarding used tissues on the road. Aware of the disastrous consequence arising from not washing hands, we have disciplined ourselves to make regular handwashing a part of our daily lives despite the challenges.

However, there is also a downside to this new culture of regular handwashing and it is that there is an increased usage of taps around the world. Since many of us keep the tap running while working a lather, a lot of water gets wasted.

Cases of increased water demand have emerged across the globe. In Hyderabad, water consumption has increased manifold since stay-at-home orders were issued by the Union government in March, according to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board. Likewise, water demand in Jordan jumped by 40 per cent since similar restrictions were imposed as part of a curfew aimed at checking the spread of the infection, according to the government of Jordan.

What this means is that more water is being pumped from the ground. In a world where water scracity continues to be a problem, this is not good news. Recent episodes of acute water shortage in major cities like Cape Town in South Africa, São Paulo in Brazil and Chennai in India have sparked fears that no-water days would soon become the new normal.

However, washing hands for at least 20 seconds and at regular intervals is key to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, a person washing hands 8-10 times a day would consume around 15-20 litres of water per day. In a household where there are five family members, this would mean that around 100 litres of water gets used for handwashing daily! But do we have a choice? Of course, we do. While there is no escape from washing hands regularly, we can definitely be mindful of the way we use water and avoid any wastage.

And, there is a simple way to be water-wise, even while fighting the battle against corona. For example, by keeping the tap closed while washing hands, we can save water that would otherwise be wasted.

Listed below are a few more easy steps that will help us reduce our consumption levels and ensure we have enough water for the future.

- Try turning the tap at a level such that the flow of water is slow. This will decrease water wastage during handwash
- Collect water in a mug and wash your hands
- While at home, note down your daily water consumption in a water footprint diary. You can also share it with us!
- Next time it rains, you can collect rainwater in container and use it for cleaning purposes

If your school doesn't have a rainwater harvesting (RWH) system already, you can always request your school to invest in one. To know more about prudent water management and conservation practices, your school could also participate in the GSP Audit 2020.

**For further queries, reach out to us at support@greenschoolsprogramme.org*

ON THE WALL

Lockdown gallery



Food being distributed at a shelter set up for the daily wage workers by the state government near Kashmiri Gate



Deserted Rajghat and India Gate, popular tourists spots



An official of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) disinfecting the hands of daily wage workers who had gathered at Anand Vihar waiting for a bus to take them home

While most of us are in our houses, here's a look at what's happening on the streets of New Delhi during the lockdown that began in March to check the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country

Vikas Choudhary



Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel making masks at RK Puram Camp



Officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) sanitising *Majnu ka tila*, a popular Tibetan market



A Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) truck disinfecting a street at Anand Vihar

Cover story

THE REAL SUPERHEROES

In the battle against a mystery virus, these are the people who stand on the frontline and save thousands of lives every day

Sorit Gupto & Pallavi Ghosh

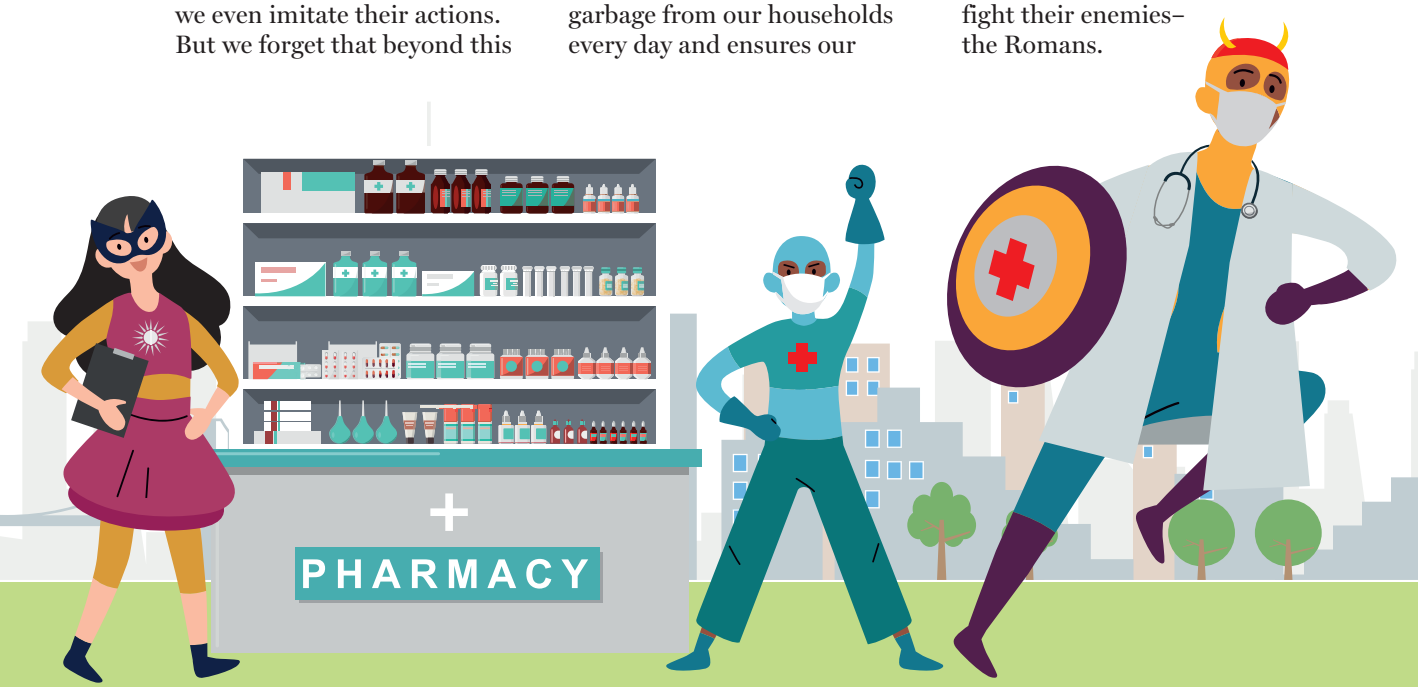
We love comic books because reading them is any day more fun than reading the boring textbooks we get from school. And the world of comics has given us our own brand of fictional superheroes like Spiderman, the Hulk and Tintin whose brave actions save the world from all kinds of threats. Although fictional, we often look up to them as our role models and sometimes, we even imitate their actions. But we forget that beyond this comic world, there are some real superheroes around us without whom we will be pushed towards a lockdown, forever. Let us have a look at these real-life superheroes whose heroic acts have helped save many lives during the corona crisis.

The man/woman with the garbage cart

Every superhero movie buff is familiar with Peter Parker, the superhero going by the name Spiderman. Now, introducing the man/woman who collects garbage from our households every day and ensures our locality remains clean. Without them our colonies will turn into a living hell in no time!

Docterix

Like Asterix, the Gaul warrior committed to protecting his village Indomitable and its residents, doctors work day in and day out to protect the residents of their village–the hospital. In the case of doctors, their allegiance to the oath of Hippocrates is like the magic potion that gives the Gauls the strength to fight their enemies–the Romans.



They commit to this oath and dedicate their lives to curing the illnesses of the people.

Magician Maid-rek

Every day we fill our kitchen sink with dirty utensils and washing machines with unclean clothes. But every morning someone cleans our utensils, washes our clothes, cooks our meals and keeps our houses habitable. It's like magic! And the person or the magician who single-handedly pulls off this feat on a daily basis is our domestic help. We are familiar with super magician Mandrake. Let's name our own domestic magician–Magician Maid-rek.

The Tintins

Just like our brave reporter from the comic world, journalists and media professionals in the real world often put their lives at risk to provide us credible information. They keep us updated with the latest facts even during challenging times.

Guardians of humanity

We know about *the Guardians of the galaxy*. Now, the galaxy may exist with or without us but do you know the superheroes upon whom our existence depends?

Introducing, the Guardians of humanity or the nurses, wardboys and cleaning personnel who have taken this responsibility. You may refer to them as friends of another superhero from the real world—Docterix. Not only do they serve the patients, but also keep our hospitals clean.

The Smurfs

Another name for good Samaritans. Guided by a common goal of helping others, ordinary people/citizens have come together and ensured that our daily wage workers do not go hungry during the 21-day lockdown period. These workers, a majority of whom have migrated to the cities from their native towns and villages, are the ones who have built our houses, transported goods for us and pulled rickshaws. Without them, we simply can't think of an urban life.



The Hulks

The lockdown may be good for controlling the epidemic but it's definitely not a good time to order food online. And in such times of crisis, it is our vegetable vendors who have come to our rescue. Pushing their carts, filled of brightly-coloured vegetables and fruits, vendors are the reason why our refrigerators at home are full.

Getafix

We may not have a Getafix, the druide from the comic series *Asterix* who provided the residents of Indomitable with the magic potion and other medicines, but we do have our neighbourhood chemists. They are the ones who ensure we are cured of our diseases by providing all the medicines we need. Open 24/7, pharmacies and their delivery staff provide door-to-door service when we are at our weakest.



Wordsmith

A letter from the jungle

The forest, capable of meeting our basic needs of food, shelter and fuel, can act as a model of sustainable living for all of us

Pallavi Ghosh



Wordsmith

Dear friends, I live in the interiors of a forest called Saranda, home to hundreds of birds, animals and different kinds of plants. A small group of humans also live with us in the jungle. In my experience, these people are far better than the tourists who come to visit us during the holidays. Tourists litter the jungle with all kinds of garbage. The forest's tribal community, however, takes care of the forest. They cut down trees, use water from the lake and forage for food in the forest but they make sure they leave behind enough for other inhabitants of the jungle. However, recently no tourist has come here. A bulbul told me the other day that this was because of a virus that has spread to different corners of the world and made hundreds of humans sick.

The other day, I spotted two familiar faces in the jungle. These youngsters had gone to the city for work a few months ago. They were carrying bags and looked exhausted. I heard them saying that many migrant workers in the city were out on the streets. Although shelter homes and food was being arranged by the authorities and a few helpful citizens, many were struggling to make ends meet. I was heartbroken to hear this and was glad that the two of them had come back home.

In the jungle, things were different. The way of life in the forest is based on the optimum use of available resources. Therefore, it appears that despite the lockdown, it is business as usual for the forest dwellers. Their basic need of food, shelter and fuel is being fulfilled by the forest itself. Almost everyone produces food in agricultural fields and kitchen gardens. What they lack is luxuries. All in all, the tribal community here is better off than the hundreds of migrant workers in the cities.

This is very different from the cities where people are used to excessive consumption. I heard that people in the world's biggest cities had started panic buying, meaning they had started buying items in bulk out of fear that the supplies will run out soon. The panic was so extreme that shops, retail markets and pharmacies were left with empty stacks within a matter of hours. While few bought extensively, many were left to wait and eventually return empty-handed.

I don't know how long things are going to stay this way but I am happy that the jungle's lessons on sustainable living have taught our people to handle this crisis better. I hope that someday all city dwellers would also appreciate the value of simple living and practice them in their daily lives.

Yours,
Sincerely
Banyan tree



Testimonials

Days of confinement

Children narrate how they spent time at home during the lockdown period

Pallavi Ghosh

Almost 90 per cent of the world's students are now affected by school closures due to the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)– that's more than 150 crore children and young people. With social distancing and self isolation being practiced across the globe, *Gobar Times* asked children to share their personal experiences during their stay at home.

From helping out family members with household chores, taking out time for self study and creative pursuits to spending hours on social media platforms, school-going students from New Delhi, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Assam share their experiences of being at home. As part of the survey, we asked them what they would do once the lockdown was lifted. Here's what they said:



Vignesh

New Delhi

School: Deepalay School

Age group: 15-18

"I am spending my time at home by studying, painting, gardening and cooking. Once the lockdown ends, the first thing I would do is to go to one stationary shop and get all the things I need. While it is good that I get more time to do things at home, the worst thing about the lockdown is that I can't go out to meet my friends or relatives."

Avishka Rao

Guwahati, Assam

School: Maria's Public School

Age group: 10-15

"I am spending my time at home by cooking, studying, playing computer games, watching TV and talking to friends and family. Once the lockdown is over, I want to go to my favorite sushi place and visit my uncle and aunt. While the good news is that I am spending more time with my family, the sad news is that our plan to go to Singapore for the holidays got cancelled."



Testimonials

Sammi Akthar

Farakka, West Bengal
School: Darjeeling Public School
Age group: 15-18

I am spending time at home by sleeping. While the best thing is that I am getting the opportunity to sleep at home, the worst thing is that I can't go outside. Once the lockdown is over I would want to spend more time with my family and play indoor games with them.





Niyonika Maharishi

Jaipur, Rajasthan
School: Vardhman International School
Age group: 10-15

I am spending time at home by playing board games with my family, helping out my mother with household chores, studying online and staying safe from infection. Once the lockdown is over I would pray to God to eradicate the virus. I would also like to grab an ice-cream or two! I am happy that I am spending more time with my family and I now understand how hard our mothers work at home. The worst thing is that we are getting dependent on the digital world and not getting time for some physical activities.

Avantika Gupta

Siliguri, West Bengal
School: Darjeeling Public School
Age group: 15-18

I am spending my time at home by cooking, watching movies and reading. I am happy that I got to know a lot about my family during the stay at home. At the same time, I have not been able to meet my friends. Once the lockdown is over I want to spend more time with my family.



Science

What would happen if humans had flat feet?

The arch, absent in modern-day gorillas and chimpanzees, developed in humans around 34 lakh years ago

GT Staff

Humans got the arch-shaped foot some 34 lakh years ago, for a reason. In the kingdom of animals, there are only a handful of species that can walk on two feet. Humans are obviously the first species that comes to mind but they are not the only bipedal species, meaning those that mostly rely on two feet for walking, in the world. Birds, apes, kangaroos and rodents are known to walk on two feet.

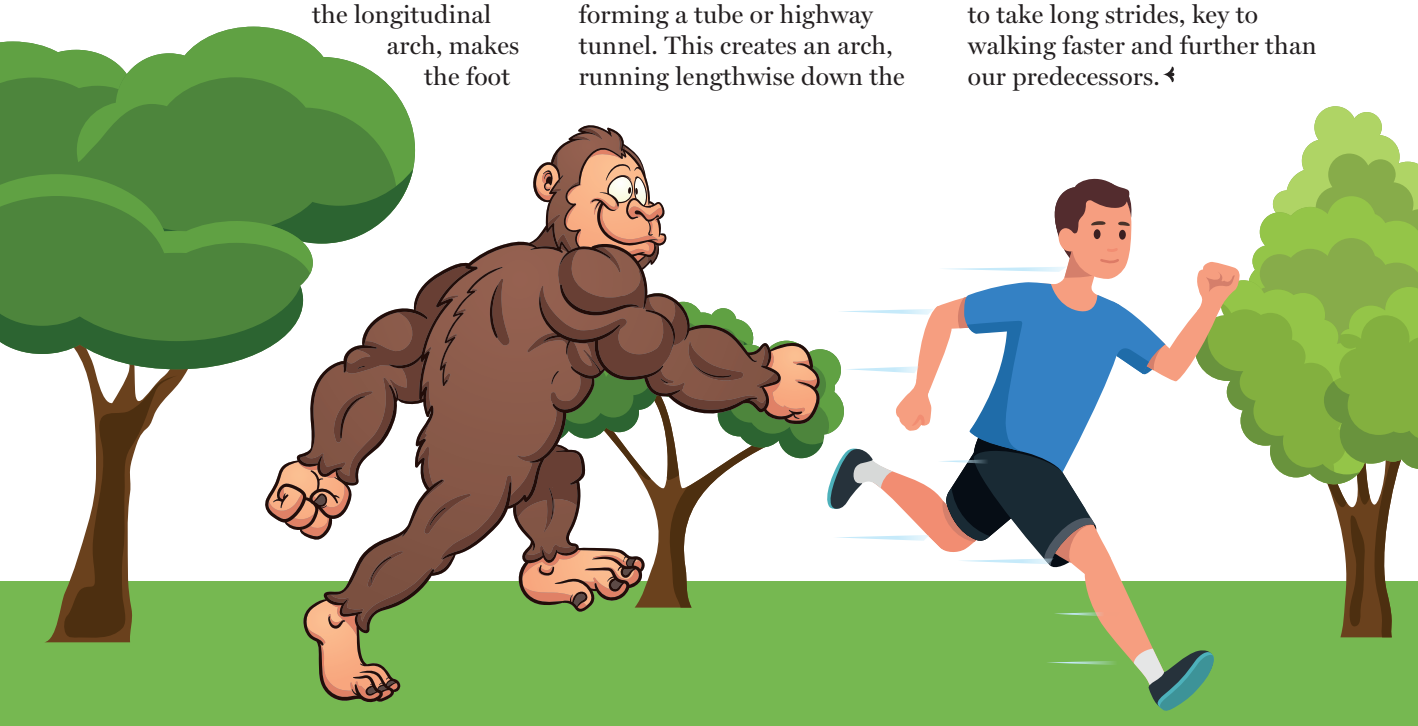
But thanks to evolution, walking and running is easier for humans than their bipedal counterparts. And the reason for this is that arch-like structure of our foot. The arch on the inside of the foot, called the longitudinal arch, makes the foot more rigid. This is the curved area between our toes and heel.

Beneath the layer of skin are bones called metatarsals that are arranged in a curve across the foot's width. This bend, called the transverse tarsal arch, stiffens the foot length-wise. The transversal arch is absent in modern-day gorillas and chimpanzees who have flat and flexible feet. Only the genus Homo developed the transversal arch, according to a report published in the *Nature* journal.

To understand how the arch's curve lends stiffness to the foot, you will have to grab a ₹50 note, lay it flat and then slightly curl its long edges so the middle bends up—as if forming a tube or highway tunnel. This creates an arch, running lengthwise down the note. Push a finger on the middle of the note's arch, and you'll notice some resistance or stiffness.

If it were not for these curves/arches on our feet, our movement would have been slow and sluggish like our primates. The tissue, acting together with the bones, accounted for more than 40 per cent of the stiffness of the foot, the researchers observed during the experiment.

However, this is not the only anatomical change that has made walking on two feet easy for humans. The curve of your lower back absorbs shock when you walk. This is a unique feature of humans. Similarly, long thigh bones enable us to take long strides, key to walking faster and further than our predecessors.



Volcano that changed global climate erupts again

In 1883, Anak Krakatau volcano erupted and spewed large amounts of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere. This brought down the global average temperature by 1.2°C

Sorit Gupto

Anak Krakatau, which in the Indonesian language means the "Child of Krakatau", in the Lampung province is one of the world's most famous volcanoes. On April 11, 2020, it erupted. The first eruption, which lasted for one minute and 12 seconds, took place at 9:58 pm, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation's (PVMBG) magma volcanic activity report. It spewed out ash and smoke that went up to 200 metres. The second eruption, reported at 10:35 pm, lasted for more than half an hour and spewed out a 500-metre-high column of ash.

Volcanic eruption is not an unusual phenomenon but this one was a little different. How? Let us find out. Indonesia has the highest number of active volcanoes in the world. Of the 130 active volcanoes found in the island country, Mount Krakatoa or Krakatau is just one. Mount Krakatoa is a stratovolcano or a volcano that erupts violently at regular intervals. It belongs to the Pacific Ring of Fire, the volatile horseshoe-shaped area bordering the Pacific Ocean.

About 140 years ago, this region became witnessed one of the worst eruptions recorded in history. On a late Monday morning on August 27, 1883, Krakatoa erupted and it was one of the deadliest and most destructive volcanic events known to the world. The explosions were so violent that they were heard more than 3,000 kilometres away in Perth, Western Australia! At least 36,000 people lost their lives due to the violent eruption, followed by a series of tsunamis. Some of the giant waves resulting from the eruption were up to 40 metres high and managed to reach the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, some 7,000 km away!



More than 60 per cent of the island and its surrounding archipelago was destroyed. The eruption also had a large impact on the global climate. It injected large amounts of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) gas into the stratosphere. And thanks to the high-level winds, this SO_2 was transported across the planet. There was a rise in the global concentration of sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) in high-level cirrus clouds, as a result of which their reflective capacity or albedo increased. Since the clouds reflected more light, they had a cooling effect on our planet for a few years. On an average, temperature dropped by as much as 1.2°C in the succeeding year. In the years that followed, global climates became extremely erratic and it took at least four years to return to a stabilised pattern of climate.

Although the 1883 eruption had destroyed large parts of the island, a new eruption on the seafloor in 1927 lead to the creation of a new island or the Anak Krakatau. Therefore, it is aptly called the "Child of Krakatoa". Volcanic activity remains heightened around Indonesia. At least three other volcanoes in the country are poised to erupt, according to the Jakarta Post, a leading English language newspaper in Indonesia.



Ritika Bohra /GT

zoom.out

Flawless Video. Clear Audio. Instant Hacking

India has prohibited the use of Zoom, a videoconferencing platform, among government officials due to the rising cases of video calls being hijacked by unknown elements. Active users of the service have been warned against "zoom-bombing", a term coined to refer to the dangers of unauthorised access relating to Zoom