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SHL Chemicals

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals
(A division of Chemplast Sanmar Ltd)

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd

TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.

Sanmar Consolidations

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Cabot Sanmar Ltd

Sanmar Engineering Technologies Pvt Ltd

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BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd

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Pandemics, then and now

Trends in history

It was Hippocrates, a Greek physician of the 4th and 5th centuries BCE, who first said that 'disease' is not a visit from the gods but is caused by earthly influences. As humans spread across the world, so too infectious diseases.

Communicable diseases existed long before human beings were mere wanderers, but the shift to agrarian life 10,000 years ago created communities that made epidemics more possible. Malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, influenza, smallpox and others first appeared during this period.

The earliest recorded pandemic, the Plague of Athens happened during the Peloponnesian War in 430 BC and lasted five years. After the disease passed through Libya, Ethiopia and Egypt,

it crossed the Athenian walls. As much as one-third of the population died. The symptoms included fever, thirst, bloody throat and tongue, red skin and lesions. The disease was suspected to have been typhoid fever.

In 165 AD the Antonine Plague was possibly an early appearance of smallpox that began with the Huns. This plague continued until about 180 AD, claiming Emperor Marcus Aurelius as one of its victims.

The Cyprian Plague in 250 AD named after the

first known victim, the Christian bishop of Carthage, entailed diarrhea, vomiting, throat ulcers, fever and gangrenous hands and feet. Possibly starting in Ethiopia, it passed through Northern Africa, into Rome, then onto Egypt and northward. There were recurring outbreaks over the next three centuries.

The Justinian Plague in 541 AD killed about 50 million people, nearly 26 percent of the world population. Having appeared in Egypt first, the plague spread through Palestine and the Byzantine Empires, and then throughout the Mediterranean. It is believed to be the first significant appearance of the bubonic plague, which features enlarged lymphatic gland and is carried by rats and spread by fleas.

Leprosy grew into a pandemic in Europe in the Middle Ages, resulting in the building of numerous hospitals to accommodate the vast number of victims. A slow-developing bacterial disease that causes sores and deformities, leprosy was believed to be a punishment from God that ran in families. This belief led to moral judgments and ostracization of victims. It continues to afflict tens of thousands of people a year.

Around 1350, the Black Death pandemic, a devastating global epidemic of bubonic plague, struck Europe and Asia. The plague arrived in Europe in October 1347, when 12 ships from the Black Sea docked at the Sicilian port of Messina. Most sailors



'Is this part of the roadmap out of the Great Plague?'

aboard the ships were dead, and those still alive were gravely ill. Sicilian authorities hastily ordered the fleet of “death ships” out of the harbour, but it was too late. Over the next five years, the Black Death killed more than 20 million people in Europe—almost one-third of the continent’s population.

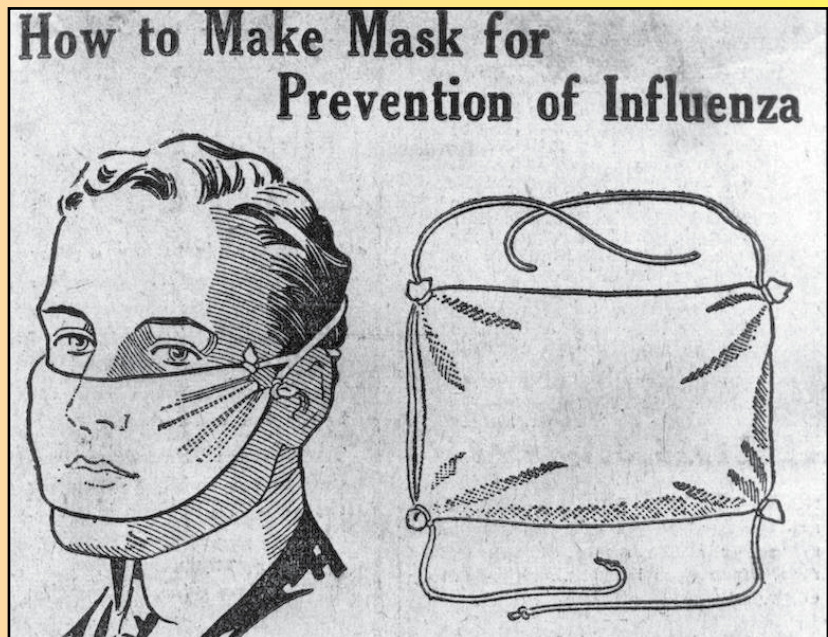
The Black Death pandemic returned with vengeance years later and it was this time that ‘quarantine’ was first introduced. The sailors were quarantined for 40 days before they could enter the city from their ships.

The Great Plague of London in 1665 was a return of the Black Death. A song about the plague is still sung by children, ‘Ring-a-ring of roses’ describes in great detail the symptoms of the plague and ends with ‘All fall down’. The last word, ‘dead’, is omitted today. The Great Fire of London in 1666, which destroyed much of the centre of London, also helped to kill some of the black rats and fleas that carried the plague bacillus. The plague started in the East, possibly China, and quickly spread through Europe. Whole communities were wiped out and corpses littered the streets as there was no one left to bury them.

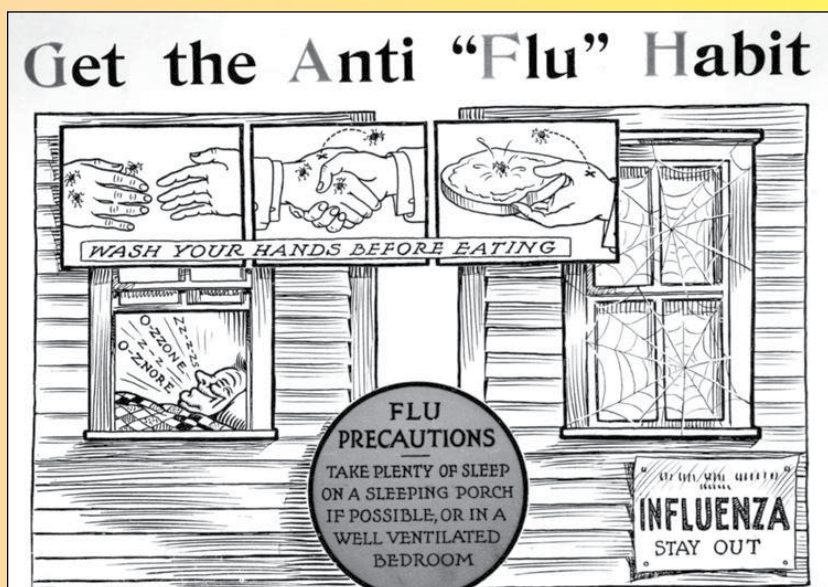
1817, first Cholera Pandemic, the first of seven cholera pandemics over the next 150 years, originated in Russia, where one million people died. Spreading through feces-infected water and food, the bacterium was passed along to British soldiers who brought it to India where millions more died. A vaccine was created in 1885, but pandemics continued.

In the year 1855, the Third Plague Pandemic had set foot in China

Wearing of face masks and washing of hands were recommended to combat and prevent spread of influenza as early as 1918.



A public service ad from 1918, showing people how to make a rudimentary face mask to try to avoid the deadly influenza.



Public health officials regarded Spanish Flu as a national epidemic and offered suggestions for treatment, as this cartoon published by the Topeka Health Service of Shawnee County illustrates. In a time before antibiotics, the recommended treatments included keeping warm, staying hydrated and well fed, and being exposed to fresh air. All were meant to combat and prevent the further spread of the influenza in 1918.



ONE OF THE VERY EFFECTIVE WAYS OF SPREADING PRECAUTIONARY ADVICE.

and moved to India and Hong Kong. The bubonic plague claimed 15 million victims. Initially spread by fleas during a mining boom in Yunnan, India faced the most substantial casualties, and the epidemic was used as an excuse for repressive policies that sparked some revolt against the British.

The pandemic was considered active until 1960 when cases dropped below a couple of hundred.

Epidemics which started in a small island like Fiji in 1875 spread massively into the Fiji Measles Pandemic. After Fiji ceded to the British Empire, a royal party visited Australia as a gift from Queen Victoria. Arriving during a measles outbreak, the royal party brought the disease back to their island, and it was spread further by the tribal heads and police who met with them upon their return. One-third of Fiji's population, a total of 40,000 people, died.

In 1889 the Russian Flu, the first significant flu pandemic started in Siberia and Kazakhstan, travelled to Moscow, and made its way into Finland and then to Poland, from where it moved into the rest of Europe. By the following year, it had

crossed the ocean into North America and Africa. By the end of 1890, 360,000 had died.

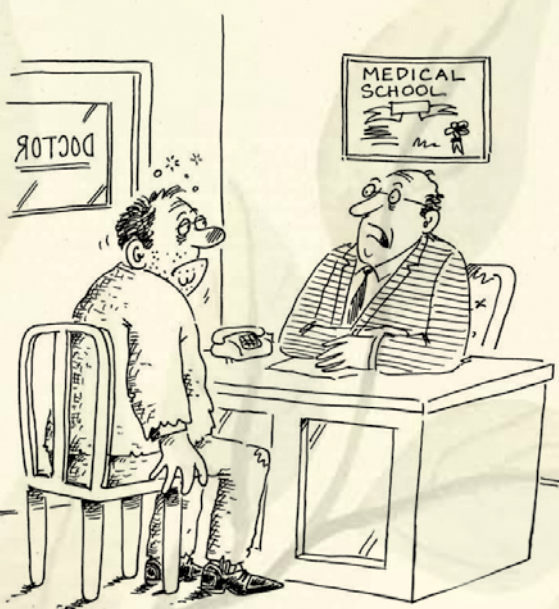
The Spanish flu of 1918, the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims. First observed in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia, the flu swiftly spread around the world. Despite the fact that the 1918 flu wasn't isolated to one place, it became known around the world as the Spanish flu, as Spain was hit hard by the disease.

Although the death toll attributed to the Spanish flu is often estimated at 20 million to 50 million victims worldwide, and other estimates that run as high as 100 million victims.

Starting in Hong Kong in 1957, the Asian flu spread throughout China and then to the United States. In England it killed over 14,000 people over six months. A second wave followed in early 1958, causing an estimated total of about 1.1 million deaths globally. Later a vaccine was developed, effectively containing the pandemic.

Originating from a small country in Africa, Congo, this pandemic which still doesn't have a cure, of which about 7,70,000 people die every year globally is HIV/AIDS (according to WHO 2018 report). In the 1980s and early 1990s, the outbreak of HIV and AIDS swept across the world, though the disease originated decades earlier. Today, more than 70 million people have been infected with HIV and about 35 million have died from AIDS since the start of the pandemic.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS, was the first pandemic of the



"So, you think you have swine flu because you're light headed, have a red nose, and keep losing your balance?... Sounds more like wine flu to me."

21st century. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that 8,098 people were infected in 26 countries, and that 774 died in 2002. The pandemic was short-lived, only eight months and ended by 2003. SARS was seen by global health professionals as a wake-up call to improve outbreak responses, and lessons from the pandemic were used to keep diseases like H1N1, Ebola and Zika under control.

The 2009 Swine Flu pandemic was an influenza that lasted for about 19 months, from January 2009 to August 2010, and the second of two pandemics involving H1N1 influenza virus (the first being the 1918–1919 Spanish flu pandemic). H1N1 flu pandemic is estimated to have actually caused about 284,000 deaths. Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever is a severe, often fatal illness affecting humans and other primates. The first EVD outbreaks occurred in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests. The 2014–2016 outbreaks in West Africa was the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was first discovered in 1976.

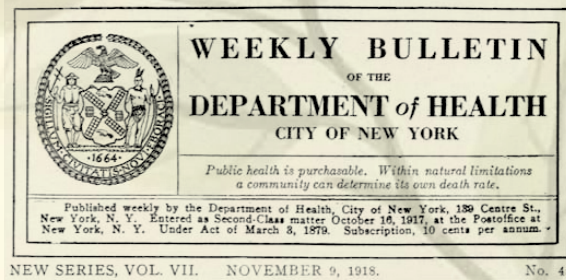
The Zika Virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys. It was later identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Outbreaks of Zika virus disease have been recorded in Africa, America, Asia and the Pacific.

The Corona Virus or COVID-19 Pandemic which is shaking the world and killed 502,048 people (as on 29 June 2020 : World Health Organization) in 216 countries

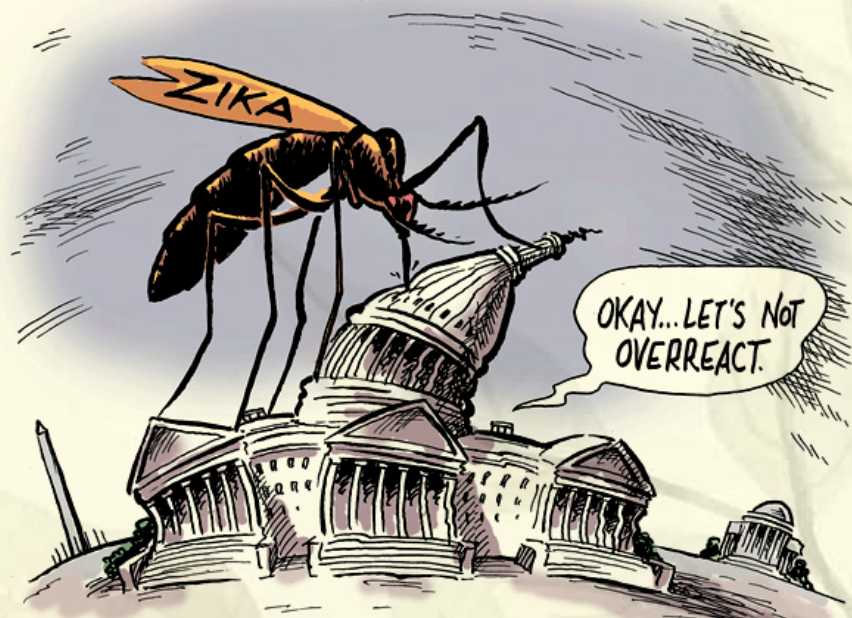
across the world can be traced back to a kind of common virus that causes infection in our nose, sinuses, or upper throat. While most corona viruses aren't dangerous, this particular Covid-19 can lead to pneumonia, respiratory failure, septic shock, and death. Many COVID-19 complications may be caused by a condition known as cytokine release syndrome or a cytokine storm. This is when an infection triggers our immune system to flood your bloodstream with inflammatory proteins called cytokines. They can kill tissue and damage our organs.

According to historians, pandemics typically have two types of endings, the medical, which occur when the incidence and death rates plummet, and the social, when the epidemic of fear about the disease wanes.

However, mankind, like the legendary Phoenix bird, does rise up from the flames to bounce back and rejuvenate, every time.



HOW DISEASE IS SPREAD



Luminous Tamil Nadu

CII's digital conclave on "Becoming the Numero Uno State under the New Normal"

A digital conclave on Tamil Nadu "Becoming the Numero Uno State under the New Normal," was organised by CII on 6 June 2020. Inaugurated by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, the conclave highlighted the impact of Covid-19 on the Tamil Nadu Economy. It also sought new ways and measures for the State to become Numero Uno in the new normal.

Sharing his perspective on the occasion, Vijay Sankar said, "We have a PCPIR, (Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region), in our State. There is a piece of land identified at Cuddalore-Nagapattinam area. Our request to the Government is to speedup the process of enabling PCPIR to get activated.

He also requested the Tamil Nadu Government to anchor a cracker unit in the state. "This will have a huge

spin off benefit and the number of units that would follow once the cracker comes into our state would be enormous. This would be a key element to kick start the massive investment programmes and take us back to regaining the state's glory in the chemical sector," he said.

While in the 1960s and 70s, Tamil Nadu was having a more dominant share in the chemical industry in India, today our share is less than 5% versus Gujarat's 55%. Tamil Nadu has a fantastic ecosystem, a number of engineering colleges, an admirable bureaucracy and a legacy of chemical industry in the state, "there is no reason why we cannot challenge Gujarat and regain our Numero Uno status in the chemical industry," with the support of the government with its farsightedness, he felt.

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami, inaugurating the digital conclave virtually.

Vijay Sankar sharing his perspectives on Tamil Nadu becoming the Numero Uno under the New Normal.



Lockdown and restart

Chemical Industry recommendations to GOI

The department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India, in consultation with industry associations set up three sub-committees on 'operations', 'logistics,' and 'trade' related issues to address the difficulty faced by the chemicals and petrochemicals industry during the lockdown period and thereafter make suitable recommendations to the department.

Vijay Sankar, Co-Chair - FICCI Chemical Committee and President, Indian Chemical Council, and Chairman of the Committee spearheading 'operational challenges' and interventions needed during and post lockdown made a presentation to the Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya in the presence of P Raghavendra Rao, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on 17 April 2020.

The committee submitted its recommendations to the Government of India, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers for necessary action. Pointers and recommendations included opening up of the Chemical Industry in its entirety, best practices in an Operating Plant Environment for a Safe restart, and support expected from the Government of India.

Vijay Sankar presenting certain recommendations of the Indian Chemical Industry to the Union Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya in the presence of P Raghavendra Rao, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.



Rebounding from COVID-19

Safely, Responsibly, and with Resilience

As the world is grappling with the COVID-19, Sanmar ramped up its Safety and Health priorities to ensure safe work practices and a smooth restart of its plant operations.

'Matrix' presents some of the key safety precautions that have come to stay as the 'New Normal,' across Sanmar plants and factories.



Maintaining social distance from the main gate - Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur.

Auto thermal screening at TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Port Said, Egypt.



Ensuring staggered seating and face masks for employees in the company transport - Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, Berigai.



Maintaining Social Distance

Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping space between yourself and other person.

At Sanmar plants, a distance of at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) is maintained right from the entrance, inside the premises,



Thermal scan at the entrance

Body temperature of the employee is checked at the entrance gate. If the temperature is more than 37.5 degree C or the employee has visible cough, cold or sneezing, he is directed to the Resident doctor/ Occupational Health Centre.

Thermal scanning done before entering the factory premises - Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls.

during tool-box talk, production talks and during meetings and at canteens. Physical meetings are avoided. Instead video/ teleconferencing are encouraged. The social distancing of two meters is ensured at all the locations wherever the employee or contractor works for Sanmar. To ensure the social distancing, each work area has displayed visible floor markings at equal distances of 2 meters.



Maintaining social distancing during a briefing session - Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls.



Maintaining social distancing at Canteen - Sanmar Engineering, Karapakkam.

Sanitizers and hand wash facilities

Foot operated - hand sanitizer facilities at entrance doors, and foot pedal operated hand wash facilities have been provided across Sanmar plants.

Hand wash and sanitizers are available at entry points and in several other places to facilitate employees washing hands before entering the workplace, during and after work. Each employee entering the plant or work stations are trained on hand washing/ using hand sanitizer. Sufficient posters have been displayed in the premises for easy understanding. However, Alcohol Based disinfectant or sanitizer is prohibited inside the chemical plant production areas.



Foot operated sanitizer developed in-house by the maintenance team - Sanmar Matrix Metals, Viralimalai.

Isolation ward facility - available at all Sanmar plants.



Use one and not the other - alternate use of washbasins - Sanmar Engineering, Karapakkam.





Wearing face masks and PPEs - the New Normal at offices- Matrix Metals Global, Stafford, USA.

Face masks and PPEs

Personal protection of employees is ensured by wearing of masks which is mandatory at work and ensuring that PPE as appropriate based on nature of work are worn.

COVID Mock Drills - conducted regularly at all Sanmar plants.



TCI Sanmar Chemicals, Port Said, Egypt.



Awareness sessions are held regularly at work places by COVID managers nominated for this purpose.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals, Berigai.



Product despatch truck disinfection - Chemplast Sanmar, Karaikal.

Disinfecting work stations.



Disinfection of truck carrying raw materials - Cabot Sanmar, Mettur.

Disinfection / Sanitization

Disinfecting vehicles after every trip, staggered seating to maintain social distancing, temperature monitoring, hand sanitation, hand washing on alighting are done to ensure safe transportation of employees. Personal vehicles that enter the premises are also disinfected.

Door knobs, handles, telephones, laptops, drawer knobs are frequently disinfected/sanitized.

Disinfecting vehicles entering the premises - The Sanmar Group Head Office, Chennai.





COVID-19 awareness training session - Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls.

Awareness and training

Awareness materials in English and vernacular including videos, and posters and presentations on dos and don'ts, COVID preparedness and preventive measures displayed at prominent places across locations.

Employees have been updated and trained on COVID-19 risk factors and protective behaviours (e.g., cough etiquette, Hand washing, wearing and removing masks, and care of PPE and on social distancing).



As COVID-19 continues to impact every aspect of our work and life, this 'New Normal' will be the order of the day for a long time to come.

MNC for EVER

Much has been talked about, threadbare, on the ills of corona, and the gains of the lockdown in the last couple of months of the shut down period. An invisible part of, yet a very significant one indeed, in the child population in particular, is that of a small group of around a hundred children and their parents, and this short story is about them. The population at MNC.

Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional children, 18 Prakasam Street, T.Nagar, “temporarily closed”, the google map showed. The Centre alive with buzzing activities from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm day in and day out every day, even on Saturdays, was still and silent. And the children? They became invisible.

Clustered in their homes, many single room dwellings, where the scene was similar, family to family, with fathers not earning, mothers juggling with domestic chores, children throwing tantrums with no usual daily routine to follow, medical emergencies often arising, and the media bringing out grimmer and grimmer details of corona outbreaks. The government opened out its distribution centres, many socially committed groups distributed food packets. In spite of difficulties in reaching out to avail the timely generosity, parents did some how manage to receive the rations. But their children needed, “Sathu maavu kanji”, lentils to prepare it, some vegetable and fruit items for preparing easily digestible food preparations.

A shower of blessings came upon them, through invisible hands, of persons, compassionate, caring and empathetic, the children received their gift packets, home delivered, containing just what they needed. And the parents wept.

One last sentence. No child or parent, in the lockdown period went without their "contact" with their respective



Jaya Krishnaswamy, Director, Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children shares with 'Matrix' readers, how the lockdown could not dampen the spirit of MNC.

teachers. Thanks to technology, training lessons were streamed through WhatsApp, counselling was through video, and there was group singing, by families in the homes.

The faces of the children shone through the soft lights of the glowing lamps which every home lit to reemphasize solidarity and reassure to the country of their birth that the worst would soon be over, and future would soon shine bright.

Ankit Bawne safe and sound with 'Jolly' and friends

Ankit Bawne commends his team Jolly Rovers' professional setup under former India wicketkeeper Bharat Reddy managing its affairs. According to Bawne, "In Chennai, they do a lot of things for cricket. It is a very good league, which is why every cricketer in the country wants to play there."

Bawne is safe and sound with 'Jolly' and friends

Kumaraswamy.K
@timesgroup.com

Pune: Maharashtra cricket captain Ankit Bawne has taken a disciplined approach to beat the lockdown blues, and help is coming from his professional club Jolly Rovers.

"I keep getting calls almost everyday from our team. We have interactive session via Zoom video calls for an hour or so," Bawne said of the Chennai team, a 17-time winners of the TNCA First Division league championships. "One day it would be our fitness trainer Dhanasekar, next day would be a yoga session with Bala.

"There are group discussions on batting and bowling, you can talk everything about your batting, how you feel about your game and so on," said Bawne, who has been

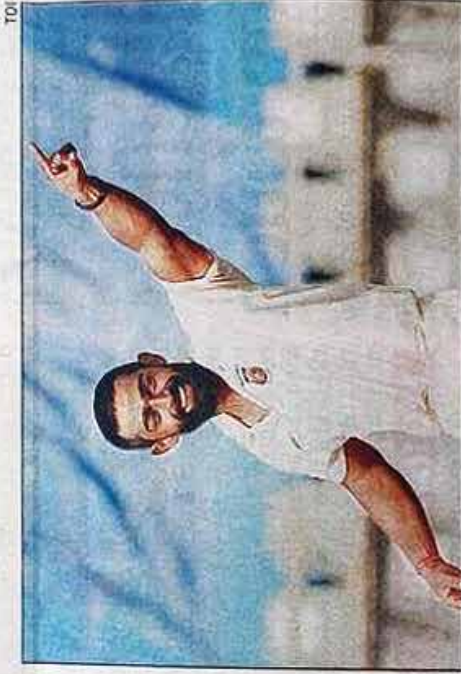
employed with Jolly Rovers as an assistant manager.

Needless to say, the India 'A' batsman has the security of receiving his monthly paycheck even during these difficult times.

"They are far better than a lot of Ranji Trophy teams. It's a very professional setup," Bawne said of the outfit which has former India wicketkeeper Bharat Reddy managing its affairs.

"There are six practice pitches and 10-12 match wickets. We have all type of pitches — red soil, white soil, you can have green track, turning track. In Chennai, they do a lot of things for cricket. It is a very good league, which is why every cricketer in the country wants to play there."

Back home, Bawne and a group of players from the Maharashtra team have taken



I keep getting calls almost everyday from our team. We have interactive session via Zoom video calls for an hour or so. One day it would be our fitness trainer Dhanasekar, next day would be a yoga session with Bala

Ankit Bawne | ON GETTING HELP FROM HIS CHENNAI CLUB JOLLY ROVERS

"It's not just because I want to be a better cricketer, after some point all of us retire from the game. This has been the way for me for the last eight-nine years since I started playing first-class cricket. The lockdown is a good reason to go back to the basics."

Bawne, like everyone else, is itching to get back into action. "Basically as a pro you travel around the year, play-

ing in Tamil Nadu, Goa and Mumbai. But now you can't travel, but then it has affected everyone," he said.

"More than anything I miss my cricket, I miss my batting. It's boring, but you can't do silly things. You have to be home, take precautions."

Bawne said there were so many questions as to how the game would be when it resumes, particularly on the domestic front. "We have to live with the virus. Playing sport, I don't know how safe it is going to be," he said.

"Whatever rules the ICC comes up with, we have to go with that. One ball, 11 players, I just don't know how (safe) it is going to be.

"It shouldn't affect the number of (first-class) games. If there is going to be just four-five games, then it is less opportunity."

their own initiative to motivate each other.

"We are eight of us, a few Ranji players and a couple of local players. We wake up at 5.30 am and connect on zoom. We do yoga and meditation for about half an hour," he said.

The bunch, which has the International Yoga Day on June 21 in mind, includes Runturaj Gaikwad, Murtuza Trunkwala, Satyajeeet Bachhav and Swapnil Gugale among others.

TIMES NATION

Beyond Sanmar

Sanmar's supportive role to State Government's

At Cuddalore

Medical and Surgical equipment for the District Hospital, Cuddalore

Chemplast Cuddalore Vinyls Ltd (CCVL) made a donation of Rs.10.56 Lakh towards procurement of Medical and Surgical equipment for the District Hospital, Cuddalore.

N Palanisamy presented the cheque to V Anbhu Selvam, District collector of Cuddalore on 28 April 2020.



Educational development at Chithirapet village near Cuddalore

CCVL contibuted Rs. 3 Lakh to Chithirapet Village Administration Committee on 23 May 2020 towards rural educational development.

COVID Relief: Rice distribution to villages

CCVL distributed 20,000 kg rice to Semmankuppam, Thiyagavalli and Sadapalayam panchayats, during May 2020 and twenty villages benefitted from the distribution.



COVID relief measures

At Karaikal

Blood Gas Analyzer to Government Hospital, Karaikal

Under the guidelines of the Chief Minister of Puducherry and Lieutenant Governor, Arjun Sharma, District Collector, Karaikal, had taken measures for readiness of specialised ward for COVID-19 affected at the Government hospital, Karaikal.

Chemplast Karaikal donated Blood Gas Analyzer to Government Hospital, Karaikal, as requested by the District collector.



Karaikal villages disinfection

For disinfecting Karaikal villages, Chemplast supplied 10,000 litres of Sodium Hypo Solution.

Rice Distribution to Karaikal panchayats

About 10,000 kg rice was distributed at the TR Pattinam and Vadaku Vanjore Panchayats of Karaikal and its nearby villages during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Sanmar Group made a contribution of Rs 1 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu towards COVID Relief. Karthik Rajasekhar, Corporate Affairs, Sanmar, presented the cheque to N Muruganandam IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu on 16 April 2020.



CSR activities

At Mettur

Chemplast Sanmar expanded its wings to help government bodies fight the COVID pandemic.

Chemplast, Mettur contributed Rs. 5 Lakh to The District Collector, Salem for the purchase of Thermal Scanner at the district collectorate.



Chemplast made a contribution of Rs. 2 Lakh to the Head Quarters Government Hospital,



Sodium Hypo Chloride was given to the Government bodies to sanitize the areas in their respective boundary including Gonur Panchayat, Veerakalputhur Town Panchayat, PN Patti Town Panchayat and Fire Station, Mettur.



Significantly, the staff of Chemplast Sanmar, Mettur Plant-II and Plant-III and the Ladies Club attached to Chemplast made 10,000 masks, which were distributed



Mettur to purchase essentials like Masks and PPE Kits through the Sub-Collector, Salem.



Masks and Hand Gloves were given to sanitation staff of Government bodies including Gonur Panchayat and Mettur Municipality.



to Town panchayats including Mottur and Thippampatti village, Gonur Panchayat, Veerakalpathur Town Panchayat, Thangamapuripattinam, and Mettur municipality.



As a relief measure to several families near Mettur, 7000 bags of rice (each bag containing 5 kg of rice) were distributed in the neighbouring villages of Thangamapuripattinam and Kavipuram, Mettur Municipality, Veerakalpathur Town Panchayat and Gonur Panchayat. Rice bags were distributed with the assistance of local leaders including MP, Dharmapuri Constituency, MP, Salem Constituency, MLA, Mettur and State Leader, PMK .



Iconic Institutions of Chennai

The Madras High Court

As one of the oldest High Courts of India, the High Court of Madras is believed to be the second largest judicial complex in the world, after the one in London. It is also said to house the largest number of courts in Asia.

Completed in 1892, the Madras High Court has the distinction of having survived two World Wars - during the First, it was bombed by the German ship SS Emden (a plaque on the compound wall commemorates this) and escaped unscathed, and during the Second, the bombs dropped by the Japanese did no damage.

It is one of the three High Courts in India established in the three Presidency Towns of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta by letters patent granted by Queen Victoria, bearing date 26 June 1862.

Designed by JW Brassington, consulting architect to the then British Government, this 128-year-old, Madras High Court complex was completed by Henry Irwin in 1892 in grand Indo-Saracenic style of architecture.

The beginnings of this legal institution can be traced back to the 1640s, when the Choultry Courts were established. The powers of the Governor, who was the Chief Justice of the Choultry Courts, were enhanced, permitting trial of all people, European or Indian. In 1665, the court held its first trial by jury in India. The Choultry Courts were superseded by the Court of Judicature (1678), The Recorder's Court (1796) and Supreme Court (1800). The High Court came in to place in 1862. The Indian High Court Act (1861) said that each High Court will have a Chief Justice, and not more than 15 judges.

Several landmark cases like the Sedition Case against the famous freedom fighter VO Chidambaram Pillai, the Ashe Murder Case relating to 14 Freedom Fighters who supported famous patriot-Vanchinathan, the

Child Custody Case involving adoption of philosopher J Krishnamurthi by Dr Annie Besant were conducted by doyens of the bar, many of whom later adorned the Bench as Judges and Chief Justices and their contribution to this institution is now part of history.

Muthuswamy Iyer, became the first native Indian to be appointed as judge of the Madras High Court, S Subramanian Iyer and V Bhashyam Iyengar are among other eminent names.

The Madras High court building stands as an amalgamation of several inspirations that reflect in the stained glasses, painted ceilings and arches, the buildings, the minarets and domes with a relief of snakes, stone brackets and exquisite stained glass, chamfered bricks, metal and stone fretwork, and floral reliefs make it a curious amalgam of Mughal, Hindu, and Gothic traditions. On the terrace, the beautifully decorated indo-gothic dome overlooks the campus. The copper finials with their patina lance into a cloudless sky. Across the road is the Chennai Port, with ships, and the picturesque Bay of Bengal.

Home to two of the city's early lighthouses, one a Doric column of Pallavaram granite, the other atop a dome on the main building fuelled by kerosene and visible 32 miles out at sea, the complex's turreted magnificence was what many first saw of Madras when they sailed by boats from the bay.

Symbols and the statues are part of the High Court. It houses the statue of Rajagopalachari in the North of the complex, the statue of Muthuswamy Iyer in the court complex and that of T Prakasam in the South.

The High Court has three floors including the ground floor. Each floor houses few offices and court halls. A pressroom stands at the end of a corridor. The floor

plan of the high court building follows a classic style of symmetry. The building initially accommodated six court halls for the use of the Madras High Court and four court halls for the purpose of the Court of Small Causes. Space has been provided for the court registry, Bar Associations and chambers for lawyers. Currently the High Court has 29 court halls along with various administrative offices present in the building, and the Court of Small Causes.

The Tamil Nadu Mediation Conciliation Centre, which is India's first Court-Annexed Mediation Centre has its office space at the opposite end corridor of the building.

On the ground floor, towards the north of the main building, near the entrance, is located the Madras High Court Museum with several artifacts on display, such as judge's silver mace and red robe worn in the sessions court of yesteryears.

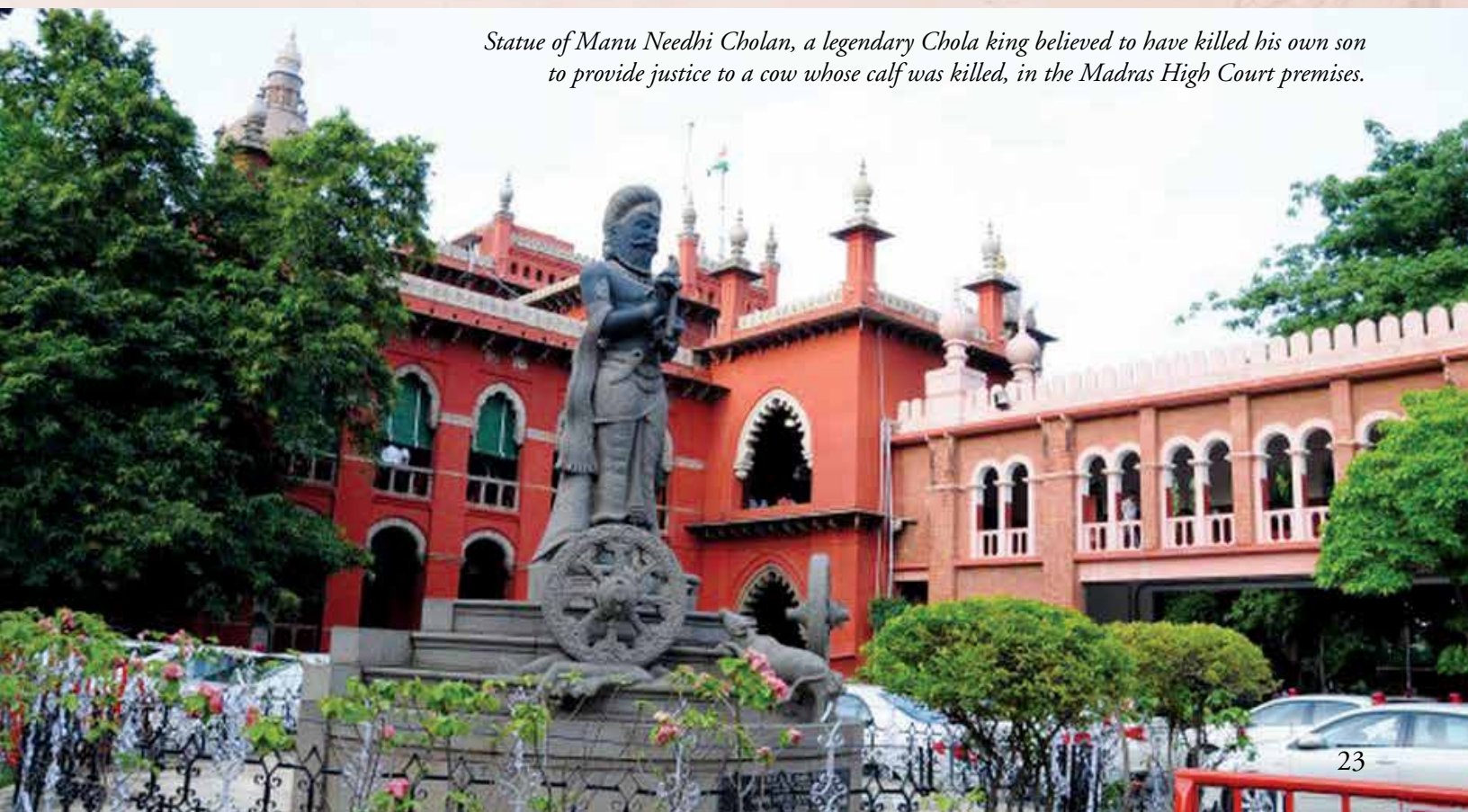
The first floor of the Court has a wide hallway, which has paintings of various judges along its walls. The end of this hallway has the bust of Justice Rajamannar, who was the first Indian chief justice, and held his position for the longest term in office ever known from 1948 to 1961.

Not many know that there used to exist a tennis court within the High Court complex, around 1962, when the lawyers used to just finish their cases and go for a game, as this red-bricked architectural marvel remains a relatively unexplored part of the city.

The main court hall in the building is the well-decorated court hall 1 of the Chief justice. A judges Library caters to the requirements of honourable Judges by providing latest case law, legal news, articles, commentaries and law reports.

In 1996, even when the first British colony name 'Madras' was rechristened as Chennai, the High Court retained its original name of 'Madras High Court,' although a Bill to rename the Madras High Court as the Chennai High Court was approved by the cabinet in 2016. The Bill is yet to be passed by both Houses of Parliament. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution appealing to the Central Government to rename the court as High Court of Tamil Nadu since the Court serves the whole state. Whatever be the nomenclature, this iconic institution would remain so forever, having passed several milestones in its 157-year old history.

Statue of Manu Needhi Cholan, a legendary Chola king believed to have killed his own son to provide justice to a cow whose calf was killed, in the Madras High Court premises.



 Keep  A Safe  Distance 



Clean Hands
are Safe Hands.



Do your part.
Wear a Mask.

#Together let's fight COVID-19